William & Mary opens Confucius Institute

Also:

REVES FACULTY FELLOWS ANNOUNCED
W&M CHANCELLOR MAKES THE CASE FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
CLASS EXPLORES SHARED CULTURAL EXPERIENCES OF A GENERATION
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One of the most exciting aspects of my job is that I get to see up close how the faculty, students, and staff of the College of William & Mary are literally changing the world we live in through their research, teaching, and service. Opening my inbox in the morning is like being on a virtual world tour. One day, I’m getting photos and blog entries from W&M students who spent the summer in Uganda, working with Professors Cullen Hendrix and Sara Glaser to understand the management of fisheries in the Lake Victoria basin. The next day, I’m reading the text of a speech by the Deputy Director of the World Bank, Caroline Anstey, citing the AidData partnership among William & Mary, Brigham Young University, and Development Gateway as a shining example of innovation in the analysis and tracking of foreign aid impact. The day after that, I’m hearing from colleagues about the inspiring presentations at NuFact 2012, one of the most important annual conferences on neutrino physics, which was organized by William & Mary Physics Professors Jeff Nelson, Robert McKeown, Patricia Vahle, and Michael Kordosky this summer with participation by leading particle physicists from around the world.

The news continues to come in: William & Mary Education Professors Patricia Popp and James Stronge are leading a research study commissioned by the Virginia General Assembly’s Commission on Youth to learn about educational systems around the world, and to see what lessons might be applied from global experience to improve K-12 education here in the Commonwealth. The Mason School has won the prestigious International Team MBA award for its community service and social responsibility programs. Professor Robert Diaz at VIMS is leading a study to assess the monetary value of the world’s oceans. And the School of Law is preparing to host distinguished faculty from the National Law School of India University in Bangalore to teach during the spring semester. The evidence is incontrovertible: the College of William & Mary is truly a global university.

To cover fascinating international initiatives like these in more depth, we’re making a slight change in the focus and format of World Minded. Henceforth, we plan to highlight in more detail not only our continuing activities at the Reves Center with study abroad, international students and scholars, and work with the local community, but also the exciting global research projects underway in every academic unit at the College. In this issue, for instance, you’ll learn more about Professor Diaz’s work at VIMS and about the contributions of William & Mary Physics Graduate Student Chen Xu at the Jefferson Lab. We’ll highlight additional international research projects in upcoming issues.

All of us at the Reves Center hope that you enjoy this expanded version of World Minded, and look forward to hearing from you with your suggestions and ideas for future issues!

Stephen E. Hanson
Vice Provost for International Affairs
Director, Wendy and Emery Reves Center for International Studies
Why did you decide to attend the College of William & Mary?

Back in 1977 we didn’t have college counselors in Nicaragua. My father had me meet with friends from different professions in order for me to understand what they were all about. One of his friends told me that I should apply to a small college. He felt that a small school would be more appropriate for a foreign student whose main language was not English. The classrooms would be small and I would have a better opportunity to interact with my professors and fellow classmates. One of the schools he named was William & Mary. All the others were in the Northeast.

In Nicaragua you graduate from school in November so after the holidays I left for Boston to learn English. It was quite shocking to land in Boston in the middle of January, especially for a young kid coming from the tropics. It was at that moment that I decided that if I were accepted to W&M I would go there!

What is your favorite memory of your time at the College of William & Mary?

The friendships I made, without a doubt. During my four years at William & Mary I met some wonderful people, both students and professors. The memories that I have from those friendships have lasted a lifetime.

How did the College of William & Mary prepare you for your current career?

I majored in Government with a concentration in International Relations. I also took several business courses. They helped me for my job in international banking. But, what helped me the most was the sense of pride and responsibility that I learned. The Honor Code was something that I believed in and that I practice every day.

How and why did you become involved with the Reves Center for International Studies?

I was invited to join the Reves Center Advisory Council by Ann Marie Stock. I thought that the purpose of the Center was a great idea and I wanted to be part of it.

How and why did you become involved with MANOS — Medical Aid Nicaragua: Outreach Scholarship?

I heard about MANOS and Professor David Aday from Lisa Starbuck, who was then at the Development Office. I couldn’t think of a better way to help my country of birth and my alma mater than by contributing to MANOS.

What is your hope for William & Mary in the future?

I hope that we can preserve the greatness of this small school and that we be able to promote its name across the world.
The College of William & Mary officially opened its Confucius Institute on April 16, 2012, with a day-long celebration of events involving William & Mary faculty and administrators, as well as delegates from Beijing Normal University (BNU), the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) and the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China.

