

## Globalized Education

When the U.S. Agency for International Development announced a series of major awards last fall at the U.S. State Department, senior officials from leading universities took turns summarizing their work. When it was William & Mary's turn to describe our AidData Center for Development Policy that had won a huge \$25 million award, Alena Stern '12, the only student to speak for her university, captivantly described the scope and importance of the huge databases the AidData Center has created, and will now expand, to allow much more effective tracking of foreign aid dollars. One observer exclaimed, "Is that a *student!*?" Months later, USAID Administrator Raj Shah continued to cite Stern's speech.

This is another illustration of our undergraduates' deep immersion in important research. It also makes clear that as a research university W&M plays in leagues dominated by schools much larger and better funded than we. And it is an example of W&M's growing global reach and influence. Our global impact has also been expanding because of the effectiveness of our Reves Center for International Studies, which helps to coordinate and catalyze internationalization across our liberal arts university. Next year it will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

But, of course, W&M has been a global enterprise since its founding in London in 1693. Alumni such as Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe were international as well as national leaders — as are contemporary alumni such as Robert M. Gates '65, L.H.D. '98. Our reputation as a university that couples a distinguished history with excellence in our time opens doors around the world. We have been working internationally for a long time, and we do it very well. Alena Stern is part of a tradition at W&M that stretches back for more than three centuries.

Our vision statement says people come to W&M wanting to change the world — and together, we do. This is a bold claim.

Yet the faculty, students, staff and alumni of our great liberal arts university do make our world a better place. And we're more international than ever. This year W&M enrolled more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students representing 47 countries. Among all public universities, W&M ranks second in terms of percentage of undergraduates studying abroad. On every continent, W&M is engaged in collaborative research, innovative teaching and community engagement to promote understanding and to solve problems.

Take, for example, the work of Professor Scott Ickes (Kinesiology) in Malawi and Uganda. He has been developing the East and Southern African Nutrition Initiative (ESANI), a partnership including W&M, the Medical College of Malawi and the 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 and to expand our engagement in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

The new W&M joint-degree program with the University of St Andrews in Scotland, now in its second year, has already attracted dozens of outstanding students who are forging a new kind of bicontinental liberal arts program focusing on four fields — English, economics, history and international relations, fields in which both W&M and St Andrews have international reputations for excellence. When the first joint degree students receive their diplomas in May 2015, in both St Andrews and Williamsburg, they will be very well prepared to enter the global job market of the 21st century.

W&M is forging new ties in the Middle East. Thanks to W&M's close relationship with the Sultanate of Oman, we have become one of 13 universities in the world to receive funding for a Sultan Qaboos bin Said Professorship. This year Professor Ahmad Ahmad, recipient of the Qaboos Chair, began teaching matters ranging from Islamic law to the nature of the new Egypt-



ian constitution in a time of troubled transition. Faculty and administrators from the W&M Law School, the Mason School of Business and VIMS are now exploring potential partnerships with universities in Oman and Qatar. All of this builds on W&M's outstanding tradition of scholarship in Arabic language and literature, Middle Eastern history and the study of Islam in comparative perspective.

Our programs in Asian studies, meanwhile, remain among the best in the country. The new W&M Confucius Institute (WMCI), established in spring 2012 in partnership with Beijing Normal University, has already attained major funding to augment our offerings on Chinese language and culture. By partnering with Virginia's public schools over the years to come, the WMCI will open opportunities for K-12 teachers throughout southern Virginia to study Mandarin language and to travel to China.

Then there are W&M's longstanding service learning programs in Bosnia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua. Or the recent W&M study abroad program in Russia in which undergraduates produced documentary films about St. Petersburg in the Russian language. With VIMS polar research projects, the Tribe Pride has even reached the Antarctic.

Enough! The picture is clear.

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