THE PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY (PIPS)
THE INSTITUTE FOR THE THEORY & PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

“Being a member of PIPS was one of the most important and fulfilling experiences of my undergraduate career. I learned how to think critically yet constructively about my own and others’ work. I learned to accept that good work is often iterative and requires several versions of thinking and rethinking. I will carry the writing, research, analytical and teamwork skills with me in all of my future endeavors.”
GRACE PERKINS ’14, PIPS Fellow 2013-14

The Project on International Peace and Security (PIPS) is an undergraduate think tank where talented students craft novel policy solutions to emerging international security challenges. By engaging students in rigorous and creative foreign policy analysis, PIPS represents an innovative approach to undergraduate education and its programs enable students to interact with a community of policymakers in meaningful and influential ways.

“PIPS is a unique educational experience that demonstrates the ability of bright and creative undergraduates to make original contributions to important national security debates.”
DENNIS SMITH, PIPS Director

This yearlong program connects six PIPS fellows, typically juniors and seniors, with scholars and policymakers to identify international security challenges and develop original policy recommendations. The project culminates as the students publish their research as white papers and present their findings to the policy community at a symposium in Washington, D.C. Supporting the fellows are six research interns, typically freshman and sophomores, who learn the craft of conducting policy research and writing briefs.

THE PIPS POLICY SYMPOSIUM

The PIPS program culminates with the Washington, D.C. PIPS Student Policy Symposium where fellows deliver polished presentations on their policy briefs to a distinguished audience of scholars and policymakers. The students showcase a mastery of their subject and poise under pressure as they face questions from both a distinguished discussant and audience. These presentations represent not only the best of William & Mary student research, but also the relevance of that work to the policy community.

Previous symposiums have been held at the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the National Press Club and have been attended by representatives of the U.S. Department of State, F.B.I., U.S. military, American Enterprise Institute, Booz Allen Hamilton, Center for Strategic and International Studies, National Defense University and The Nixon Center.

“As a person who lives and works in the ‘think tank’ world of greater Washington, D.C. ... I thought you would want to know that your students did so well in representing the College of William & Mary and that persons like myself think that the Project on International Peace and Security is an important initiative and a great investment in the future of Our Nation.”
DAVID M. FINKELESTEIN
Vice President
Center for Naval Analysis

Top Photo: PIPS fellows present their policy research to a distinguished audience of scholars and policymakers at the annual PIPS Symposium in Washington, D.C. Bottom Photo: PIPS fellows are congratulated at the event reception.
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Unique in its mission to engage undergraduate students in high-level policy research, PIPS is premised on three core beliefs:

First, when students tackle real-world policy problems, they become informed and engaged citizens. PIPS hones students’ analytical skills, spurs their curiosity and learning, and encourages an ethic of public service. The program produces rigorously trained graduates, who are equipped to become the next generation of foreign policy analysts, leaders and engaged citizens.

Second, when guided by faculty and members of the national security community, undergraduates can make meaningful contributions to policy debates. PIPS weekly workshops include sessions with expert mentors, influential policymakers and knowledgeable faculty and result in cutting-edge policy reports that account for political, economic and technical realities. Through their growing network and the Washington, D.C. symposium, PIPS brings fresh student perspectives to the wider policy community.

Third, joint mentorship of undergraduates is an important avenue for building ties between the academic and foreign policy communities. A truly unique opportunity for undergraduate students, the PIPS network of experts and policymakers brings officials and analysts to campus to provide mentorship, give lectures and make connections that lead to internship and research opportunities.

The PIPS experience is a collaborative one. During weekly workshops, the fellows and interns challenge each other’s ideas, in the process honing their analytical skills and learning to provide incisive and constructive feedback to their peers. Often experts from the military and policy community join the meetings and reality test the fellows’ policy recommendations. This process results in really outstanding and novel policy analysis.”

AMY OAKES, PIPS Director

ENGAGING A NETWORK OF SCHOLARS AND POLICYMAKERS

PIPS utilizes William & Mary’s wide network of alumni and friends to bring international experts and policymakers to campus. PIPS fellows have been advised by representatives of Policy Planning, the U.S. Department of State, Office of International Affairs, FBI; U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command, CIA, the Department of Defense, Booz Allen Hamilton, Deloitte Consulting, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Rand Corporation and the Defense Entrepreneurs Forum.

One of PIPS’ key assets is its ability to draw in guests from the security field. These prominent and knowledgeable individuals gave the PIPS students a rare inside view into life in the security community... the opportunity to talk candidly to these individuals in a small group setting was an incredible experience.”

TYLER BEMBENEK ‘15, PIPS Fellow 2013-14

PIPS MILITARY FELLOWS

Founded in 2013, the PIPS Military Fellows Program pairs PIPS student fellows with active duty military officers from the Defense Entrepreneurs Forum (DEF). These experienced analysts serve as mentors and lend strategic expertise to PIPS fellows throughout their year of research.

Ideas and projects developed by the students allow the Military Fellows to shape nascent ideas based on their knowledge and experiences, employ their networks for research material and tangibly support the next generation of our country’s leaders.”

