

1999 Winner: Nicholas Bomba

At the time Nicholas submitted the ASFA essay as a senior in high school, he intended to have a career in foreign relations, public policy, or a similar field. Ironically, winning the contest ended up sending him on a path towards becoming a historian, by convincing him that he was a good enough writer to do so professionally. Nicholas attended Yale University as an undergraduate, majoring in history. Immediately following graduation, he attended Princeton for graduate school and received his Ph.D. in 2010; writing his dissertation on the theological and philosophical underpinnings of rebellion in the early modern Spanish empire. As a Fulbright Scholar, he lived in Spain for two years, and completed research in both Portugal and Brazil. He is now a professor at Northern Virginia Community College and is currently writing a book about French pirates prosecuted by the Inquisition of Mexico in 1571. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, who works at the State Department.