2006 annual report
WORLD HUNGER. The global economy. Sustainability. World peace. We live in an increasingly complex and interdependent world community in which our beliefs, values and actions regarding those and other issues are not abstractions but have real meaning and consequences. As citizens of the world, we encounter each other through our professions and travels, our purchases and votes, our words and deeds. Sufficient global knowledge and competence are therefore essential to make informed, responsible decisions that will affect others all over the world. Moreover, international experiences enrich our larger community by providing alternative perspectives, ideas and beliefs. When we learn about others and engage in dialogues and shared experiences, we can better appraise who we are and want to be. Hence, the need for global leaders who understand the interconnected nature of political, economic, ecological and social systems — and can act from this informed framework — is crucial.

As the central hub for international education at James Madison University, the Office of International Programs is committed to the principle that international experiences and perspectives are essential to undergraduate and graduate education. The OIP provides, supports and facilitates international education, research and service for students, faculty and staff at James Madison University.

Take some time to review the rich array of programs supported by the OIP. Then join us in the challenging, exhilarating and essential journey that is international education. Join us and enrich your world.

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.

— Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States
Office Initiatives

OIP Overview

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS serves as the central university office regarding international education, with an organizing and integrative function in addition to leadership responsibilities in identifying and facilitating global education initiatives. Consequently, the OIP has oversight of all James Madison University and non-JMU study abroad programs; visa and reporting processes for international students and scholars; and the development of curricula, faculty experiences and programs that address international issues. The executive director serves as chair of the International Education Leadership Team, a representative group that serves to advise the provost and the OIP and guide campus international activities. She also represents the university on the executive committee of the International Network of Universities, the international consortium to which JMU belongs, and the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Collaborative.

With regard to study abroad, the OIP offers semester abroad programs in Antwerp, Florence, London and Salamanca throughout the academic year (fall, spring and summer). A new program, the Chinese Business Studies Minor in Beijing, has just been added for the summer 2006 semester. In addition, the OIP has offered — in conjunction with other individuals and academic units on campus — summer programs in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Ireland, Malta, Nicaragua, Prague, Rome, Scotland and other locations over the years. The OIP staff assists individual faculty who wish to develop specific global education experiences (e.g., summer programs or student exchanges) for various groups of students.

Moreover, the OIP coordinates international internships, service-learning programs and participation in non-JMU study abroad programs. The OIP executive director also supervises the director of International Student and Scholar Services to facilitate the experiences of international members of the campus community. Finally, the OIP also participates in a number of externally funded projects that enhance the range and number of international experiences for students and faculty at JMU’s home campus. For more information on the many activities of this office, consult the OIP Web site at www.jmu.edu/international.

— Edward Everett Hale
OIP MISSION STATEMENT

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS at James Madison University is committed to the principle that international experiences and perspectives are essential to any undergraduate and graduate education. The mission of the OIP is to promote and encourage a critical awareness of world issues; a knowledge of and appreciation for other cultures, languages and belief systems; a sense of global community; and a commitment to engagement at the international level, that we may educate active and responsible global citizens. To this end, the OIP is committed to providing, supporting and facilitating international experiences for students, faculty and staff at JMU and abroad.

2005-2006 OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

THE 2005-06 YEAR has been exciting and productive for the Office of International Programs. The OIP Study Abroad and International Student and Scholar Services teams have developed new programs and refined existing ones to provide more effective opportunities for international learning on and off campus. The OIP supported a wide range of faculty initiatives, student and faculty travel, university events and curriculum development opportunities. The OIP received more than $340,000 in external funds for research activities, travel and programming. During the fall, the OIP conducted a comprehensive survey of faculty interests, experiences and strengths in international education. The results (from 463 respondents) yielded a great deal of information that will aid in the planning process. Overall, the 2005-2006 year proved to be challenging and fulfilling, and the OIP looks forward to another dynamic year in 2006-2007.

Participation in study, intern and volunteer programs abroad continued to grow. During the 2005-2006 year, the Study Abroad Team sent 935 students to locations all around the globe (a 21 percent increase above last year). New programs operated in Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, while a number of new courses were offered abroad including such subjects as Chinese business practices, renewable energy, literature, geography, geology, service-learning and the history of science. Team members have been pleased to work with faculty directors in the development of new programs and the smooth operation of existing ones.

The Study Abroad General Education grant program was implemented for the second year this spring. Three 2005-2006 grant recipients took students to London, Manila and Prague to study the history of science, geography and Czech literature, respectively; this year’s two winners will take students to Mexico and Costa Rica in the summer of 2007. Please see Page 33 for more information on the grant program.

The office is in the process of negotiating with the city of Florence and the Pio Istituto dei Bardi to rent a 17th-century palazzo in the heart of the city. Although negotiations are still underway, the OIP

Nicaragua
Office Initiatives

The Office of International Programs (OIP) hopes to administer its highly successful Semester in Florence Program as well as a new Master’s in European Union Policy Studies program from the Palazzo Michelozzi beginning in the fall of 2007. The master’s program — a collaboration between the OIP and the Department of Political Science — is deliberately cross-disciplinary and innovative in design with an emphasis on the three policy foci within the EU: economic and monetary policy, justice and home affairs and information and technology policy. The palazzo — with more than 14,000 square feet — can host a number of other innovative programs across a wide array of disciplines. The OIP anticipates that the Palazzo Michelozzi will serve as an intellectual hub in Florence for the entire campus community.

International Student and Scholar Services initiated a number of new social and educational programs for students and faculty this year, including snow tubing, pumpkin carving and a graduation reception, as well as tax workshops and a career fair for students. The International Student Leadership Conference, anchored by the theme “Connecting the Pieces of a Leader,” was a great success, with more than 200 participants from universities in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., and as far away as California. International students had the opportunity to learn about each other’s cultures, practice leadership skills and have some fun together. For more information on ISSS activities, see Page 34.

This year saw the completion of the Internationalization at Home project, through which Provost Doug Brown provided six $10,000 grants to teams of faculty working on innovative and cross-disciplinary projects designed to develop and enhance international programs and curricula on campus. The projects included a new master’s program in globalization studies, enhancement of the Africana Studies minor, a new graduate certificate program in international nonprofit management, the development of a course and study abroad program on renewable energy, the development of a minor in Chinese business practices, and the enrichment of the Amistad program, which provides outreach to local Latino/Latina high school students. For more information on the Internationalization at Home project, please see Page 22.

The OIP faculty and student International Development Grant program is in its second year. This year, grants totaling $20,685 have supported 24 faculty, students and staff members in conducting research, presenting papers, attending conferences and meetings, conducting performances and developing curricula in Poland, Greece, Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and Puerto Rico, among other destinations. This year’s International Week benefited from targeting a specific region of the world, developing programs specific to the region and theme, and encouraging greater student and faculty participation in the planning process. More than 3,300 members of the campus community responded to the theme, “Africa: One Continent, Many Voices,” and participated in a wide range of
programs including music and dance events, language courses, symposia and speakers and the OIP Study Abroad Fair. Learn more about International Week on Page 19.

