AidData:
From Undergraduate Research Project To Multi-Million Dollar Research Center

Also:
REVES 2013 FACULTY FELLOWS ANNOUNCED
THE POLITICS OF FISHING IN EAST AFRICA
We live in an era when the pace of globalization seems to be accelerating daily, radically transforming academic disciplines, professional norms, and long-established ways of life. In this context, university administrators often feel pressured to meet the challenges of internationalization by launching commensurately large global projects—overseas branch campuses, multinational research programs, new online degrees for international students, and so on. Yet successful international engagement often begins on a much smaller scale, with projects launched by individuals to tackle specific global problems. In this issue of World Minded, we feature the stories of several remarkable students, faculty, and alumni of William & Mary who’ve committed themselves to making a difference in the world—with measurable results in diverse spheres.

In the case of Homaira Noorestani, a current LL.M. student in the W&M Law School, a desire to better the lives of women in Afghanistan has inspired a life of advocacy for stronger ties between Central Asia and North America. For Sarah Glaser, a W&M faculty member in Biology and VIMS, an abiding personal interest in Africa has led to important international research on fisheries and food security in the Lake Victoria basin. For W&M alumnus Mark Zimmer ’99, international engagement in his undergraduate years was a springboard to a distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

And sometimes, a small-scale individual project to better understand our world grows into a globally transformational enterprise. For W&M alumnus Brad Parks ’03, a seemingly simple research question about how we might better coordinate foreign aid led to an exceptional senior thesis with Professor Michael J. Tierney ’87. The ideas in Parks’s thesis, in turn, combined with the research and technology contributions of W&M partners Brigham Young University and Development Gateway, ultimately became the foundation of AidData—which today tracks over $1 trillion in global foreign aid flows. AidData has now generated a $25 million award to W&M from the U.S. Agency for International Development—the largest single award to W&M in our university’s history. As part of USAID’s innovative Higher Education Solutions Network, along with Duke, MIT, UC Berkeley, Michigan State University, Texas A&M, and Makerere University in Uganda, William & Mary faculty and students are now part of a major global effort to revolutionize foreign aid and development policy to meet the demands of the 21st century.

These life stories reconfirm the basic philosophy of the Reves Center for International Studies: that international peace, security, and development require the nurturing of multiple individual commitments to continuous global engagement and mutual understanding among diverse cultures and societies.

Stephen E. Hanson
Vice Provost for International Affairs
Director, Reves Center for International Studies

ABOUT THE COVER
W&M Rector Jeff Trammel met Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the launch of USAID’s Higher Education Solutions Network (November, 2012), during which W&M was selected to lead a five-year award of up to $25 million through the creation of the AidData Center for Development Policy.

Photo by Rodney Choice

www.choicephotography.com

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Stephen E. Hanson
Vice Provost for International Affairs
Director, Reves Center for International Studies
ALUMNUS PROFILE

NAME: Mark Zimmer ’99

W&M MAJOR: International Relations

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Foreign Service Officer, United States Department of State

HOMETOWN: Front Royal, VA

What was your career path after leaving William & Mary?

I spent a little over two years with a government contractor in the Washington, D.C. area after graduation. I gained a lot of good experience in project management and leadership. I entered the Foreign Service in June 2002. I have been posted to Shenyang, China, Washington, D.C., Singapore, and Nairobi, Kenya, where I was part of our Somalia Unit. I am now the Spokesperson at the American Institute in Taiwan.

How did your time at William & Mary prepare you for a career in the Foreign Service?

I would cite critical thinking as the most valuable skill I developed at the College. I would cite critical thinking as the most valuable skill I developed at the College. I entered the Foreign Service in June 2002. I have been posted to Shenyang, China, Washington, D.C., Singapore, and Nairobi, Kenya, where I was part of our Somalia Unit. I am now the Spokesperson at the American Institute in Taiwan.

What was your favorite international experience at William & Mary?

My most remarkable experience was not overseas but in Williamsburg, where I took a course on the disintegration of Yugoslavia, taught by Dr. Mihailo Crnobrnja. Dr. Crnobrnja, who had been a Yugoslavian official, was the Borgenicht Scholar-in-Residence during the 1998-1999 school year. The opportunity to study a developing crisis in real time, under the tutelage of a true subject matter expert, was tremendous. I remember vividly Dr. Crnobrnja coming into class bleary-eyed and upset, having been up all night monitoring developments, mostly negative, in the former Yugoslavia. This was not a history course, but a discussion of this far-reaching crisis, as it broke, seen through the eyes of someone deeply involved in the event. William & Mary’s ability to attract the best and brightest faculty was particularly impressive to me.