The William & Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI) is a collaborative partnership with BNU and Hanban, and offers Mandarin language and Chinese culture classes, provides teacher training, and augments other programs on Chinese culture for the College and local communities. Professor Yanfang Tang of the W&M Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is the WMCI Director. Professor Ma Lei serves as the Chinese Director of the WMCI, and Dan Husman is the Assistant Director.

The grand opening schedule included a private tour of Rowe House, the home of the Confucius Institute at William & Mary, and a guided tour of Chinese scrolls and exhibits at Swem Library led by Dean Carrie Cooper and Bea Hardy, director of the Special Collection Research Center. After the tour, delegates witnessed a College Mandarin class in the Wren Building’s historic grammar school classroom.

Following a celebratory lunch featuring performances by four folk musicians from BNU and Ms. Wang Jie, a visiting instructor of dance from Beijing Normal University, a traditional dragon dance was performed in the Sunken Garden. Professional lion dancers and martial artists from Washington, D.C., were on hand to lead the parade while William & Mary students participated. Emily Wilcox, a visiting assistant professor of Chinese Studies, performed sword choreography. The events were a culmination of a Chinese Cultural Semester organized by the WMCI.

“We are living in a fast changing world and it’s important to understand each other’s cultures together, and language is key to the understanding of cultures,” said Liu Chuansheng, Chairperson of University Council for Beijing Normal University. “I believe the WMCI is creating a bridge between our two universities, which will lead to mutual understanding between our two cultures.”

More information on the WMCI may be obtained at www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute
In a May, 2012 speech at the world’s largest gathering of international educators, William & Mary Chancellor Robert M. Gates ’65 said the United States’ top diplomatic tool is global education.

Gates, who retired in June 2011 after serving for five years and under two presidents as Secretary of Defense, gave the keynote address at the annual conference of Nafsa: Association of International Educators.

According to a report by the Chronicle of Higher Education, Gates told the Nafsa audience that education is the cornerstone to international relations for the U.S.

“Connecting students across borders is one of the most effective ways of building understanding across nations,” said Gates, who is the only defense secretary in the nation’s history to serve two presidents from different political parties – serving under former President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama.

The former secretary brings a unique perspective to the argument for global programs. Prior to becoming defense secretary, he served in numerous capacities in the executive branch and worked for eight presidents. He is also the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency – the only career officer in the CIA’s history to rise from entry-level employee to become the agency’s director.

From 2002 to 2006, Gates was president of Texas A&M University. In February, 2012, Gates succeeded former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as William & Mary’s 24th Chancellor, an honorary position with a long tradition at the university.

“We never know when and where America will need allies in this world,” Gates told the Nafsa audience. “And no program is more successful at making friends than education in the United States.”

The Nafsa conference, held in Houston, brings together nearly 8,500 people from 95 countries. Among those in attendance for Gates’ address was Steve Hanson, William & Mary’s vice provost for international affairs and director of the Reves Center for International Studies.

“Chancellor Gates’s plenary address to Nafsa was an inspiring defense of the crucial importance of all forms of internationalization in higher education, both for the future of U.S. national security and for ensuring an informed citizenry in the 21st century,” Hanson said. “Gates recounted the moment of the 2012 William & Mary Commencement when President Reveley asked all graduates to stand if they had been on study abroad or other overseas learning experiences, and about two thirds of the assembled rose to their feet as a stunning example to him of how internationalization is changing today’s university.

“In my view, there is no more effective or more eloquent advocate for international education programs today.”
When Jingzhu Zhang ’14 began her Ph.D. program with the Curriculum and Educational Technology (CET) program in the School of Education, she had only a vague idea of the research she would like to conduct, but knew that her experiences as an international student would and should influence her decision.

After speaking with a number of other international students at the School of Education, she realized that many of them struggled with the same three challenges: limited spoken English proficiency, intercultural misunderstandings and social isolation.

A review of existing research confirmed that these are common obstacles for international students studying in the United States.

“Though there was sufficient research on what kinds of struggles international students have, there was limited empirical research on actual solutions or programs aimed at supporting international students,” recounted Zhang.

Zhang reached out to Cortney Cain, coordinator of the Conversation Partner Program, through the Graduate Center, Arts & Sciences. Together they surveyed all international members of the program and the resulting data led to the pilot Virtual Conversation Partners Program (VCPP).

“The VCPP is a peer program that promotes intercultural communicative competence through virtual conversations on Skype,” explained Zhang. “It pairs domestic students from William & Mary with incoming international students. Each pair schedules conversations for one hour per week for three months in the summer, or at least 10 hours of conversation by the end of the summer.”

While developing the VCPP, Zhang applied for, and received, an Innovative Diversity Efforts Award (IDEA) grant from the Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives. In the grant proposal, she designated the maximum number of participants as 25 domestic and 25 international students, hoping to get near that many. Just one day after announcing the program on campus she received 33 domestic applications. With the help of the Reves Center for International Studies, Zhang contacted incoming international students and by summer 2012 had 63 domestic students and 64 international students involved.