OIP staff members, in conjunction with a number of faculty partners, received funding for a variety of projects including a scholarship program to diversify students participating in study abroad, the development of a comprehensive Middle East exchange program, the development of a JMU international service-learning program in the Dominican Republic, and a group Fulbright grant to support area teachers traveling and studying in Kenya for five weeks. The OIP continued to seek external funding for a wide range of activities that enhance opportunities for faculty and students and support outreach activities in the community.

Lee Sternberger, the OIP’s executive director, maintained an ongoing role on the executive committee of the International Network of Universities. The INU has been particularly active this year, with the development of a shadowing program, an undergraduate research symposium to be held in Hiroshima, Japan, the formation of a library and technology special interest group, and a revamped Web site and new e-newsletter. Find more information on the INU on Page 30.

The office has worked to improve communication regarding a broad array of issues through the development of informational brochures and promotional materials. The Study Abroad Team developed an integrated marketing strategy that includes the Study Abroad Fair and Expo, information sessions and classroom presentations regarding study abroad opportunities, attendance at orientation and the “Choices” program, Breeze ads, and an updated Web site, among other tactics. The ISSS team developed four brochures explaining employment and visa procedures for international faculty and students and a calendar of important events for international students. The annual report and main study abroad booklet received facelifts, and a comprehensive manual of scholarships for study abroad is under development. Through these initiatives, the OIP expects to keep students and faculty better informed.

With changes in some staff members’ roles and duties and the hiring of new staff, the office has continued to adjust and refine its processes and structure to be more efficient and effective in serving the JMU community. Working in tandem with international accounting staff, the OIP made a concerted effort to streamline business operations abroad through the hiring of new solicitors in Antwerp, Salamanca and London and new accountants in Antwerp and Salamanca. The OIP was delighted to welcome Chris and Tara Berry as new resident managers of the Antwerp program’s Wooly (so called because it was once headquarters of Wolnatie, Flemish for Wool Company). Business ran smoothly at all OIP sites abroad.

As the central office for international education, the OIP remains committed to supporting and fostering the campus internationalization process. With 2005-2006 such a productive and exciting year, the OIP looks forward to working with the campus community to provide support and develop international experiences for all community members at JMU and abroad.
2005 Family Weekend

Office Initiatives

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT VISIT — THE BRITISH ARE BACK!

FOR A SECOND YEAR, as part of a highly selective UK program designed to encourage gifted students from lower socio-economic backgrounds to realize their full personal, academic and professional potential, the OIP welcomed a group of 16 “high school” students from Nottingham, England. Hosted by the OIP’s Daniel Hale, these 15- to 16-year-old students spent a day on campus, learning more about the opportunities available through higher education while participating in a series of activities meant to encourage critical thinking about their strengths and possibilities.

Lab technician Dwight Dart gave a tour of the College of Integrated Science and Technology Rapid-Prototyping Lab (now the Product Realization Lab), where students had an opportunity to see some of the innovative work being done at the university. JMU’s Student Ambassadors spent much of the day with the visitors, showing them around campus and answering their questions about American culture and college life. The students also got a look inside a residence hall room, met football Coach Mickey Matthews, ate in Gibbons Dining Hall and The Festival, and returned to campus later in the week for an end-of-year concert with JMU’s all-male a cappella group, Exit 25.

The focal points of their full day on campus, though, were two workshops organized by Melissa McDonald (Office of Residence Life) and the University Recreation Center. With a series of conversations and group activities designed to draw the day’s events together and highlight the interplay of different personality characteristics, the students were encouraged to think about their strengths and how they as individuals and members of a community fit into and make a difference in their environment.

STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES VISIT THE OIP

DURING FAMILY weekend 2005, the Office of International Programs hosted a reception for students and their families on Saturday morning, Oct. 8. Judging by the large turnout, many parents and students welcomed the chance to meet the OIP staff and find out about the many international opportunities that JMU has to offer. Staff members and faculty directors were available to discuss the full range of programs — semester, short-term summer, honors abroad, service-learning, exchange, external and internship — and also offered information on financial aid and scholarships.
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES
WITH THE OIP WEB SITE continuing to offer students and their families the most current information, Joey Robinson, the OIP’s technical resources coordinator, turned his attention to new challenges. In 2006, the office began plans to institute a new online application database. This system, which will be integrated into and available directly from the OIP’s Web site, will provide real-time student application submission for available study abroad programs. It will allow up-to-the-minute secure tracking of the data students submit as well as efficient management and allocation of information by OIP administrators and advisers.

The new application environment will ensure accurate live statistical data on students’ new submissions, their previous study abroad experience, alternate program choice monitoring and handling, and an array of demographic surveying. This initiative, coupled with student access to modern equipment in the OIP’s Resource Center and across the JMU campus, reaches out to students and faculty alike, providing an efficient, productive and practical entry into a world of information and possibilities.

JMU TO JOIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS HONOR SOCIETY
THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, with the help of Annick Conis, Dr. Cheryl Beverly, Dr. Sarah Jones and Dr. Ramon Mata-Toledo, is in the process of chartering a chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education. With more than 4,000 members in more than 150 chapters nationwide, the 20-year-old organization provides a focused environment for faculty, staff and students (international and domestic) to further their interests in international scholarship.

The society’s Web site speaks of its commitment to “internationalism — the idea of a world connected, of respect for different traditions, of the need for education to enhance knowledge of the many cultures that are part of a globe that we must all share,” a goal that goes hand in hand with JMU’s own mission to “prepare students to become educated and enlightened citizens who will lead productive and meaningful lives.”

Honorary members include former Secretary of State Colin Powell; Dominican Republic President and First Lady Leonel and Margarita Fernandez; J. William and Harriet M. Fulbright; New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson; ambassadors from France, Jamaica and Slovenia, among others; and distinguished professors. The OIP is pleased to join these outstanding individuals and to further the learning opportunities for the JMU community.
OVERVIEW
DURING 2005-06 OIP staff members gained professional experience and expertise in a variety of ways. On campus and in domestic and foreign travels, staffers continued to take advantage of opportunities to meet colleagues and share information, to broaden and deepen their knowledge, and to bring a wealth of experiences back to the office to support one another and offer greater service to JMU students and faculty. Everyone dealt with a change in the OIP network system and a transition of the electronic calendar to Oracle, but then staff members branched out:

Administrative Team members
• presented and published papers on a variety of international topics, including consortium management, assessment of international learning, the Internationalization of the liberal arts, international service-learning and the management of international agreements
• successfully sought funding for a wide range of projects, including a scholarship program to diversify students participating in study abroad, the development of a comprehensive Middle East exchange program, the development of a JMU international service-learning program in the Dominican Republic and a group Fulbright grant to support area teachers traveling and studying in Kenya for five weeks
• traveled to Washington, D.C., Melbourne, Sydney, Florence, Miami, San Diego, Oxford, London, Montréal, Malmö, Copenhagen and Krakow for meetings and conferences
• gained expertise in the eVA system of procurement
• worked closely with faculty involved with Internationalization At Home projects, including book orders, payments, stipends and travel arrangements
• arranged a campus presentation by Intrax Education Abroad for faculty interested in leading study abroad programs
• coordinated the search-and-hire process for three OIP staff members
• attended several finance and technology training sessions throughout the year
• organized committee searches for faculty members in residence in Antwerp, London and Salamanca