What is the most fulfilling aspect of working with international audiences?

In addition to the privilege of serving our country, I would point to the gratification I get when, in the course of my Public Diplomacy work, I am able to truly make inroads with foreign audiences. I find that a large percentage of the negative perceptions of the United States is based not on fact and actual disagreements with our policy, but on misunderstandings of what the U.S. is doing and why we’re doing it. Those “Aha!” moments, whether they come after a conversation with a Somali youth in the desert in northern Kenya or an intellectual in Taiwan, affirm the value of the outreach on which we spend a great deal of time and effort.

What advice would you give to current students interested in an international career?

I always highlight the fact that the Foreign Service is not necessarily looking for scholars of international relations, but for well-rounded people who can perform in a wide variety of environments and contexts. I would encourage current students to ensure they are pursuing a diverse set of interests; both inside and outside of the classroom.

Grand Challenges Explorations grant awarded to W&M global health and development project Staff

In winter 2012 William & Mary announced that it is a Grand Challenges Explorations winner, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. John Swaddle, professor of biology, and Mark Hinders, professor of applied science, will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled “Employing sonic nets to exclude pest bird species from crops.”

“We’re very happy to be named a Grand Challenges Explorations winner,” stated Swaddle and Hinders. “Thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we can continue work to address the age-old problem of crop loss to birds.”

Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) funds individuals worldwide who are taking innovative approaches to some of the world’s toughest and persistent global health and development challenges. GCE invests in the early stages of bold ideas that have real potential to solve the problems people in the developing world face every day. Swaddle and Hinders’ project is one of over 80 Grand Challenges Explorations Round 9 grants.

“Investments in innovative global health research are already paying off,” said Chris Wilson, director of Global Health Discovery and Translational Sciences at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “We continue to be impressed by the novelty and innovative spirit of Grand Challenges Explorations projects and are enthusiastic about this exciting research. These investments hold real potential to yield new solutions to improve the health of millions of people in the developing world, and ensure that everyone has the chance to live a healthy productive life.”

To receive funding, the Swaddle-Hinders collaboration and other Grand Challenges Explorations Round 9 winners demonstrated in a two-page online application a creative idea in one of five critical global health and development topic areas that included agriculture development, immunization and communications. Millions of tons of food are lost each year to hungry birds. Swaddle and Hinders are perfecting “sonic net” devices to keep birds away from ripening crops. Swaddle explains that the devices emit sounds designed to disrupt avian communication.

“If the birds can’t hear each other, then they can’t share any information about where the food is or where predators are,” Swaddle said, adding that sonic nets will be especially effective against flocking birds. “If you’ve ever been next to a group of starlings or small parrots, they are constantly cackling to each other. So if you stop that, the birds will just move on to a place where they can talk to each other.”

Hinders explained that the sonic nets will be deployed through mobile transmitters.

“The key to this technology is to carefully control where the sound goes,” he explained. “Most speakers send sound in one direction, but we’re using a particular speaker that gives you a narrow beam of sound. So we can carefully control the direction of sound, how much the sound spreads and how much it dies out so that you have the sound just where you want it.”

Sonic nets won’t harm the birds, making for an extremely environmentally sound solution to a global agricultural problem.
W&M STUDENTS FIND INSPIRATION IN DALAI LAMA’S REMARKS

Erin Zagursky

It was a student-initiated event, and students made up a large part of the 8,200-person crowd that packed Kaplan Arena in William & Mary Hall on October 10, 2012, to hear the Dalai Lama present his talk on compassion.

“I am just really grateful for the opportunity to have this experience,” said Laura Traub ’13. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience, so I’m glad that he was able to visit here and that we were able to sit really close to him and hear what he had to say.”

During his talk, the Dalai Lama focused his message on compassion. Following his remarks, he answered a variety of questions that were submitted in advance by students. The topics ranged from interfaith cooperation to technology.