In the summer of 2012 the VCPP involved incoming international students from China, Taiwan, India, South Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, Nigeria, Australia and Austria. Through their weekly chats these students practiced English pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, as well as built confidence in speaking with native speakers and American classmates. Due to the ability to see their partners via Skype, students also practiced reading English native speakers’ nonverbal cues, such as body language.

In June, 2012, Zhang presented Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence: Virtual Conversation Partners Program at the Colonial Academic Alliance 2012 Global Education Conference at Towson University. With the help of the program’s IDEA grant, all Virtual Conversation Partners came together in fall 2012 for a celebration dinner.
Scott Ickes, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Health Sciences

Ickes is developing the East and Southern African Nutrition Initiative (ESANI), in partnership between The College of William & Mary, the Medical College of Malawi, and Makerere University School of Public Health to conduct research and develop an education program in the area of child nutrition and global health. The partnership is expected to create regular opportunities for W&M students to conduct independent and collaborative research in Malawi and Uganda, and to expand William & Mary’s engagement in research and teaching in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

John Swaddle, Professor of Biology

Under the National Science Foundation’s International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program, Swaddle works with a consortium of researchers from Tulane University, Cornell University, and Australia’s Charles Darwin University. In summer 2012, six W&M undergraduate students studied the biological and cultural diversity of Australia’s tropical savannah and coast. The eight-week program involved behavioral ecology field research on birds, site visits to leading Australian scientific research institutions, field trips to notable biotic regions in the area, and cultural enrichment programs concerning contemporary socio-environmental issues in northern Australia.

The Reves Center for International Studies’ Faculty Fellows program funds a number of faculty proposals each year that involve either student-faculty collaborations on international research, or involve research, teaching, and learning through international service-learning courses, community-based research, and civic engagement.

The Reves Center’s 2012 Faculty Fellows are: Scott Ickes, John Swaddle, Francis Tanglao-Aguas, David Aday, and Paula Pickering.
Tanglao-Aguas will develop the first U.S. production of the Sitayana (Sita’s Journey), an original dance theatre epic inspired by the story of Sita, Rama’s wife, of Hinduism’s most revered poem, the Ramayana (Rama’s Journey). This production will dramatize the struggles of Sita as she strategizes her path to freedom from her abductor Ravana. This female perspective of the classic tale will showcase the unique voice of Muslim South East Asians who continue to revere the Ramayana despite their conversion from Hinduism to Islam. In addition to observing Hindu based performances of the epic in Bali, Indonesia, Tanglao-Aguas’ creative team did research and field work in Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia, where Muslims continue to propagate the epic through dance drama.

For seven years Aday has investigated the capacity of undergraduate students to participate in scholarly efforts to understand the structural consequences of international marginalization, undertake field research to describe local and regional infrastructure, and engage issues of theory and practice to enact sustainable programs to improve health and health care. These explorations have resulted in an effort to build and test a model of community efficacy and intentional social change that he will further throughout 2012 with students conducting fieldwork on healthcare in marginalized communities in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

The Bosnia Project is a long-running collaboration between the College and non-governmental organizations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is the oldest student-run international service trip at the College. Pickering’s proposal allows W&M students to work with the NGO Creativus to teach English and video production skills to children and teenagers in partnership with University of Sarajevo students. Through writing, producing, and acting in short videos featuring strictly English dialogue, the Bosnian students’ written and oral language, teamwork, and cross-cultural communication skills grow significantly. At the same time, W&M students practice lesson planning and working with children.

Each fall The Reves Center calls for proposals from full-time William & Mary faculty in all schools. Proposals must make clear the international, global, and/or trans-national focus/context of the project, and also the relevance to the four aspects of engaged scholarship: discovery, integration, application, and teaching. With rare exceptions, the project must include an overseas research component.

The next call for Reves Center Faculty Fellows proposals will occur in Fall 2012.
HANSON NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF ASSOCIATION FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Stephen E. Hanson, vice provost for international affairs and director of the Reves Center for International Studies at the College of William & Mary, has been elected president of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

Hanson will serve a three-year term, beginning in 2013 as vice president/president elect, continuing in 2014 as president, and concluding in 2015 as immediate past president. All three roles are represented on the ASEEES Board of Directors.

ASEEES is a nonprofit, non-political, scholarly society, and is the leading private organization in the world dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about the former Soviet Union (including Eurasia) and Eastern and Central Europe. The Association has approximately 3,500 members and subscribers in the United States and abroad, and publishes the scholarly journal Slavic Review: Interdisciplinary Quarterly of Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies.