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Man’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.
— Oliver Wendell Holmes
Study, Intern and Volunteer Abroad Team members

- attended the regional (Atlantic City) and national (Montréal) conferences of National Association of International Educators
- participated in on-campus workshops in hiring, event planning, finance, Microsoft Access and Word, ecommunications and listserv management
- attended the first annual U.S.-China Forum on University Design, at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China
- made a presentation on service-learning at the INTER 2005 conference in Hailsham, England
- presented a session on service-learning and international internships at the Western Virginia International Educators at the University of Virginia
- enrolled in JMU’s Administrative Assistant Certificate Program to gain new experience and enhance current skills
- developed and administered a survey to assess the international activity and interests of JMU’s faculty and staff
- worked with the Office of Advancement in developing a fundraising campaign targeting study abroad alumni
- made site visits to study abroad and exchange programs in Spain, the Dominican Republic and Australia
- took part in the Colonial Academic Alliance meeting at George Mason University
- established new exchange scholarships
- worked with Cultural Experiences Abroad, an external provider, to waive certain fees and to arrange opportunities for wait-listed Salamanca applicants to join a similar program
- took service-learning training at the international conference of the International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership
- assisted and implemented the Beliefs, Events and Values Inventory assessment project in conjunction with JMU study abroad programs
- served on the General Education Cluster Two Committee
- acted as the OIP’s liaison with JMU’s Honors Program
- co-taught the International Student Success course
- hosted a group of high school students from Nottingham, England
- in the Dominican Republic, established JMU’s first service-learning study abroad program
- attended the INU executive meeting in Budapest
- represented JMU at the 15th anniversary celebration at the Romanian-American University in Bucharest
- attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Fulbright Program in Israel at the Israeli Embassy
Staff Development

International Student and Scholar Services Team members

• completed courses and workshops in communicating non-defensively, procurement and “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”
• acted as a mentor in NAFSA’s Academy Class III
• served on the board of Western Virginia International Educators and attended this year’s two meetings
• attended and presented at regular sessions and poster sessions at the regional and national NAFSA conferences
• participated in NAFSA’s Washington Symposium and Advocacy Day
• served as an external reviewer of the Office of International Student Services at the University of San Francisco
• served as a coordinator for Safe Zone, a JMU program that educates the community about issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals
• acted as advisory board member and membership coordinator for NAFSA’s Foreign-Born International Educator Special Interest Group
• served as advisory board member and newsletter co-editor of NAFSA’s Rainbow Special Interest Group, which counsels and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students and professionals in international education
• received JMU’s Diversity Enhancement Award

MEMBERSHIPS

COLLECTIVELY, OIP staffers hold memberships in the following organizations:

• NAFSA: Association of International Educators board member for special interest groups
• Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA) Board
• International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership (IPSL) Distinguished Partner
• International Network of Universities vice president
• Western Virginia International Educators (WVIE) board member
• Virginia Council for International Education (VaCIE)
• Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)
• The Forum on Education Abroad (FEA)
• Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
• European Association for International Education (EAIE)
• Institute of International Education (IIE)
• Fulbright Association (FA)
IN MARCH, Assistant Director of Study Abroad Judy Cohen and Study Abroad Adviser Peggy Zeh traveled to Australia to visit International Network of Universities exchange partners La Trobe and Flinders universities. They also saw two of AustraLearn’s sites, Macquarie University and the International College of Management, Sydney, with AustraLearn’s regional representative Dan O’Brien. Since Australia has become an increasingly popular study abroad destination for JMU students, Cohen and Zeh needed a first-hand look to be able to advise students more helpfully and especially to encourage students to take advantage of the exchange opportunities La Trobe and Flinders offer through the INU. Meeting with their Australian counterparts, with INU directors and also with faculty from a number of disciplines, they found the campuses friendly and accessible and well equipped to receive JMU students and make them feel welcome. Campuses included Flinders’ Adelaide and La Trobe’s Bundoora campus in Melbourne and the Bendigo campus two hours north.

While at La Trobe, they hosted a dinner that included students who had been at JMU in the fall and the JMU students then studying at La Trobe. At Flinders, they dined with JMU’s first Flinders-bound student at the same time the first Flinders student to study at JMU was in Harrisonburg. At both schools they met with students interested in coming to JMU in fall 2006.

They also were able to meet with the educational adviser for Education USA at the U.S. Consulate in Sydney and the program manager of International Exchange Programs to learn about the services those organizations can provide visiting students.

As a result of their visit to the AustraLearn sites, discussions are now underway to acquaint JMU’s Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management with the benefits the ICMS can offer JMU’s hospitality and tourism majors.

Cohen and Zeh expect exchanges to work more smoothly now that all administrative parties involved can put faces with the many e-mails that accompany such arrangements, and on both sides, mechanisms are now in place to make searching for courses an easier process. Also, they will both be able to talk knowledgeably about jet lag after 20 hours of flying time and to discuss sightings — even on the La Trobe campus — of kangaroos.

**“NO WORRIES” DOWN UNDER**
PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO GROW

DURING the 2005-06 academic year, 935 students studied and worked abroad through JMU’s Study Abroad and International Internship Programs — 367 students studied abroad with JMU semester programs, 357 studied abroad with JMU short-term programs, 179 studied abroad with non-JMU programs, two studied with a JMU exchange program and 32 worked abroad through international internship programs.

Study Abroad Destinations

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<td>WMST</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Where in the world are JMU students going?

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD CONTINUES TO GROW – NEW PROGRAMS

- Dominican Republic (service-learning)
- Philippines (geography)
- Nicaragua (international energy studies)
- China (Chinese business minor)
- Ireland (geology field camp)

I am not the same, having seen the moon shine on the other side of the world.

— Mary Anne Radmacher

Something to celebrate!
Study Abroad Participation

**JMU PARTNER UNIVERSITIES**

**AUSTRALIA**
- Flinders University
- La Trobe University

**BELGIUM**
- University of Antwerp

**GERMANY**
- European Business School
- University of Applied Sciences, Saarbrücken
- University of Applied Sciences, Zittau/Görlitz

**GHANA**
- University of Cape Coast

**HUNGARY**
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics

**INDONESIA**
- Parahyangan Catholic University

**ITALY**
- British Institute, Florence

**JAPAN**
- Hiroshima University
- Nanzan University

**KOREA**
- Yonsei University

**MARTINIQUE**
- University of Antilles and Guyane

**MOLDOVA**
- Universitatea Tehnică a Moldovei

**NETHERLANDS**
- Inholland

**PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**
- Capital Normal University
- Harbin Medical University
- Sichuan University

**ROMANIA**
- Romanian American University

**SPAIN**
- Universidad de Santiago de Compostela
- University of Salamanca

**SWEDEN**
- Jönköping University
- Malmö University

**TAIWAN**
- National Taiwan University

**UNITED KINGDOM**
- University of Leicester
- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- University of St. Andrews

**OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

- Academic Programs International
- American Institute for Foreign Study
- AustraLearn
- Butler University for Study Abroad
- Council on International Educational Exchange
- Cultural Experiences Abroad
- International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership
- International Research and Exchange Programs
- International Studies Abroad
MAKING STUDY ABROAD AFFORDABLE
– THE OIP AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