“I thought it was really cool how he answered every question, how he took into consideration not only what he wanted to say but what we wanted to hear and ask questions (about) and that he gave really in depth answers,” said Andrea Hanes ’13. “His point of view is really unique and really amazing, so it was really incredible to hear from him.”

Yusre El-Bardicy ’16, too, was impressed with the Dalai Lama, especially his comments on interfaith harmony and the Muslim tradition and a blessing from the Dalai Lama. “I thought that it was a really enlightening and very valuable experience,” said El-Bardicy.

Madelyn Smith ’13, a blogger for the W&M website, posted her thoughts about the experience, saying that one thing really stood out to her from Dalai Lama: “the joy in his laughter.”

“As it echoed across William & Mary Hall contagiously sweeping across the crowd, his laughter filled the auditorium,” she wrote in her blog. “I couldn’t help but smile as I turned around to see hundreds of people beaming. His life is a gift. His message is a prayer. And, his inspiration is infinite.”

The Dalai Lama’s talk got Smith thinking about the power of one life, she wrote. “As an individual who is passionate, curious, and intelligent, you have the power to impact the world,” Smith wrote. “Consider not only what he wanted to say but what we wanted to hear and ask questions (about) and that he gave really in depth answers.”

According to Chen, breakdancing is extremely popular in China and his high school had several crews of breakdancers. Chen is also quick to point out that it has become popular throughout Asia, especially in south Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

“The history of breakdancing is most often associated with New York hip-hop culture, not that of Guangzhou, China. But Qi Chen, a computer science exchange student from the University of Adelaide, will be the first to trumpet the connection. Chen has been a member of William & Mary’s Bboy (breakdancing) Club since his arrival on campus for the Spring 2012 semester.”

“Every chance I get, I just go out dancing,” said Chen. “Bboy Club is great because it fits my freestyle way of dancing.”

After watching a television program featuring Elmo, the famous Taiwanese breakdancer, Chen knew he had found an art form that spoke directly to his soul. It was the first time he had seen any form of hip-hop culture, and he was amazed.

“After seeing Elmo, I became more aware of kids dancing in my high school and breakdancing crews throughout Guangzhou.”

According to Chen, breakdancing is extremely popular in China and his high school had several crews of breakdancers. Chen is also quick to point out that it has become popular throughout Asia, especially in South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

“Breakdancing is more popular in Asia than it is in the United States,” asserted Chen. “There are more organized and individual competitions, and people doing it, than anywhere else in the world.”

Before Chen found W&M’s Bboy Club, he tried out several other student dance groups, but found his style of dance ill-suited to the more choreographically focused groups. He had even noticed flyers for the W&M Bboy Club around campus, but by then was discouraged and skeptical that he would be a good fit for that organization either.

It wasn’t until Chen read an article in The Flat Hat, W&M’s student newspaper, that he attended a meeting. He discovered that the Bboy Club is dedicated to teaching breakdancing and promoting hip-hop history and culture, providing a wonderful opportunity to further hone his dancing.

“Joining the Bboy Club has been great,” said Chen. “Not only have I been able to continue dancing, but I’ve also learned more about the culture of hip-hop and the historical context of breakdancing.”

Chen quickly established a name for himself within the club, becoming the only “locker” in the group. “Locking” involves continuous movement, linking one move to the next. Chen defines it as a style of hip-hop dance that originated in California, “a dance based on funky music that’s so much fun to watch.”

At the end of the Fall 2012 semester, Chen returned to the University of Adelaide after a year of exchange at William & Mary. Although he will miss his breakdancing compatriots in the W&M Bboy Club, he is looking forward to exploring Adelaide’s hip-hop scene and continuing to express himself through break dancing.

“I’ll keep dancing,” Chen promised. “It’s a way of life.”
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 research, teaching and learning through international service-learning courses, community-based research, and civic engagement.

The Reves Center’s 2013 Faculty Fellows are Gail McEachron, Jonathan Glasser, Christopher Bailey, John Nezlek and Joanna Schug.

Gail McEachron, School of Education

McEachron will initiate a comparative study of language support for ethnic minorities in Southern England (UK) and Eastern Virginia (USA). The project will provide comparative research and teaching opportunities for undergraduate students and faculty members at William & Mary and Bath Spa University (Bath, England). The research and teaching will focus on educational programs for English Language Learners (ELLs) in K-12 settings.