The organization supports teaching, research, and publication relating to Slavic, East-Central European and Eurasian studies nationally and internationally. Its representatives serve on such bodies as the U.S. State Department’s Advisory Committee for Studies of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the former Soviet Union, and the International Council for Central and East European Studies. The Association is also a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies.

Prior to arriving at William & Mary, Dr. Hanson was a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington, Seattle from 1990 to 2011, where he also served as the Director of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies at the Jackson School of International Studies from 2000-2008.

He is the author or numerous works on communist and post-communist politics in comparative perspective including Time and Revolution which received the 1998 Wayne S. Vucinich book award from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (now ASEEES).

Hanson has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard, a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford University, and a Research Scholar at the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

“I am honored beyond words to be selected by the membership of ASEEES as the organization’s next president-elect,” Hanson said. “At a time when regional and area studies approaches face serious threats to their funding and place in academia, organizations like ASEEES are more important than ever. I eagerly look forward to taking on this important leadership role.”
From July 15, 2012 to August 2, 2012 the Reves Center for International Studies hosted the inaugural University of Electronic Sciences and Technology of China (UESTC)/William & Mary Summer Program.

24 UESTC students and two faculty advisors traveled from Chengdu, China to Williamsburg in order to explore American history and culture, and receive an introduction to graduate study at an American institution of higher learning through lectures, department visits, and cultural trips throughout the Hampton Roads area.

“While designing the program, we really put a lot of emphasis on providing a balanced mix of lectures about American history and culture paired with cultural activities that correlated to the lecture topics, for example a lecture in American music followed by an evening of square dancing” said Debi DeBacco, global education programs and services coordinator at the Reves Center. “The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to improve their English proficiency with daily English class, and by interacting with W&M students and community members.”

“Off campus” events included dinner with families in Governor’s Land, a walking tour of historic Richmond, the Richmond Slave Trail and the Canal Walk, taking in a Flying Squirrels baseball game, touring Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, and cruising Norfolk Harbor.

Much like the College’s long-standing Keio/W&M Cross-Cultural Collaboration, the UESTC/W&M Summer Program looks set to become an annual event.

“This program was an exciting opportunity for William & Mary to introduce students from a university with which we have a close relationship to mix and mingle with American students and to get a taste of life in America,” said Theresa Johansson, assistant director of global education at the Reves Center. “The program has a strong academic base, but we really emphasized delivering the content in an engaging way. Next year, in addition to the student program, we’re also going to expand to include training for Chinese faculty teaching in English to their Chinese students.”

“The inaugural program was an undeniable success,” agreed Kevin Kosanovich, director of the program. “Based on the excitement and enthusiasm of the UESTC students and William & Mary staff taking part in this program, as well as the growing relationship between both institutions, next summer’s program will only expand this year’s great work!”
Klicker ’12 Exemplifies Global Engagement

Beth Stefanik

As a junior at Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pa., Peter Klicker ’12 was selected to attend the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. While there, his coursework included courses in international diplomacy, international communication and international political economy. Unsurprisingly, his experience deepened an emerging interest in international relations.

When he returned to school in the fall, a family friend and college placement advisor helped Klicker plan possible college choices. William & Mary was presented as a “reach” school, but one that intrigued him.

“The size is really interesting,” said Klicker. “It’s big enough to have a lot of resources but small enough to have real faculty-student interaction. I was also always interested in public service and William & Mary has such a proud tradition, going back centuries, as well as with more contemporary people like (Chancellor) Robert Gates.”

While weighing his options, Klicker did some research on the College and discovered the study abroad programs and Washington, D.C. Office, but was troubled by the main campus location.

“My only concern was that while Williamsburg is very nice, it’s not very cosmopolitan,” he admitted. “I was worried about getting a global education.”

Students Helping Honduras

Klicker needn’t have worried. Shortly after arriving in Williamsburg, he was presented with the opportunity to join Students Helping Honduras (SHH) on a service trip to El Progresso, Honduras. SHH was founded in 2006 by Cosmo Fujiyama, a graduate of the College, and her brother Shin Fujiyama, and brings college students from across the country to volunteer in Honduras throughout the year. Klicker repeated the trip his sophomore spring.

In Honduras Klicker helped build a new village for a community originally displaced by Hurricane Mitch in 1998, working on new homes and an education center so that local students could enjoy more structured afternoon activities. He also visited orphanages and engaged in more cultural activities, such as joining children for soccer games.

“It’s easy to lose perspective in college and to get stressed out about things like exams or course selection that don’t matter a great deal in the grand scheme of things,” mused Klicker. “Volunteering in Honduras reminded me of how fortunate I am to have so many opportunities and that I have a responsibility to use them in a way that benefits other people. The hardest thing is trying to hold onto that perspective after you leave Honduras and return to campus.”