IN AN EFFORT to increase the number and diversity of students studying abroad, the OIP awarded approximately $83,000 in scholarships to students demonstrating financial need and academic merit. This represents a 9 percent increase in OIP-sponsored financial support to students compared to the previous academic year. The OIP is committed to promoting study abroad to a diverse group of students, increasing the overall number of students who study, work and volunteer abroad, and enlarging the amount of merit- and need-based scholarships available for study abroad during the next academic year and beyond.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP TYPE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS</th>
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<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>CRITERIA BASED ON</th>
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<td>JMU semester-long</td>
<td>Academic merit and financial need</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>Antwerp, Florence and</td>
<td>Vary by study abroad program</td>
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<td>London</td>
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<td>International Partnership for Service-Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making study abroad affordable — the OIP and university scholarships

IN AN EFFORT to increase the number and diversity of students studying abroad, the OIP awarded approximately $83,000 in scholarships to students demonstrating financial need and academic merit. This represents a 9 percent increase in OIP-sponsored financial support to students compared to the previous academic year. The OIP is committed to promoting study abroad to a diverse group of students, increasing the overall number of students who study, work and volunteer abroad, and enlarging the amount of merit- and need-based scholarships available for study abroad during the next academic year and beyond.
THE CHINESE CONNECTION

IN LATE FEBRUARY and early March, with a mission to develop graduate and undergraduate educational programs, College of Business Dean Robert Reid, College of Integrated Science and Technology Dean Jerry Benson and Dr. Ping Wang (Computer Information Systems and Management Science) visited a number of universities: Changan, Sichuan, Shandong (at Weihai), Shandong Normal, Northeastern and Tsinghua (host to JMU’s new summer semester program — see below). They also visited JMU alumni in China and toured several cultural and historical sites that are part of JMU’s Study in China Programs, including the Leshan Giant Buddha, the Duijiangyan Irrigation Project, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. This is the first time JMU has sent administrators and faculty members to seek opportunities to work with Chinese universities to develop joint programs in computer science, computer information systems and other areas. During their university visits, they had very productive meetings with faculty members and administrators. As a result, one Chinese faculty member, Professor Liu Wei from the International Exchange Department at Shandong University at Weihai, was on the JMU campus as an exchange scholar in the spring, and two or three more will come in fall 2006. Potential programs with Chinese universities include faculty exchanges, JMU faculty members teaching in China and joint degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

NEW PROGRAM IN AN ANCIENT LAND

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING in JMU’s first summer semester program in China had the opportunity to take courses in Chinese language, political science, history, international business, and kinesiology as they earned a minor in Chinese business. Tsinghua University was their home base as they explored China’s 5,000 years of history, its rich culture, its political and economic reforms and modern business environment.

Faithful to the philosophy of all JMU semester offerings, the new China program relied on experiences outside the classroom to complement lectures. Course-related tours included Beijing Taxation Hall, a local factory and farm, schools at all levels, the Central Finance and Economics University, seminars with Chinese college students and a reception with Chinese college students and faculty. The more renowned marvels of China also played their part: the Great Wall and 13 Tombs, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Tian Tian, the Summer Palace, Xiang Mountain, Yuanming Palace, Lou Yang City and other scenic points. Entertainment included the Beijing Opera, folk music, sports and concerts.

With continued support from the deans and with student interest continuing to grow, the new summer semester program in China has a solid and exciting future.
THE HONORS ABROAD PROGRAM was wonderfully successful this year. Six students studied at the University of Oxford and two at the University of St. Andrews. The Oxford students studied in private one-on-one meetings weekly with their tutor, reading four to six books or articles and writing a six-to-10-page paper each week for their primary tutorial and every other week for their secondary. They studied subjects such as Economics of Development, British-Turkish Relations, French Art in the Late 19th Century, Philosophy of Religion, Econometrics, Elemental Derivative Securities Analysis and Focus on Descartes. At St. Andrews students took courses, almost always taught by world-famous faculty, in Philosophy of the Mind, Peace and Governance in World Politics, Inca Civilization, Democracy and Democratization and Europe and the United States in the 20th Century.

One student was brave enough to debate at the Oxford Union, the most prestigious debating society in the world and the arena for unparalleled criticism by anyone who dares to debate. The Oxford Union has been the site of debates by the likes of Bill Clinton and the venue of talks by Richard Nixon, the Dalai Lama, Malcolm X and Margaret Thatcher, to name just a few.

All of the Oxford students had the opportunity to travel to London, Stonehenge and Blenheim Palace, and most traveled to the continent during breaks between terms. St. Andrews students were able to travel to Edinburgh, Stirling Castle, the East Neuk (medieval fishing villages along the Scottish coast) and the Scottish Highlands.

Students at both universities viewed the experience as life changing, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take advantage of all that the program made possible for them — the renowned faculty, the beauty of their surroundings and the students they met from around the world. They proved daily that James Madison University students can compete with the finest scholars in the world and enjoy the challenge.

Jeffrey Bean and the Queen

AN UNEXPECTED BONUS during Jeff Bean’s term at the University of Oxford was lunch at Christ Church College at the same table with Queen Elizabeth, patron of the college. Following a tradition dating back to the first Elizabeth, students performed scenes from plays and the choir sang a welcoming song. For Jeff, the event included greeting the Queen and her motorcade, enjoying lunch in the dining hall made famous by the Harry Potter movies, having lunchtime conversation with the architect renovating Oxford Castle and sharing in the entertainment. After lunch, he and a friend were the last two to leave the hall before the Queen departed, and the waiting crowd cheered them, before realizing that they were applauding only two incredibly well-dressed undergrads who had nothing to do with royalty.

But Jeff’s special day was not finished. That evening, he and some of his friends attended a masquerade ball at Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Jeff made his own elaborate mask, had his hair styled and acquired a dinner jacket (British for tuxedo), all befitting the grand occasion.
AFRICA: ONE CONTINENT, MANY VOICES — INTERNATIONAL WEEK
SEPT. 25 – OCT. 2, 2005


This year, for the first time, JMU’s International Week theme was geographically centered, with events and activities focused on dispelling popular misconceptions and reintroducing Africa, its many cultures, its challenges, its progress and its potential in the 21st century. The week opened with a performance by Elegba, an African musical group based in Richmond. As the week progressed, Emmy-winning, Oscar-nominated filmmaker Sharon Sopher, who was arrested and detained for her work on apartheid in South Africa, presented several programs highlighting documentaries about Africa. Trust Mashoro, a Zimbabwean counterpart who has filmed several of Sopher’s documentaries as well as produced award-winning films on his own, accompanied Sopher.

In a panel discussion, JMU’s own African students shared their perspectives about life in their countries and here in the United States. Several lectures and presentations also revolved around Islam in politics, the legacy of colonialism, human-environment relations and U.S. relations with Africa. A Taste of Africa featured an Ethiopian dinner and showcased the many talents of the members of the African Student Organization as they offered a fashion show of the colorful clothing of Africa and presented the sounds and movements of African music and dance. A performance of “Egypta: Myth, Magic and Mystery” by the Silk Road Dance Company in Wilson Hall concluded the week by depicting the legacy of ancient Egypt, from the Creation Myth to the death of Cleopatra.

