

## **International Study Abroad Committee**

### **Report to Arts & Sciences Faculty**

**April 7, 2015**

While we're happy being one of the quietest – yet hardest working – committees in Arts & Sciences we measure our accomplishments as advances on many frontiers. We would like to express our profound debt of thanks to Steve Hanson and the entire professional staff of Reeves whose labors makes what faculty aspire to do prosper. William & Mary is a recognized national leader in study abroad opportunities for both students and faculty.

ISAC has two principal subcommittees. The smaller and admitted workhorse is the 5-member faculty Study Abroad Committee which conducts periodic reviews of standing W&M study abroad programs – in 2014 of Cape Town, Postdam, Rome/Pompeii, and Santiago de Compostela; in 2015 of Cádiz, Goa, Florence and Montpellier – and the assessing the qualifications of faculty who volunteer to lead all our programs. Their oversight and good stewardship are crucial.

The other ISAC subcommittee functions as an advisory body on Arts & Sciences policy in general. That area anticipates greater engagement as facets of the new curriculum come on line including COLL 200 and 300 completed in a study abroad context as formerly happened with GERs. We'd like to acknowledge the assistance and leadership of Dean Griffin in that area.

The chair of ISAC, accompanied by various other members of our faculty who have undertaken significant international projects, represents Arts & Sciences on Steve Hanson's campus wide International Advisory Committee (ISC) which meets four times/year. While Arts & Sciences leads the most educational programs abroad and does the most to globalize the College's research and academic engagement, other schools have bold initiatives of their own. The School of Education under Jim Barber and Pam Eddy are taking students to the Czech Republic, Ireland, China and Italy. The Mason School of Business is building bridges to Singapore and South Africa to expand their students' exposure to global cultures. The law school continues to bring in eminent foreign scholars especially through Christie Warren's Program in Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. And VIMS extends its international research collaborations of all sorts.

There are College-wide initiatives as well, such as the Presidential Precinct initiative coordinated by Reves that has produced the Young African Leaders Institute and the Young South East Asian Leaders Institute in rotating leadership with UVa and other institutions. Karen Wulf (History and Omohundro Institute) is assisting in the digitization of the George III papers now scattered across English archives. Prince Charles will attend major William & Mary-led events in Washington to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta. Summer ESL will be expanded at William & Mary to bolster the language skills of more of our expanding foreign student population.

In policy matters, we see the prudence of all students traveling abroad on faculty-led programs, even one-time events, registering with Reves for the sake of their safety in terms of tracking travel difficulties, appropriate insurance coverage, monitoring of both State Dept. and Centers for Disease Control warnings, and in general a greater integration of Reves in new curricular or cultural initiatives.

I bring these to your attention because International Education is something increasingly embedded in our institutional identity and increasingly interdisciplinary and collaborative across units. These are growth areas and partnerships Arts & Sciences faculty should be aware so we can enrich our own scope, learn from some impressive colleagues we don't often meet, and lend our crucial expertise, especially in foreign languages which are the bedrock of global encounters.

George Greenia, 2014-2015 Chair ISAC