

2020 Richard W. Hamming Award for Teaching

The Selection Committee for the 2020 Hamming Award for Instruction has selected Dr. Rachel Sigman (Assistant Professor, Department of National Security Affairs) as the recipient of the 2020 Award. This is in recognition of her sustained excellence in classroom instruction, instruction outside the classroom through mentorship of students and inclusion of students in collaborative research projects, and her dedication to thesis advising. In her five years at NPS, Prof. Sigman has established herself as an outstanding educator. She gives her all in the classroom, provides abundant feedback to her students, takes on large numbers of thesis students (and stimulates all of them), and helps deserving students publish their work. Professor Sigman's deep commitment to NPS students is also evident in the way she designs course content with student interests and careers in mind. Dr. Sigman has vigorously sought out opportunities to learn about the work and lives of NPS students, especially the foreign area officers (FAOs) who make up a large portion of the NSA Department's students. She also stays in regular contact with former students, often meeting with them on trips to Africa, Germany, and Washington. Professor Sigman has contributed to a variety of Navy and DOD educational programs outside of NPS. She has twice delivered lectures for the Navy's FAO II AFRICOM course, designed and delivered modules on African politics and economics for the Defense Security Cooperation University's Regional Certification course, spoken at DLI's FAO seminar series, and lectured for the Defense Contract Audit Agency Leadership Course. In short, Dr. Sigman has set a new standard for instruction not only in the NSA department, but also for the entire NPS community.

Signed,

Associate Professor Jessica Piombo, Committee Chair, NSA

CDR Kathleen Giles, SE

Associate Professor Ryan Sullivan, GSDM

Associate Professor Lyn Whitaker, OR

Associate Professor Afshon Ostovar, NSA

Senior Lecturer Chris Smithtro, PH

Lt Col Joe Novak, (OR Dept student)

Maj Matt Halligan, (GSDM student)