In addition to these highlights, International Week events also included:
• A contest between residence halls for the design of informational bulletin boards (a collaboration between the OIP and the Office of Residence Life)
• Language classes in Swahili and African dialects
• The OIP’s annual Study Abroad Fair
• An international bazaar, where vendors displayed and sold their crafts
• A photo contest
• Student performances
• Musical presentations
• A fundraiser to collect donations to aid in the Niger famine, with the proceeds going to Doctors Without Borders
THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES of Eastern Mennonite University organized a successful Sixth Annual International Student Leadership Conference in Harrisonburg. The increase in attendance to more than 200 individuals from around the world who are currently studying at colleges and universities in the United States was the gratifying result of direct e-mail contact with the various international student organizations at neighboring schools. The theme of this year’s conference was “Connecting the Pieces of a Leader” and focused on four key aspects of being a leader: communication, wellness, identity and skills. This year’s theme was intentionally integrated into the entire conference and definitely provided more participant interaction.

Salorne McDonald, from Trinidad and Tobago, was the principal guest and keynote speaker. During his formative years Salorne was involved in youth clubs, debating competitions and school student councils, which provided rich training for his current work and helped to develop his gift of gab. Ardent service with the youth of his own nation and others around the world has given him an uncommon understanding of the life and development issues that young people face globally.

He was well received and was quite effective at conveying the themes and promoting student participation. Another highlight of this year’s conference was Friday night’s drumming circle activity. The increasing success of the event has also created by far its biggest challenge: finding suitable space, perhaps off campus, as the conference grows.

International Student and Scholar Services, in collaboration with the Office of Academic Advising and Career Development and with the participation of immigration attorney Mark Rhoads, presented International Career Day, now an annual event. This day-long program in early February was designed to provide international students all the tools and information they need to succeed at finding a job following graduation, an undertaking often complicated by cultural differences and immigration obstacles. Assessment forms made clear that students want and need more assistance, so next year may bring a series of workshops throughout an International Career Week and will likely include potential employers who have had experience hiring international students.
HELPING TO FEED OUR NEIGHBORS
HUNGER KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

HUNGER KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES, a campus-wide canned food drive coordinated this spring by the Office of International Programs in collaboration with student organizations and university offices across JMU, supported the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The OIP acted in response to the fact that even in a wealthy nation like the United States, many people still struggle to feed themselves and the more immediate news that more than 25 percent of Harrisonburg residents currently live below the poverty line. With stockpiles in the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank especially low this year, the JMU community came together in a number of initiatives to help the agency that provides food to nine cities and 25 counties in the region.

When the final count was tallied, JMU students, faculty and staff had donated 7,772 pounds of food, which will assist in providing 5,829 meals to the hungry in the Harrisonburg area.

AND THOSE MUCH FARTHER AWAY ...

INTERFAITH RAMADAN DINNER AND SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF BENEFIT

ON OCTOBER 19, 2005 at 6:32 pm (sunset), the OIP co-sponsored the Interfaith Ramadan Dinner and South Asia Earthquake Relief Benefit in Transitions, Warren Hall, on the JMU campus. The event was co-sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and the Center for Multicultural Student Services. Members of the Islamic Association of the Shenandoah Valley donated the food. Visiting Fulbright Specialist Dr. Safir Akhtar offered opening remarks, and Professor Kakahama Askari led an opening prayer. The 150 diners donated a total of $1,336, with all proceeds going to the Red Crescent relief efforts in Pakistan.
BIG DREAMS FOR A SMALL ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR LA GONAVE

IN MARCH 2003 three CISAT faculty – Dr. Tom Syre and Dr. Tammy Wagner of Health Sciences and Dr. Mary (Kimsey) Tacy of the Geographic Science Program – traveled to the island of La Gonave in Haiti to evaluate the potential of the island as a site for student projects and faculty research. In spite of the extreme conditions on the island and the political unrest in the country, La Gonave was such a promising project site for CISAT that plans moved forward under the direction of Tacy, director of CISAT International at the time. Because of the clear need for coordination among concerned groups, Tacy, Syre and Wagner created the International Partnership for La Gonave, an organization devoted to creating partnerships and coordinating efforts. Currently, Tacy is director, and Sarah O’Connor of JMU’s Writing Program is assistant director.

With the cooperation of universities, church groups, nonprofit organizations and individuals in Haiti, Canada and the United States, IPLG has made enormous progress since those first steps. As it has grown and developed, its mission remains a long-term commitment to improving life on La Gonave by sharing knowledge, talents and resources with the overall vision of restoring the island to the paradise it once was.

Beginning with the creation of a map and GIS of La Gonave by JMU students, IPLG has gone on to achieve striking results by addressing issues in a number of fields:

• Water — established a water committee, installed a solar pump, investigated solar distillation as a source of fresh water, repaired wells, planned for pump/well repair teams, pursued new well drilling, distributed water purification systems to hundreds of families, updated the database of pumps and wells and translated it from French and constructed cisterns

• Health Care — hired a full-time doctor, nurse and other staff, acquired medication that allowed three people with disruptive behavior to live normal lives, created a CD for AIDS education and translated it into Creole (the work of JMU students) and investigated a funding opportunity for AIDS prevention and education

• Housing — constructed homes (four to date) for needy individuals, taught JMU housing course in which students designed a model sustainable house (currently being built with donations from the JMU Office of International Programs and a member of Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisonburg) and installed solar electrification systems

• Nutrition — formed a nutrition committee, studied the feasibility of a food program for young children and launched a food distribution program

• Education — helped establish a sponsorship program at Blessed Sacrament, helped create an elementary school (supported by residents of Staunton and Harrisonburg), purchased soccer equipment and uniforms (with donations from JMU students), bought books (funded by a JMU parent), began a long-term technical program for young adults, acquired computers and a satellite Internet connection for teachers and supported an orphan with tuition and other school needs (with money raised by JMU students and a parent)

• Telecommunications — installed satellite Internet systems in the priest’s house and in the school (with research and contacts by two ISAT students), investigated TV signal reception and purchased cell phones

• Data Collection/Other Research — conducted a study of nutrition and health care with interviews of more than 50 families, studied climate change, assessed the potential for wind energy, applied for a grant to address the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, worked on a grant to fund AIDS education and prevention and planned a mini-conference on economic development for La Gonave for Sept. 8, 2006
INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME

With last year’s funding from Provost Brown for Internationalization at Home initiatives of sustainable benefit to the campus community, the 2005-06 academic year saw the implementation of the six proposals deemed worthy based on creativity, cross-disciplinarity and their fresh approach to pressing international issues and needs.

A Graduate Certificate Program in the Management of International Non-Governmental Organizations
— Charles Blake, with Marina Rosser, B. Douglas Skelley and J. Peter Pham

This IAH proposal, submitted by faculty in political science, public administration and economics, addressed one of the fastest-growing categories of international organizations, the nonprofit. The project aims to develop an innovative graduate certificate program of interest to graduate students, bachelor’s-level students considering a future in the nonprofit sector and young professionals focused on the challenge of nonprofit work in international settings.