Jonathan Glasser, Department of Anthropology

Glasser will facilitate a musical collaboration between William & Mary students and Moroccan performers in the Andalusian classical music tradition in North Africa. Up to twelve students will travel to Morocco and work closely with members and directors of the Association Ahbab Cheikh Salah, including giving public performances in the cities of Oujda, Nador and Al-Hoceima. A public performance in Williamsburg will follow in the Fall 2013 semester.

Christopher Bailey, Department of Geology

Bailey will commence an international research project in Oman focused on faulting and the mechanism by which the Oman ophiolite, a vast slab of oceanic crust and deep mantle, was emplaced at the Earth’s surface. Data will be collected at four field sites across the Semail thrust zone in northeastern Oman. Fieldwork in Oman will be conducted with the W&M Geology fellow, a recently graduated geology student who conducts research prior to advancing to graduate school.

John Nezlek and Joanna Schug, Department of Psychology

Nezlek and Schug will conduct cross-cultural research on perceptions of economics and social inequality, and on the consequences of such perceptions. They will study income inequality in Poland, Japan, and the United States. W&M undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in the research, and students in a cross-cultural psychology class will interact with students in Poland and Japan via virtual forum.

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 2013.
AidData: From undergraduate research project to multi-million dollar research center.

Kate Reusser, Institute for the Theory & Practice of International Relations

On November 9, 2012, Alena Stern ’12 held an esteemed audience at the National Academy of Sciences in rapt attention. A former student research assistant, Alena was representing AidData as it received a $25 million award from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As Stern finished describing how AidData is bringing transparency to foreign aid by tracking the money, building maps that illustrate where it is going, and making this information available to all, the audience erupted in applause.

Today, AidData is an innovative partnership between William & Mary (W&M), Brigham Young University (BYU), and Washington, D.C.—based non-profit organization Development Gateway, with more than 30 staff in six locations around the world. But it was only fitting that a student represented AidData at its biggest moment, for it all began with a W&M student’s honor thesis ten years earlier.

A Student-Faculty Research Project Grows Up

In 2002, Brad Parks ’03 began his senior honors thesis on the global distribution of environmental assistance and realized that existing databases did not provide sufficiently reliable, detailed, or accessible information about overseas aid projects. In many cases the data existed, but it was scattered across different international agencies, buried in complex reporting systems, locked in foreign ministry offices, or obscured in long documents.

To complete his thesis, Parks made do with the data he could get his hands on, but he was troubled by the lack of global aid transparency. If no one was tracking the billions of dollars in development assistance being distributed across the world, how would anyone be able to gauge if this money was being targeted correctly or used effectively?

Parks pondered these questions with his thesis advisor, Mike Tierney ’87, professor of government and international relations. They agreed that the solution was to build a database of detailed and standardized information on foreign aid that would allow scholars to better understand the distribution and impact of foreign aid while increasing transparency.

After reaching out to two other scholars at W&M and one at BYU, Parks and Tierney formalized a proposal and sought support. In 2004, the National Science Foundation provided funding for a new database that would be called Project-Level AidData (PLAID). Further funding came from the Hewlett Foundation and the Gates Foundation, and for the next five years teams of scholars and student research assistants worked with foreign ministries and development agencies to bring detailed data on aid projects from many donors together into a single database. Country by country, project by project, they built PLAID.

Meanwhile, Development Gateway was building a similar online directory of aid activities through its Accessible Information on Development Activities (AIDA) initiative. Recognizing their complementary strengths and shared ambitions, PLAID and AIDA merged in 2009 to form AidData, which would soon be recognized as the global leader in the provision of information about foreign aid assistance projects.

But despite the vast amount of data that were being generated, researchers were still unable to answer the fundamental question of where the projects were actually located on the ground.

The Geocoding Revolution

A game-changing idea came in 2010 when Mike Findley, then a professor at BYU, suggested geocoding aid projects, assigning longitude and latitude coordinates to donor-funded activities. Aid projects could then be visualized on maps, thus revealing where aid was going in a simple but powerful way.

After working with the Conflict Data Program at Sweden’s Uppsala University to develop a geocoding methodology, AidData partnered with the World Bank to launch the Mapping for Results initiative in the summer of 2010. Under the leadership of Mike Findley, the team had created a tool that allowed aid projects to be geographically pinpointed on maps, thus revealing where aid was going in a simple but powerful way.