A Year Away

Looking for more opportunities, Klicker attended the Summer National Security Institute with the William & Mary Washington Office in 2010, which allowed him to take courses on international security, visit the Pentagon and Capitol Hill and intern with the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He received a Reves International Internship Scholarship, administered by the Charles Center, to help raise funds for his summer plans.
During his internship, Klicker compiled daily briefing books for the Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs and weekly activity reports for the Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. He also reviewed action memos, information memos and briefing checklists, and attended meetings in order to take notes for other staff assistants.

“Being a fly on the wall in meetings and seeing how they’re working it all out was very interesting,” remembers Klicker. “A lot of those things you hear about in class, but seeing it in real time, in real life, is just fascinating.”

In fall 2010, Klicker studied abroad at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, taking courses in one of the best international relations programs in Europe.

“It was an interesting semester,” said Klicker. “The teaching style is very different there. I only had two modules the entire semester, and each module or class met twice a week, once for a lecture and once for a tutorial, which is a smaller group.”

In addition to different course scheduling and teaching styles, Klicker also noticed a different perspective in the international relations courses.

“There was less focus on hard power and realism, and much more of an emphasis on discourse and identity.”

While abroad, Klicker traveled across Europe, taking in the museums and historical sites of Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Paris, Barcelona, Madrid, Seville and London. He also kept busy putting together a successful application to a summer internship with the United States Mission to NATO in Brussels, Belgium, and preparing to take a leave of absence to spend his spring semester in Washington, D.C.

Having previously accumulated a number of Advanced Placement (AP) course credits, when Klicker returned to the United States he was able to spend the next semester focused solely on interning for the Henry L. Stimson Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to enhancing international peace and security through analysis and outreach.

As an intern in the Regional Voices Program, Klicker conducted research on the security implications of international land transactions and wrote a policy brief, “International Land Deals: A Destabilizing Trend in the Developing World.”

While interning at the Stimson Center, Klicker was also a part of a whirlwind two-month project to complete the only unclassified report commissioned by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on the Arab Spring and why the intelligence community didn’t predict it.

A few weeks later, with the help of another Reves International Internship Scholarship, Klicker was off to Brussels to work as a Public Affairs Intern in the Programs Office of the U.S. Mission to NATO. Upon arrival, he was immediately given the task of arranging a visit for a Taiwanese military delegation.

“It was frightening and thrilling at the same time,” recounted Klicker. “Frightening because you wanted to arrange a nice visit for the officials, but exciting because you’re given that much responsibility.”

Klicker went on to arrange a number of tours for international groups during his internship, gaining an insight into “real, first-hand diplomacy,” as well as taking notes on meetings of the North Atlantic Council and other NATO committees, preparing decision memos for the U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO and writing a report on the effectiveness of a public affairs tour program in Afghanistan. He also had the good fortune to meet the then recently-retired Secretary of Defense Robert Gates ’65, who had yet to begin serving as Chancellor of the College.

PIPS Fellow

On his return to Williamsburg in fall 2011, Klicker was invited to apply to become a Fellow at the Project on International Peace and Security (PIPS), a highly selective undergraduate think tank based at the Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations, run by professors Dennis Smith and Amy Oakes of the W&M Government Department.

After being named a Fellow, Klicker spent fall 2011 thinking about what he’d like to research and a chance comment at a meeting at Langley Air Force Base sparked his interest.

“My whole project really originated with a conversation between Professor Smith and an individual who works for Air Combat Command,” he said. “I was really interested in what they were saying and ultimately chose to write my policy brief about it.

“That’s exactly how PIPS is supposed to work. The whole thing is basically bridging academic and policy-making communities,
and particularly showing that undergrads can make a meaningful contribution."

Throughout the spring semester, Klicker organized phone interviews with individuals affiliated with the Air Force and aerospace industry and also arranged onsite interviews at the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Once a week he would meet with the other PIPS Fellows to review the progress of their briefs.

“That’s where it was really the most like a think-tank environment, because you really are all looking at the papers and PowerPoints and giving suggestions,” remembered Klicker. “I really enjoyed that collaborative aspect of it.”

Klicker’s policy brief, “A New ‘Freedom’ Fighter: Building on the T-X Competition,” explored the idea of exporting low-cost jet trainers to promote military-to-military cooperation in the developing world. With the other PIPS Fellows, Klicker presented his work at the 2011-12 PIPS Fellows Symposium at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in April, 2012.

Reflecting on his time at the College, Klicker is quick to point out that his undergraduate career was shaped by taking advantage of an array of unforeseen opportunities.

“This was not planned. There was no way when I came in as a freshman I had this elaborate scheme laid out,” he said. “One thing led to another, and it worked out well. Every semester I basically looked for the most exciting, challenging thing I could do.”