MInor in Chinese Business Studies
— Dr. Ping Wang, with Dr. Marion White, Dr. Chong Kun Yoon and Dr. Claire P. Bolfing

The JMU Semester in Beijing: Chinese Business Studies Minor, initially proposed in 2003 in response to the rapid increase in business opportunities between China and the United States and the increased interest in a concentrated study of Chinese business practices, incorporated intensive work on curricula and logistics and resulted in the program’s launching in May 2006. See further details on Page 27.

The AMISTAD Program
— Dr. Karina Kline-Gabel, with Dr. Anita Warner and Dr. Michelle Hughes

The AMISTAD Program, spotlighted below, was developed to provide a cultural exchange program between middle school Latino/Latina students and college students, focusing on mutual respect and desire to understand one another’s culture.
Africana Studies Program — David Owusu-Ansah and Jacqueline B. Walker, with Dr. Lamont D. King, Dr. J. Peter Pham, Dr. Melinda Adams, Dr. Nikitah Imani, Dr. Jennifer Coffman, Dr. Mark DeLancey, Dr. Ramenga Osotsi, Dr. Michelle Smith-Bermis, Dr. Iain MacLean, Dr. Mary (Kimsey) Tacy, Dr. Stephen Wright, Dr. Geoffrey Egekwu and Dr. Aashir Nasim

The members of the African Studies Curriculum Committee worked to redesign the African Studies Minor, thereby laying the foundation for a vigorous and visible program at JMU that will strongly contribute to the university’s diversity and internationalization agenda. Faculty involved with this initiative come from a wide range of departments of the Colleges of Arts and Letters and Integrated Science and Technology. Next year, Drs. Imani, Walker, Osotsi, Adams and King will continue refining curriculum to secure approval for the Africana 400: Senior Capstone Course, a research-oriented course with the requirement that students who have taken the course participate in a spring semester Africana conference. JMU’s International Week in September and the Spring Africana Art Exhibition and Conference highlighted the

International Renewable Energy Perspectives and Applications — Dr. Karim Altaii, with Dr. Christie-Joy Brodnick, Dr. Chris Bachmann and Dr. Steve Frysinger

This project involved organizing an interdisciplinary one-credit, three-day course, GSCI 104: International Renewable Energy Perspectives and Applications, in May 2006. Energy experts from Nicaragua, Germany and Iraq came together at JMU for this intensive workshop, which included an engaging combination of lectures, discussions, laboratories and field trips covering such topics as biofuels, hydrogen, fuel cells, solar energy, battery storage, wind energy and hydroelectric, geothermal and tidal power. Eighteen undergraduates enrolled from a variety of disciplines, including music, finance, anthropology, social work, accounting, media arts and philosophy and religion. In addition to first-hand interaction with these renewable energy technologies, the participants examined each from the social, cultural and political perspectives. The course will be offered each summer and is open to all JMU students, local K-12 teachers and members of the Harrisonburg community.

Master’s in Globalization Studies — Dr. Laura Lewis and Dr. Damian White, with Dr. Richard Thompson, Dr. Andrea Wiley, Dr. Jennifer Coffman, Dr. Keo Cavalcanti, and Dr. Benjamin Brewer

As part of the internationalization of the curriculum, JMU sociology and anthropology faculty proposed an interdisciplinary Master’s in Global Studies, to be housed in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and to target students who want a firm grounding in social and cultural approaches to global issues, such as the environment and development, globalization, consumption and media and migration and transnationalism. The program, which will require two semesters of course work at JMU, proven competency in a foreign language, a summer abroad studying or interning at an international organization and a master’s thesis, will be open to students coming directly from undergraduate programs and to older professionals with extensive internationally oriented work experience.
GROWING UP IN HARRISONBURG as the daughter of a U.S.-born father and a Colombian mother, Dr. Karina Kline-Gabel, was comfortable in her bicultural identity and was surprised in adulthood to witness prejudice against the area’s growing Latino population. As she watched immigrants “trying to bury” their heritage, Kline-Gabel decided to use her role as a JMU Spanish professor to help bilingual, bicultural children find the confidence she had taken for granted as a child. She applied for and received a grant that allowed her to combine two of her goals: helping Latino/Latina children embrace their culture and helping JMU students interact with local residents. AMISTAD means friendship, and the program lives up to its name by bringing JMU and Thomas Harrison Middle School students together twice a month for activities that build appreciation for cultural diversity and foster community spirit. Both groups of students come to understand the similarities among them all but celebrate the differences too, giving new generations pride in the treasure of a diverse cultural heritage.

LEADING THE WAY

WITH SUPPORT from the Office of International Programs, Lucy Hutchinson (’06), an international affairs major, was JMU’s first fellow with the Center for the Study of the Presidency, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization focused on educating young leaders. Hutchinson’s fellowship centered around a fall conference in October and a spring conference in April, with the intervening time spent working on the final research paper with her JMU professor, Dr. Jessica Adolino, and her assigned mentor, Johanna Neumann, correspondent and former editor in the Washington bureau of The Los Angeles Times, where she served as White House correspondent, senior diplomatic correspondent and foreign editor during the George H.W. Bush administration.

The conferences included sessions at The Brookings Institution and the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a special briefing at the National Security Council. Hutchinson’s most memorable moment was listening to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger speak on America’s role in the world. She views her time in Washington as an incredible educational experience as well as a phenomenal networking opportunity. She is currently in Richmond serving as a Governor’s Fellow for Tim Kaine. She worked for former Governor Mark Warner’s policy team in May and will be going back to Warner in August.
DURING 2005, Dr. Jennifer Coffman, assistant professor of anthropology, piloted an Art around the World project at four primary schools in Kenya and one elementary school in Staunton. The project, funded by the Office of International Programs, the International Beliefs and Values Institute at JMU and the Children’s Art Network in Staunton, involved school children in grades three through five. The children responded with drawings and explanations to a variety of questions, producing 200 art projects in Kenya and 90 in Virginia.

After the children completed the drawing and writing component, Coffman engaged them in an interactive lesson about worldviews and home life in an effort to encourage a consideration of similarities and differences among other cultures, practices and worldviews. In exchange for participation, the project provided the schools in Kenya with much-needed supplies and will provide for all schools a published collection of drawings and quotes from all participating regions. The future of this project will take it to India, Mali and China and will involve longer-term and larger-scale investments in the participating schools, for example providing scholarships for secondary schooling and investing in school gardens and/or livestock herds to create a source of income to help the schools support themselves.
The Provost Award for Excellence

THE PROVOST AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

THIS ANNUAL AWARD of $1000 recognizes two JMU faculty and professional staff who have made a significant contribution in the area of international education through research, study abroad, service-learning, curriculum design, work with international students and other relevant activities. The award is based on the following criteria:

- Creativity, scope, and/or reach of international activities
- Demonstrable commitment to international education
- Impact on the university community
- Degree of collaboration within and outside the university

A call for nominations was made early in the spring semester, and recipients were honored at a reception hosted by the provost in March.