In partnership with the government of Malawi, a student-faculty team from AidData and the University of Texas at Austin, took on this challenge in the summer of 2011. Working from both the United States and in Malawi, they geocoded all foreign aid activities of 32 donors to the country. The goal was not only to enable donors to more effectively coordinate with each other, but also to assist the government in reducing duplication and other sources of inefficiency. Malawi’s Minister of Finance, Ken Lipenga, said the resulting map has “transformed the way we think about development and positively helped our own planning effort.”

The AidData Center for Development Policy

In November 2012, USAID’s Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) awarded William & Mary $25 million to establish the AidData Center for Development Policy. The Center will create data and tools that enable the global development community to better target, coordinate, deliver, and evaluate their overseas aid investments and empower beneficiaries in developing countries with the information needed to hold donors and their governments accountable for results.

The AidData Center will be headquartered at William & Mary’s Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations in Williamsburg, Virginia and will be a joint venture between W&M, BYU, Development Gateway, the University of Texas, and ESRI, a GIS technology company.

Leading the Center will be Mike Tierney and Brad Parks, the professor-student duo who first hatched the idea for AidData. Tierney will serve as the Center’s director, while Parks is a co-executive director of AidData.

William & Mary is one of seven universities chosen for USAID’s HESN which was established to assist USAID and the global development community to find revolutionary solutions to some of today’s most pressing development problems.

Continued Innovation

Even as AidData expands its capacity to develop geospatial data and tools that enable the global development community to better target and evaluate aid, there are new projects on the horizon that are poised to make an impact in an entirely different way.

A new student-faculty media-based data collection project has been launched to capture the foreign aid information of...
donors who have opted out of the global aid reporting regime. Donors like Saudi Arabia, China, Iran, and Venezuela provide tens of billions of dollars of overseas aid each year, but they lack either the capacity or the political will to provide detailed information about their aid activities.

In the summer of 2012, a student-led team at William & Mary set out to create a new methodology that could track development finance from a wide variety of donors, using information collected from media reports. They launched a pilot to capture the known universe of Chinese development finance projects to Africa from 2000 to 2011 and were hugely successful, identifying more than 3,000 Chinese projects worth nearly $200 billion. The much anticipated data was released in early 2013 in partnership with the Center for Global Development, a leading think tank in Washington D.C.

**AidData’s Secret Weapon**

Since its inception, undergraduate research assistants have made huge contributions to AidData, and have gained invaluable experience in the process. In addition to building AidData’s database of more than $5.5 trillion of aid, students have worked to develop new data collection methods, published academic papers, and posted blog entries on AidData’s blog, The First Tranche. AidData has taken student teams into Malawi’s AidData program, AidData fellowships work to train government officials in 15 developing countries on how to use AidData computer technology to more effectively monitor the aid they receive. With the establishment of an Aid Management Fellows program, AidData research assistants and recent graduates will train government officials in 15 developing countries on how to use AidData computer technology to more effectively monitor the aid they receive.

As they continue to bring transparency to trillions of dollars of foreign aid, the scholars, students and staff of AidData will inform decision makers and empower beneficiaries and ultimately improve the lives of people throughout the world.

**For more information on AidData, please visit [www.wm.edu/aiddata](http://www.wm.edu/aiddata) and [www.aiddata.org](http://www.aiddata.org).**
longer have access. On the other hand, those exports generate revenue, and revenue can be used to buy grains, goats, and vegetables. Scientists who have studied this issue caution that while malnutrition and hunger around Lake Victoria is rampant, the causes are far more complex than the volume of fish exports from the Lake.

While in Uganda during 2011, Dr. Hendrix and I, now both at William & Mary, were invited to the National Fisheries Research Institute (NaFiRRi) located at the headwaters of the Nile River in Jinja. They have been collecting extensive data about the Lake’s fisheries for decades, but they were looking for training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze these data.

A research collaboration was born. In 2012, Cullen and I returned to NaFiRRi hauling with us computers, software, three William & Mary students and a GIS instructor and recent W&M law school graduate. Colleen Devlin ’13, Alyssa Luisi ’14, and Catherine Mahoney ’15, assisted John Holden in teaching GIS to 16 NaFiRRi scientists and students, themselves having just completed a one-week crash course at W&M’s Center for Geospatial Analysis. In return, NaFiRRi took us to local fishing villages, provided us with translators, set up interviews, and shared with us data from the Lake. Our project had expanded to investigate the interactions between fishing, food security and conflict among Lake basin communities.