Klicker credits an incredibly active, supportive alumni network as being influential in his education, saying “people are really willing to give back. I benefitted from it personally but the College as a whole benefits from those alumni connections.”

Beginning a career with the federal government over the summer, Klicker is optimistic about the future and his continued involvement with William & Mary.

“I would definitely like to give back. I owe it to the College.”

CLASS EXPLORES SHARED CULTURAL EXPERIENCES OF A GENERATION  

Disney princesses, technology, 9/11: They are all shared experiences connecting the “millennial” generation, students roughly between the ages of 18 and 28, in distinctive ways throughout the world.

During the spring 2012 semester, a comparative sociology class at William & Mary examined those differences – and similarities – by pairing American students with their international counterparts to discuss the shared cultural experiences of their generation.

“It’s been really interesting to learn about other cultures with no judgment involved, just learning and just understanding,” said Bailey Rose ’13.

Students in the comparative sociology class were partnered with international students in a new “Global Generational Consciousness” course, which was organized by Sociology Professor Gul Ozyegin. The new class sought to create “an in-depth and sustained dialogue on challenges and possibilities of global generational consciousness,” according to the class description.

The groups of students—each consisting of two American students and one international student—were tasked with meeting several times a week to discuss their personal experiences in relation to pop culture and international events.

Different and Similar

Rose, an English major, and one of her classmates partnered with a student from China. The group discussed everything from relationships to technology. They watched two movies—“The Princess and the Frog” and “Curse of the Golden Flower”—and discussed their observations based on their cultural and personal experiences. For instance, Rose said she was surprised by “how orderly” the culture seemed in “Curse of the Golden Flower” whereas her partner from China considered that normal.

“To see how we could all watch a movie and then see different things from it, it just really opened your eyes,” said Rose.

Elizabeth Atkins ’13, a sociology major and Arabic minor who is also in the ROTC program, spent last summer in Jordan and lived in Germany when she was younger. She partnered with a student from South Korea and recalled discussing celebrities with him, asking him if he judged America based on the country’s celebrities. He told her that they don’t pay much attention to Hollywood because they have celebrities of their own, Atkins said.
But one of the biggest things that surprised Atkins in her conversations with him was how South Koreans viewed Sept. 11, 2001.

“One of the things that stood out to me was that 9/11 wasn’t as important there as it was here,” she said, adding that it is often the focal point of America’s international relations.

“The thing that made it an event for them was the economics that happened afterwards,” she said. “It affected their economy because it affected the global economy. Now, they are kind of in a recession like we are.”

Although the groups discovered many interesting differences between cultures in their conversations, they also found similarities.

“I felt like we had a lot more similarities than you would think going into it, and that’s been really eye-opening,” said Ben Raliski ’15, who partnered with a student from South Korea.

For instance, cultures around the world all are dealing with the impact of new technologies and the Internet.

“There’s this new international identity that’s been forming recently with globalization and technology linking the world together,” Raliski said. “Coming from very different backgrounds, we can relate easily to international issues.”

A Chance to be Heard

“K” Lee ’14, an international student from South Korea who also spent time in Canada, said she signed up for the class because “I thought this would be a really interesting way to express myself,” she said.

Lee said she learned two important lessons from the experience.

“First, I figured out that I am different, but secondly it’s not a bad thing,” she said. “It’s actually another chance that I can stand out. My story’s actually interesting. People actually pay attention to it. I can use that to my advantage, as a conversation starter or something.”

Lee also gained something else from the class: two new friends.

“Seeing people who actually accept different ideas and different views, seeing them and knowing them is a big plus for me,” said Lee.

Morris Chen ’14, a women’s studies major and international student from Taiwan, was motivated to participate in the class by Ozyegin, who is his advisor.

“She really wanted me to be in the program,” he said. “I wanted to be in it, too, because I thought it would be a really interesting conversation opportunity.”

Along with discussing serious matters like cultural representations in the media, gay rights in various countries and relations between China and Taiwan, Chen and his partners discussed lighter topics.

“We talked about Disney movies and Disney princesses a lot,” he said. “We were talking about a product of Western culture that has influenced you. Disney is definitely something that has gone global and has affected a lot of little boys’ and girls’ lives. We talked about Disney princesses and how they are very convenient bonding tools and conversation starters. Sometimes you can even tell someone’s characteristics by who their favorite princess characters are.”

Chen said he enjoyed learning about and discussing the concept of global generational consciousness through the experience.

“There are things, like media or technology, that are global and impact all of our lives – but the way that we experience these impacts is different,” he said. “So we have a shared experience that is also a different experience.”

New Perspective

As the class progressed throughout the semester, Rose said that she gained a new viewpoint.