THE 2005-2006 PROVOST AWARD WINNERS

Dr. Giuliana Fazzion, College of Arts and Letters

Fazzion is currently a professor of Italian language, literature and culture, and head of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Her contributions are numerous and multidimensional. She received her Ph.D. in Italian and French literatures at the Catholic University of America, and her credentials span more than 20 years of teaching at three universities. Her scholarly activities include a combined total of 40 journal and proceedings publications, conference presentations and invited guest speaking.

Fazzion has been serving as vice president and program director of the International Academy of Linguistics, Behavioral and Social Sciences. She is a distinguished member of the Casa di Dante, in Rome, Italy, and this March was invited to be the keynote speaker at this prestigious Dante society.

Here at JMU, where she has taught since 1991, Fazzion established and promoted the major and minor programs in Italian; started Arabic, Hindu and Korean in the department; expanded the teaching of Chinese; created a special course for international business majors that allows them to obtain a minor in a language; and developed professional minors for Spanish in the medical and legal professions.

She is founder and serves as program director of the yearly JMU conference on global issues and is responsible for collaborative activities between Harrisonburg High School students and the JMU campus. In fall 2005, Fazzion organized “the Italian language table,” where students and faculty members meet and talk during lunch or coffee. Now the “language tables” have been expanded to include Arabic, French and Spanish. More importantly, she has shown herself to be responsive to environmental changes within the JMU community and the needs of non-JMU communities as well.
Dr. Ping Wang,
College of Business
Wang is currently associate professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems and Management Science. He holds a Ph.D. in management sciences and operations management from the University of Georgia, received his M.B.A. from Appalachian State University and earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Northeastern University in China. Wang’s primary research interests are in the areas of models and applications of artificial neural networks, sales forecasting, time series forecasting, mailing selections and classifications. He has presented his work at both national and regional meetings, and his research has been published in a number of professional journals. Since coming to JMU in 1993, he has taught many courses in operations management, computer information systems and business statistics.

Wang’s contributions to international education are focused primarily on his continued efforts to establish JMU educational programs in China and to promote faculty, scholar and student exchanges between JMU and several Chinese universities. He developed and has successfully run JMU Summer in China programs since 2004. He is the recipient of a Provost-supported 2005 Internationalization at Home Initiative Grant, which he used in the successful development of the Minor in Chinese Business Studies Program in China for the summer of 2006. Recently, he and Deans Jerry Benson and Robert Reid visited six Chinese universities to further the implementation of joint educational programs and to foster faculty exchanges in teaching and research internationally.

Wang is deeply involved in on- and off-campus activities related to internationalization for education. He has actively worked with the OIP to bring many Chinese scholars and students to JMU. He has developed close relationships with Chinese scholars at JMU and EMU and supported them on a regular basis. Finally, he has organized many activities for the local Chinese community and for Chinese professionals in Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

Provost Doug Brown and Dr. Ping Wang
THIS SUMMER’S Dominican Republic program, a joint effort of James Madison University, Old Dominion University and Tidewater Community College, established and implemented a collaborative and creative international service-learning effort centered on the theme of “civility and service in a global community.” Supported by an internationalization grant from the American Council on Education, the program took seven students from the partner universities to work with community schools, assist in the health center and organize summer camps for the children.

ONE RESPE, the local sponsoring agency, whose name derives from a Creole expression connoting honor and respect, concentrates on five major developments: community schools, health promotion, psychological support, human rights and craftsmanship.

In addition to their daily responsibilities, students delved into the history and culture of the Dominican Republic, visiting Santo Domingo, site of America’s first city, first cathedral and first street, and journeying to Jamao, a region well known for its coffee production.

SERVICE-LEARNING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EXPANDS TO SUMMER

THIS SPREAD IS A LITTLE WEAK, PLEASE SUGGEST SOMETHING TO FILL
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES FLOURISHES

THE INU comprises a group of 13 universities from eight different countries, with JMU still its only U.S. member. INU’s mission is to advance the internationalization of its members through student and staff mobility, research collaboration and cooperation in university management. This effort allows the member universities to provide a richer array of educational and research opportunities than any one university acting alone and enables members to share good practices in university management. Along with JMU, members of the INU must have a strong commitment to internationalization, innovative teaching and learning methods and research.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BUDAPEST

THIS SPRING the Budapest University of Technology and Economics hosted the annual INU executive committee meeting, which welcomed members from Harping Medical University, China; Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary; La Trobe University, Australia; Hiroshima University, Japan; University of Leicester, United Kingdom; Malmö and Jonkoping universities, Sweden; and JMU.

Among the decisions made at the meeting was the commitment to expand the consortium to include other institutions that share a commitment to international education. The council also awarded full scholarships to selected students who had applied for the Dr. Henry Fong Scholarship for Global Citizenship. The scholarship will allow the nominees to attend the Student Seminar on Global Citizenship in Hiroshima during the summer of 2006. Dr. Taizo Muta, President of Hiroshima University, graciously supported the seminar by granting
INU LIBRARY GROUP MEETING IN MÅLѐMÖ

IN APRIL, Ralph Alberico, Dean of Libraries and Educational Technologies, and Sharon Gasser, Director of Technical Services, represented JMU at the first meeting of the INU Library Special Interest Group at Malmö University in Malmö, Sweden. Library personnel from many member institutions attended, and while there were naturally differences, the institutions had a great deal in common, encouraging the likelihood of future collaborative projects. All of the universities are relatively new (JMU was the oldest), and all of them might be characterized as student centered and entrepreneurial. Academic programs tend to focus on applied knowledge, and all of the libraries are actively engaged in academic programs at their institutions.

In addition to information sharing, which all agreed would be beneficial, specific areas with the highest potential for cooperation were identified as shadowing and staff exchanges, information literacy projects and benchmarking in library processes.

The next INU Library Special Interest Group meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in conjunction with the 2007 Educause Australasia conference in Melbourne, Australia, from April 29 to May 2, 2007.

ROMANIAN-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY

AS ONE OF the Romanian-American University’s leading partners, James Madison University was invited to attend the 15th anniversary celebration of the RAU and had a strong presence at the festivities. Dr. Kent Zimmerman officially represented JMU on behalf of President Rose. Also on hand were Felix Wang, the OIP’s Director of Study Abroad, President Emeritus Ronald Carrier, Dr. Stephen Bowers and Virginia Senator Ryan T. McDougle, a JMU alumnus.

Wang also met with RAU students who will attend JMU during the 2006-2007 academic year studying mainly business and computer science as part of the JMU/RAU exchange program.