On that trip, our students learned more about the world than any single course could teach them. They met people who simply did not believe that none of us had ever had malaria. They saw massive factories and aquaculture facilities, all Chinese-owned. They met eighty-year old taxi drivers who had Britney Spears ringtones and saw children carrying dirty jerry cans of water for miles for their families. They ate chapat, matake (banana mash, a local staple), ground nuts and goat. They learned about circumcision ceremonies and the controversies surrounding modern-day polygamy. They danced with children at an AIDS orphanage. They saw for themselves both the promises and perils of globalization in developing countries.

The research we began last year continues, and we will return to Uganda this coming summer of 2013 with more students and the research we began last year continues, and we will return

In 2004, Noorestani also took her first trip to Afghanistan, spending three weeks visiting Kabul and sites important to her family’s heritage. “To actually enter Afghanistan was something every Afghan American dreamed of doing one day,” said Noorestani. “I got off the airplane and I had a rush of blood. My eyes watered and I couldn’t believe my feet were touching Afghan land.” The Kabul Noorestani visited was a city much different than that in which her parents were raised. “I could see what the war did to a whole population of people, and many generations to come,” related Noorestani. “So many people had missing limbs because they were either a victim of a rocket hitting their home while the fighting was going on, or they stepped on a Russian mine or they were one of the fighters… I couldn’t believe my feet were touching Afghan land.”

“Although I was born and raised in the United States, I knew that my heart and soul were of the East,” said Noorestani. “I would read Afghan, Persian and Urdu literature from a young age. I pinned for the part of the world my parents came from, but was only able to visit for short periods of time.”

Growing up, Noorestani’s family lived in Northern Virginia. Her parents moved there after her father was released from prison in Afghanistan following a two year sentence for staging a coup against the country’s communist regime in the late 1970s. They saved up each year for the family to travel abroad, though never to Afghanistan. In childhood, Noorestani’s explorations were focused on North America, with travel further abroad coming in her adolescent years.

“My father always thought it was important for us to be well-rounded, and to be well-rounded he thought that we had to visit different lands, try different foods, and spread our wings, within certain boundaries, of course,” Noorestani explained. “His idea of being open-minded and giving his daughter freedom was through education, traveling, and talking politics with me from a young age.”

After high school Noorestani continued to live with her family, a norm within the Afghan heritage community, and commute to American University in Washington, D.C. where she started the first Afghan Club following 9/11. She graduated in 2004 with a degree in international studies and a concentration in the Middle East and economic development, then spent several years building a corporate career.

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Upon her return to the United States, Noorestani founded Ariana Outreach, an NGO dedicated to building bridges between the United States and Afghanistan with a focus on women’s issues. It was the first Afghan-run advocacy organization on Capitol Hill. Still, she felt she could do more. After visiting her father in Kazakhstan, where he was posted as a diplomat for the Afghan government following Hamid Karzai’s 2004 election to the presidency, she decided to attend American University of Central

For Homaira Noorestani, living an international life was a birthright. Born in the United States, a daughter of the Afghan diaspora, she knew from early on that her interests lay in the direction of her family’s heritage.

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William & Mary's L.L.M. Program

William & Mary's innovative L.L.M. program is designed for foreign-educated students and attorneys who want a comprehensive overview of the American legal system. It has been welcoming students from all over the world, from France to China, Saudi Arabia to Thailand, since 1989.

L.L.M. students complete the program in one academic year of full-time study, and create their own program of study by either choosing a broad survey of coursework or focusing on one of many practice areas:

- Business Law
- Commercial Law
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law
- Employment and Labor Law
- Environmental and Natural Resource Law
- Family & Personal Wealth Law
- Health Care Law
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- Litigation
- Perspective Courses
- Tax Law
- Externships
- Student Arranged Courses

Many of our students take the coursework necessary to qualify them to take the New York State Bar. Unlike many L.L.M. programs, William & Mary students take classes with their J.D. student colleagues.

Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She studied law and the Russian language, and graduated with a focus on international and business law in 2010.