MAJOR NATHAN FINNEY, U.S. Army

THE JEFFERSON FORUM

The Jefferson Forum is an online discussion board that brings together PIPS fellows with the national security community. Forum members share experience in and passion for international security topics and discuss policy solutions for some of today’s most intractable security problems. This digital network is preparing PIPS fellows to become the next generation of national security and international affairs professionals and scholars.
The PIPS e-internship program places undergraduates in positions with government agencies, think tanks, non-governmental organizations and industry in the United States and across the world.

E-interns commit to working ten hours per week for an academic year and then utilize telecommuting technologies to apply their classroom knowledge in a real world work environment and make connections that lead to future internship and job opportunities—all while continuing to attend classes in Williamsburg.

PIPS e-interns have been placed at U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), U.S. Army Training the Brain Operations Center, Center for International Maritime Security, Diplomatic Courier, Xanadu Geography (XGX, LLC), International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Congressional Research Service.

RESEARCHING WEAPONS FOR THE U.S. AIR FORCE

In 2010, the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research awarded PIPS a research grant to study the political, sociological and psychological barriers to the deployment of the Active Denial System (ADS) in peacekeeping and counterinsurgency operations. This non-lethal weapons technology uses targeted heat waves to arrest and deter potential adversaries. In its report, PIPS recommends technical changes to ADS, offers criteria for its deployment and proposes public outreach initiatives.

STATE DEPARTMENT’S DIPLOMACY LAB PARTNERSHIP

Since 2013, PIPS students have produced two policy white papers for the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomacy Lab, which looks to the W&M academic community for research on international topics for which they lack a strong knowledge base. PIPS fellows researched the effects of prison conditions on counterinsurgency operations using case studies of the Irish Republican Army, Peru’s Shining Path and Iraq’s insurgents. In 2014, they produced a report entitled “Irregular Migration in the Mediterranean: Recommendations for U.S. Action” for the State Department’s Bureau of European & Eurasian Affairs. PIPS research has been presented to the Office of Criminal Justice and Assistance Partnerships at the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in 2013 and presented to the State Department in 2014.

IT’S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO WORK WITH LEADING SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

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BEYOND THE THINK TANK:
PROMOTING UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ANALYSIS

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MELANIE GILBERT ’15,
PIPS E-Intern 2013-14
Armed Conflict Database

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PIPS POLICY RESEARCH

Since 2008, PIPS fellows have conducted research on a wide range of international security topics. Read the full papers online at www.wm.edu/pips.

TECHNOLOGY
“Legitimizing Cryptocurrencies: Making the Virtual Economy Work for the United States”
“Crowdsourcing Global Security: Fighting Pandemic Disease in the Information Age”
“Making the Grade: An International Regulatory Framework for Cybersecurity”
“Countering Radicalism with a ‘Virtual Library of Freedom’”
“Mapping Foreign Aid and Militancy: The Promise of GIS Technology”

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
“Multicultural Diplomacy: A New Approach to Embassy Outreach”
“Modifying the Madrassa: Promoting Moderate Islamic Education”
“Education Systems and Islamic Radicalism in the Arabian Gulf”
“Educational Reform and Information Technology: Combating Radicalism in Pakistan”
“Reclaiming the Urban Jungle: Empowering Local Communities to Foster Security”

MILITARY AFFAIRS
“The Active Denial System: Obstacles and Promise”
“A New ‘Freedom’ Fighter: Building on the T-X Competition”
“Aerostats and Maritime Piracy: Providing Cost Effective Situational Awareness Off the Horn of Africa”
“Shifting Paradigms: Taiwan’s New Asymmetric Strategy to Deter Blockade”
“A Different Fight: Narco-Commercialist Insurgencies in Mexico”
“Demographic Changes and the U.S.-Japan Security Council”

NATIONAL RESOURCES AND TRADE
“Energy Security through Wild Diatomic Microalgae Cultivation in Latin America”
“America and the Arctic Superhighway”
“Afghanistan and the Search for a Stable Tax Base”
“Algae for Energy, Security, and Development”

GEOPOLITICS
“The Iranian Threat and a Reinvigorated Gulf Cooperation Council”
“Building the Indian Counterweight: A U.S. – India Division of Labor in the Indian Ocean”
“The Curse of Plenty: Countering Saudi Arabia’s Emerging Oil Crisis through Energy Diplomacy”
“A Soft Pivot to Asia: Managing the Strategic Dilemma in Sino-American Relations”
“Championing U.S. Conditionality: A Strategy to Counter Chinese Economic Influence in Africa”

2014-2015 PIPS FELLOWS

The 2014-15 PIPS fellows from left to right: Rebecca Brown, Susan Nelson, Daniel Duane, Duanya Hassan, Justin DeShazor and Isabel DoCampo

2014-2015 PIPS WHITE PAPERS

“The Impact of Bangladeshi Climate Refugees on India: Improving Foreign Aid to Bangladesh to Stabilize South Asia”
Rebecca Brown

“Strengthening Fragile State Institutions with E-Learning”
Justin DeShazor

“The Politics of Fast-Paced Epidemic: Bolstering Disease-Burdened States with Community Resilience”
Isabel DoCampo

“Unmanned Underwater Vehicles: The Next Insurgent Threat”
Daniel Duane

“Women of Mass Destruction: Combating Radicalization on the Web”
Duanya Hassan

“The Schoolhouse Model: Rethinking UNHCR’s Approach to Refugee Camps”
Susan Nelson

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