“We stopped thinking about things from the American perspective and started seeing them from that culture’s perspective,” said Rose. “That was a nice, eye-opening thing.”

Although Atkins has had experience in the Middle East and Europe, she said she enjoyed getting a new perspective on Asia. She noted that the class forced her to “have those deep conversations that oftentimes you don’t get just being friends.”

“I would never have gotten to know my international partner had this class not forced me to, and it’s been a great experience,” she said.
Professor Robert Diaz of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary, is a co-editor of “Valuing the Ocean,” a major new study by an international team of scientists and economists that attempts to measure the ocean’s monetary value and to tally the costs and savings associated with human decisions affecting ocean health.

The study estimates that if human impacts on the ocean continue unabated, declines in ocean health and services will cost the global economy $428 billion per year by 2050, and $1.979 trillion per year by 2100. Alternatively, steps to reduce these impacts could save more than a trillion dollars per year by 2100, reducing the cost of human impacts to $612 billion.

Diaz says the study report “describes the state of the science for six threats to the global ocean, what can happen if all these threats act together, and the economic consequences of taking or not taking action.” He notes that the study is unique in stressing the interactions between and among multiple threats, which include acidification, low-oxygen “dead zones,” overfishing, pollution, sea-level rise, and warming.

In addition to co-editing the 300-page study, Diaz is a lead author on the chapters that monetize the impacts of dead zones and the combined effects of multiple stressors. Research by Diaz and colleagues shows that over-fertilization of ocean waters has led to a sharp increase in the number, size, and duration of low-oxygen dead zones around the world over the last 50 years, which could lead to major impacts on fisheries. The study estimates an annual decrease in global fisheries value of $88 billion by 2050, and $343 billion by 2100, unless steps are taken to reduce nutrient inputs and global warming. Warmer water holds less oxygen, thereby intensifying dead zones.

The study’s positive message is that local actions can make a global difference.

A release from the Stockholm Environment Institute—the agency that coordinated the international study—states “The ocean is the victim of a massive market failure. The true worth of its ecosystems, services, and functions is persistently ignored by policy makers and largely excluded from wider economic and development strategies... This collaborative book presents an unequivocal argument in favor of placing the ocean at the centre of plans to build a sustainable future, while for the first time calculating the actual monetary value of the critical ocean services that we stand to lose.”

The study’s positive message is that local actions can make a global difference. “Thanks to close links between globally and locally acting stressors,” says SEI, “coordinated small-scale interventions can aggregate upwards to have major significance.”

Diaz and other report editors and authors presented the findings of their study during the “Planet Under Pressure” conference in London in March 2012. Convened by a number of international scientific bodies—the International Council for Science, DIVERSITAS, Earth System Science Partnership, International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, International Human Dimensions Programme, and the World Climate Research Programme—the “PUP” conference is a key platform for the international science community to inform delegates to the United Nations’ upcoming Conference on Sustainable Development.

The U.N. Conference—which took place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012—marked the 20th anniversary of the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. During the June “URio+20 summit,” heads of state and government from around the world joined together to “secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges.”
SRF Researcher Wins Student Award at IPAC 2012

It’s no cliché to say that Chen Xu has science in his blood. His grandfather was an electrical engineer, his grandmother a cardiologist, his father an irrigation scientist and his mother is a chemistry teacher.

“Science,” Xu noted in understatement, “was a predetermined goal for me.”

Born in Beijing, this self-described “urban guy,” graduated from Shanghai Fudan University third in his class with a degree in Materials Science in 2005. He then went on to Tsinghua University where he began work toward a Ph.D., with his thesis titled: Achieving High Energy Resolution Electron Energy Loss Spectrometer by Quadrupole and Sextupole Lattice. He also received a scholarship from the Korea Samsung Semiconductor Company to work as an intern/researcher at the company’s hard-disk magnetic material testing center, and had the opportunity to travel throughout South Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan.

After two years of graduate school, he knew it was time to make a change. In telling the story, he recalls a quote from the movie “Shawshank Redemption” to explain how he felt at the time: “some birds aren’t meant to be caged. Their feathers are just too bright.”

He looked to the United States for his future and was accepted at numerous schools. He chose the College of William & Mary. When Michael Kelley, Free-Electron Laser Applied Research program manager and William & Mary professor, suggested that he come to Jefferson Lab to work on radiofrequency superconductivity (SRF) cavity design and processing for future accelerators, Xu jumped at the chance.

“This was an opportunity for me to take experimental and theoretical practice and merge it with hands-on learning,” Xu recalled. “Once I got involved in this, I really began to love this business. There are so many possible applications for this work that it’s very, very exciting.”