During her time abroad Noorestani volunteered at the grassroots level to address pressing issues such as bride kidnapping, or the abduction of a woman by a man with the intention of marriage, a custom she found complex and fascinating. Her work involved a great deal of time spent speaking to women directly, allowing her to become intimately acquainted with all angles of the issue.

“There is a dichotomy with such practices because on the one hand we have a cultural element to it which encompasses a very rich culture and one that portrays chivalry in some regards, when done consensually,” explained Noorestani. “On the other hand, it is a practice that is deemed a human rights violation at the international level, and even considered human trafficking by some analysts.

“These are modern, realistic issues a human rights attorney would have to deal with. Sometimes laws don’t provide for avenues to make sure that rights are not infringed whilst preserving cultural identity.”

Noorestani returned to the United States to undertake the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s L.L.M. degree program, serving as the Human Rights Fellow for the class of 2011. Having received her professional law degree in another country, Noorestani chose to undertake the Masters of Law program to continue her legal education.

“I wanted to be able to help my countries not only through Ariana Outreach, but also by excelling in the legal field,” said Noorestani. “If I am able to build a name for myself in the legal industry, I will have more leverage to be able to serve as a voice for the oppressed and I will meet people who have the ability to make changes.”

Following her graduation from the program, she decided to attend the William & Mary Law School L.L.M. program in 2012 in order to further ground her legal training in the American system and make her competitive and marketable to practice law in the United States.

“I think it’s important I have a good foundation of the American legal system,” remarked Noorestani. “And what better place to study it than at the oldest law school in the nation?”


Noorestani with classmates at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan shortly after defending her thesis.

Beth Stefanik

Rachel Faith ’14, a double major in Chinese Language and Literature and Global Studies concentrating in Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, was awarded the first Gates Scholarship for study abroad, generously donated by Chancellor Robert Gates ’65 and his wife Rebecca. Faith was studying in Russia in Fall 2012 during the application process, and used the scholarship to study in China in Spring 2013. With a goal of becoming a professional interpreter, Faith used both opportunities to further her knowledge of the language and culture of each country.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to award outstanding students like Rachel with the Gates Scholarship, which we hope will inspire and foster future leaders in the fields of international relations, foreign diplomacy, and other global endeavors,” remarked Molly DeStafney, assistant director for study abroad operations in the Global Education Office at the Reves Center for International Studies.

For Faith, being awarded the Gates Scholarship has reminded her of a very important aspect of language education: “Any and every language which I learn should be thought of as a global study, and not looked at in isolation from the languages and countries around it.”

Robert M. and Rebecca W. Gates Scholarships are merit-based awards for outstanding students majoring in international relations or global studies. Awards are available for semester and summer study abroad programs.

Rachel Faith ’14 awarded first Gates Scholarship

CRITCHFIELD RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

On Feb. 8, 2013, during the 2013 Charter Day ceremony marking the 320th anniversary of William & Mary receiving its royal charter from King William III and Queen Mary II of England, Reves Advisory Council member Lois Critchfield received an honorary degree of doctor of public service.

During a 28-year career with the CIA, Critchfield worked for many years in the Middle East, where her late husband James once served as an economic development advisor to the Sultan of Oman. In 2011, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman presented William & Mary with a gift to establish the Sultan Qaboos bin Said Professorship in Middle East Studies. Critchfield was instrumental in the Sultan’s understanding and appreciation of the university.

In 2003, Critchfield created the James H. Critchfield Memorial Endowment for Middle East Studies. Since then, the endowment has supported a variety of activities on campus and in Washington, D.C. It has also supported 48 William & Mary students studying abroad. Every two years, the university hosts the Critchfield Conference in Middle Eastern Studies, which has brought a number of renowned scholars to Williamsburg. The Spring 2013 conference examined cultural, economic, and geopolitical ties among countries around the Indian Ocean.

Along with her work at William & Mary, Critchfield served on the board of governors of the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., from 2006 to 2012, and she currently serves on the board of the non-profit Hadetha Foundation, which focuses on the economic empowerment of women in Iraq.

Erin Zagursky
GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL CONNECTS WORLD CULTURES TO WILLIAMSBURG

The William & Mary Global Film Festival takes place annually in February, a four-day event featuring screenings of international and student-produced films, live performances, presentations, guest filmmakers, and receptions. The 2013 Global Film Festival was held February 14-17, with the theme Film and Youth.

The festival included a special Valentine’s Day Young Love reception and viewing of W&M’s annual “24 Speed” film competition, in which students team up to create short films within 24 hours using a given genre, prop, and line of dialogue. Jared Gilman, star of Moonrise Kingdom, acted as a special guest judge.

Other festival films included Circumstance (Iran/France), Tomboy (France), This Ain’t California (Germany), The Bones Brigade (USA), Beasts of the Southern Wild (USA) and Le Tableau (France). A concert featuring the W&M Wind Symphony and a community gallery art exhibit were also included in the program.

According to Festival Director Tim Barnard, a visiting assistant professor in the American studies program, the festival has “been built with three primary goals: commitment to internationalization, commitment to service learning, and commitment to undergraduate research or hands-on, experiential learning.” The festival’s ultimate goal is to inspire discovery, learning and conversation while supporting the cultural appreciation of a regional audience.

For more information on the William & Mary Global Film Festival please see the website http://filmfestival.wm.edu.

W&M STUDENTS WIN TOUR OF EMERGING MARKETS WITH ALI SIDDIQI

Kevin Kosanovich

After serving as the Executive in Residence at William & Mary’s Mason School of Business in November, 2012, Ali Siddiqi paired with the school in the winter to offer W&M students a unique opportunity to tour emerging markets via a social entrepreneurship competition.

The winning students were announced at the Mason School of Business’ Social Entrepreneurship Conference (SECon) in March. They each won a free trip to join JS Financial Services staff in touring their chosen emerging markets. SECon2013 brought together the public and private sector to discuss entrepreneurial initiatives to address social issues. It focused on real-world examples of how businesses and non-profits use their core strengths, values and people for both profit and purpose, recently described as “doing well by doing good.”

Siddiqi is a sponsor of JS Group, one of Pakistan’s largest conglomerates, and Managing Partner of JS Private Equity, Pakistan’s largest private equity firm. He is also the CEO of the Mahwash and Jahangir Siddiqi Foundation. “JS Financial Services is an emerging markets investment firm that in 2011 decided to make investments in Africa,” said Siddiqi. “Each year, we make trips to countries where we have projects under development to visit project sites, meet our partners, discuss opportunities with the government, oversee community development, and CSR work.”

Students participated in this competition by submitting one-page essays on why they would like to accompany Siddiqi and his team on this year’s trip.

UPCOMING STUDY ABROAD DEADLINES

APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

April 15:

» Application deadline for registration of Summer 2013, Fall 2013 and Academic Year 2013-2014 third-party programs

SEPT

OCT

APR

UPCOMING STUDY ABROAD DEADLINES

September 5:

» Application deadline for Spring 2014 National University of Singapore Assisted Enrollment Program

» Application deadline for Spring 2014 Keio University Tuition Exchange Program

October 1:

» Application deadline for W&M Tuition Exchange Spring 2014 Programs

» Application deadline for W&M Assisted Enrollment Spring 2014 Programs

October 7:

» Application deadline for W&M Sponsored Semester Spring 2014 Programs: La Plata and Sevilla

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

April 15:

Application deadline for all Reves Center administered study abroad scholarships for Fall 2013 and Academic Year 2013-2014, including:

» James H. Critchfield Memorial Endowment for Middle Eastern Studies: Merit and need-based awards for study in specific Arabic-speaking countries. Summer 2013 scholarships available as well.

» Exeter Exchange Scholarship: Merit and need-based awards for study with the Exeter, UK program.

» Timothy J. Sullivan Scholarship: Merit-based award for study at particular institutions in the U.K., with a preference for year-long study.

» Zachary James Vaughn Memorial Scholarship: Need-based award for a student committed to public service and cross-cultural understanding.

» Robert M. and Rebecca W. Gates Scholarships: Merit-based awards for outstanding students majoring in International Relations or Global Studies.

October 7:


PLEASE VISIT WWW.WM.EDU/STUDYABROAD FOR MORE INFORMATION
Giving to the Reves Center

The Reves Center for International Studies aims to develop, enrich, and promote the international dimensions of learning, teaching, research and civic engagement at the College of William & Mary. Your kindness and generosity enable us to further this mission by supporting and developing internationally-focused programs for the campus and community. To give support or learn more, please contact Judy Davis at 757-221-3572 or jcdav3@wm.edu, or visit www.wm.edu/reves/giving. Thank you!