His passion for the field was rewarded when he received a Best Student Award at the 2012 International Particle Accelerator Conference, held May 20-25 in New Orleans, for his poster on the analysis of high field non-linear losses on SRF surfaces due to specific topographic roughness. He’s proud to note that he was the first SRF student to win the award. He received a plaque honoring the accomplishment and a cash award.

Coming to the United States was a true culture shock. What he knew about the U.S. had come from movies and television. “I discovered that most of that is not real,” Xu commented. “This is a very peaceful way of life here.” And for someone who’d spent his early years in massive cities with skyscrapers, seeing birds and squirrels around his Newport News apartment makes it seem almost like a wilderness.

He puts in long days, often not leaving the lab until 10 p.m., and loves the flexibility afforded him here. Committed to his science and personal success, Xu has a goal of publishing five papers before he’s finished with his thesis; he’s working on the fourth now.

And he travels. Xu has made it his mission to see every state in the U.S. He’s visited 40 of them so far – and in a recent four-day period spent time in Charlottesville, Va., and San Francisco – before returning for work on Monday.

“I think of this traveling and learning as an investment in myself,” he said.
Ahmad hired as Sultan Qaboos bin Said Chair of Middle Eastern Studies

Beth Stefanik

Ahmad Atif Ahmad (Ph.D., Harvard, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations) has joined the College of William & Mary as the Sultan Qaboos Chair of Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Ahmad is a scholar of Islamic law and legal theory. His research has focused on adjudication, political writings and their connections with law, war, political crimes such as insurrection and apostasy.

Professor Ahmad’s publications include a study (in Arabic) of the theory of two-degree adjudication in medieval Islamic law and its application in Egypt, and three books in English, including *The Fatigue of the Shari’a* and *Structural Interrelations of Theory and Practice in Islamic Law*. He will teach courses on Islamic law, government, and modern Egypt.

Roessler paper wins APSA award

Suzanne Seurattan

Philip Roessler, assistant professor of government, is this year’s recipient of the Gregory Luebbert Article Award for the best article in the field of comparative politics. His article, “The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups and Civil War in Africa,” appeared in the April 2011 issue of *World Politics*.

The Luebbert Award is for articles published in the two years prior to the awarding year and is selected by the American Political Science Association (APSA)-Comparative Politics section. It was established in 1997. APSA annually presents Luebbert Awards in two categories – book and article awards.

“The article breaks new ground in the study of civil war by linking the outbreak of large-scale political violence in Africa to the commitment problem that arises as elites try to share power in the shadow of the coup d’état,” said Roessler.

International Education Week 2012

W&M joins institutions and organizations across the country, and embassies all over the world, in promoting international education and understanding through a variety of programs each November during International Education Week (IEW). IEW is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Government. In 2012, IEW will take place from Monday, November 12 through Friday, November 16. For more information visit http://iew.state.gov/

Root wins Whitaker Prize for Couture & Consensus

Alla Herman ’15

Regina Root has been awarded the prestigious Arthur P. Whitaker Prize for her book *Couture & Consensus: Fashion and Politics in Postcolonial Argentina*.

This marks the second time that Root, Class of 1963 Term Distinguished Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at William & Mary, has received the award. She was awarded the Whitaker Prize in 2006 for *The Latin American Fashion Reader*.

The Arthur P. Whitaker Prize is awarded each year by the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS). The award is given to the best book published in the last two years by a MACLAS member. A committee of select Latin American Studies scholars judges the submissions every year.

*Couture & Consensus*, the result of years of research in special collections in Argentina, details the influence of fashion on Argentinian politics after the revolution of 1810, and how creativity emerged through the use of clothing to convey ideas about the emerging nation’s future.
November 15
Registration deadline for all non-W&M spring 2013 study abroad programs

November 15
Application deadline for AY 2013-2014 tuition exchange programs at Kanazawa University

November 15
Application deadline for Critchfield, Exeter, Vaughan Scholarships

February 1
Application deadline for all W&M summer 2013 study abroad programs

February 1
Application deadline for Reves Summer scholarships

February 1
Application deadline for study at Hertford College, Oxford, during the 2013-2014 academic year (any term)

March 1
Application deadline for W&M students wishing to petition for approval to study abroad on a College-related program in a country under a Department of State Travel Warning

March 15
Application deadline for most W&M assisted enrollment and exchange programs for fall 2013 and academic year 2013-2014

March 1
Application deadline for spring 2014 assisted enrollment or exchange at the University of Nottingham in English or Business

March 15
Application deadline for Critchfield, Exeter Exchange, Reves Semester, Vaughan scholarships

March 22
Application deadline for most W&M sponsored semester programs for fall 2013 and academic year 2013-2014

April 5
Application deadline for Sullivan scholarship

April 15
Registration deadline for all non-W&M summer 2013, fall 2013, and academic year 2013-2014 study abroad programs

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