Dr. Ion Smedescu, President and Founder of RAU, voiced his pleasure with the continued efforts to strengthen the relationship between RAU and JMU and expressed his desire to increase student mobility between the two universities and to provide more opportunities for faculty and staff exchanges.
Grants and Funding Initiatives

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

THE OIP’S “HIT RATE” GOES HIGHER

WITH A GRATIFYING SUCCESS RATE of 77 percent for external grant proposals (higher even than the university’s as a whole), the OIP’s ability to fund worthy programs and initiatives has only grown stronger.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR PASHTO

IN A JOINT INITIATIVE with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Middle East Studies Minor and the College of Arts and Letters, the OIP successfully applied to the Institute of International Education/Fulbright to host a foreign language teaching assistant to teach Pashto at JMU. The Fulbright organization recruited a native Pashto speaker from the Northwest Frontier Province in Pakistan, an English teacher who holds a master’s degree. He will teach 20 hours per week and will take two classes as well. This Fulbright program is intended to support U.S. colleges and universities in offering “less commonly taught languages” and offers almost full support of the teaching assistant it places. In order to provide enough classes to satisfy the language requirement, application will be made for a second year.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE IFSA FOUNDATION, the OIP designed a Study Abroad Diversity Initiative to complement the Commission for Diversity established by President Linwood Rose and led by Dr. Daniel Wubah, special assistant to the president. Focusing only on semester and exchange programs, the project will benefit study abroad undergraduates by providing specialized support to underrepresented students both with financial help and through a consideration of their special concerns about studying overseas. By encouraging and enabling students from various subcultures to study abroad, this project will enrich the experience for all group members as they share different perspectives on the discoveries they make in a different culture.

Scholarships will be awarded to 16 qualified students to cover expenses for study abroad or exchange, beyond their tuition, room and board. As part of the award agreement, scholarship recipients will commit to serve as Diversity Ambassadors during the semester following their study overseas, in order to perpetuate a diverse enrollment in JMU study abroad and exchange programs, and they will complete an in-depth portfolio evaluation of their experience.
SYMPOSIUM ON PAKISTAN

IN SEPTEMBER, the OIP presented a day-long program, Pakistan: A Country-Culture Symposium, in connection with hosting Fulbright Visiting Specialist Dr. Safir Akhtar. The event, attended by hundreds of students and faculty, included many ongoing activities as well as individual presentations. A lecture on Pakistan’s place in the world, a poetry reading, a concert of traditional music, a Pakistani banquet, films and displays and sales of handicrafts gave attendees a full appreciation of Pakistan’s culture. One longtime faculty member, a Pakistani expatriate, commented that he never thought he would hear Urdu poetry recited in Harrisonburg, and a first-year student noted that the day felt much like the Smithsonian Folklife Festivals she had attended with family all her life.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE IN LONDON,
JULY 2-28, 2006

THE SCIENCE IN LONDON (GSCI 101 or 104) program enabled students to explore the scientific basis of our understanding of the physical universe, with an emphasis on British contributions. They also examined the scientific and social forces behind key scientific issues ranging from stem cell research to climate change, focusing on differences between the United States and the United Kingdom attitudes and responses. As resources, they used a prepared course-pack, selected readings from popular books and science magazines, as well as excursions to the Greenwich Royal Observatory, the National Maritime Museum, Stonehenge, Darwin’s residence, Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, the Natural History Museum, the Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum, and numerous other London museums.

Another goal of the program was to provide an environment that allowed the students to grow not only in scientific knowledge but also in personal and global awareness. While the program had many organized activities, each student had the opportunity to plan and lead a brief activity for the group. This served to broaden the range of experiences as well as provide an opportunity to demonstrate new-found confidence and navigational skills.

The 12 student participants were selected according to willingness and ability to contribute to the academic and cultural nature of the program. In addition, attention was paid to obtain a variety of majors, primarily underclassmen, and a range in travel experience. The small group size allowed the students to blend in and mix more thoroughly with London and Londoners and provided more personal contact during class meetings and group activities.
FOR THE LAST TWO years, the OIP has been a participant in a six-institution assessment project organized by the American Council on Education and funded through the U.S. Department of Education. During the last year, the JMU co-leaders (including Dr. Lee Sternberger, the OIP’s executive director) worked with the larger assessment team to finalize scoring rubrics for an electronic portfolio, faculty rater and student instructions, and to build the Web-based system and databases. They piloted the process with study abroad participants, cultural geography students and residents of Ashby Hall and also trained the faculty members who will serve as portfolio raters on the project. They anticipate analyzing data in spring 2007, once they achieve the appropriate sample size.

SAGE OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE

JMU’S GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM and Office of International Programs supported the Study Abroad General Education Grant Program, allowing the expansion of general education offerings in international settings. Faculty were encouraged to develop or to rework existing general education courses to be taught abroad during the summer.

Four SAGE grants were awarded in 2005, resulting in three new short-term programs on the summer 2006 menu and one for 2007:

- GSCI 101: Chemistry, Physics and the Human Experience (see details below) in London, England — Dr. Deborah Warnaar
- GHUM 200: Memory and Forgetting; Czech History and Identity in Czech Literature in Prague, Czech Republic — Dr. Traci Pipkins
- GGEOG 200: Geography: The Global Dimension in Manila, Republic of the Philippines — Dr. Johnathan Walker
- GSCI 101: Chemistry, Physics, and the Human Experience (to be offered in 2007) in Florence, Italy — Dr. Mark Mattson

This year, two proposals were awarded SAGE Grants for programs scheduled for summer 2007:

- GANTH 195: Cultural Anthropology in Cuernavaca, Mexico — Dr. Laura Lewis
International Student and Scholar Services

We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

— Jimmy Carter

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

JMU again experienced a decrease in international student enrollment to 182 in the fall 2005 semester, including 24 exchange program participants. In addition, 259 U.S. permanent resident green-card holders were enrolled, giving a total of more than 440 foreign-born students from more than 55 countries on campus. The OIP and the undergraduate admissions office have continued to work toward establishing a recruitment plan. Approval has been given to hire a recruiter in the next fiscal year, and an international student component has been added to the Centennial Scholarship Fund, administered by Dr. Daniel Wubah, special assistant to the president. In addition, staff of the OIP and the undergraduate admissions office have been negotiating with several key programs, including Eastern Mennonite University’s ESL program, the English Language Schools, the Saudi Arabian Educational Office and the Embassy of Uzbekistan, to establish links that will open the way for acceptance of greater numbers of international students.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING

International Student and Scholar Services presented numerous cultural programs and educational events on JMU’s campus for the benefit of international students, faculty members and the community. In addition to the larger events highlighted elsewhere, ISSS offered the following student events and services:

• A welcome picnic for all new students
• Receptions honoring graduating seniors and exchange students whose programs were ending
• Monthly activities such as snow-tubing, pumpkin carving, chocolate study breaks and dinners
• Tax workshops to help international students navigate the maze of the U.S. tax system
• A comprehensive calendar of events, newsletters and constantly updated Web pages
TRANSITIONS
This special two-day international student orientation, held prior to the main orientation, gave these new members of our community the information they needed to enable them to grasp new concepts about U.S. culture and student life. Workshops, presentations and activities in this program made it interactive and fun as well as educational. Topics included immigration regulations, health care and insurance, classroom and academic issues, safety, transportation and information about resources and programs for international students and scholars. ISSS provided a few shopping trips and scheduled a time for international students to meet with their academic advisers. An added challenge this year was arranging transportation from Dulles Airport now that Greyhound has suspended service to Harrisonburg. A shorter version of Transitions was offered to incoming spring semester students, though the increasing numbers of spring arrivals make changes likely for next year.

RESPONDING TO NEW DEMANDS
Approximately 50 faculty and professional staff members holding non-immigrant visas were employed at JMU this year. In addition, JMU hosted more than 15 research scholars, including several Fulbright scholars, who worked directly with various departments on campus for a minimum of three weeks and a maximum of a full school year. ISSS worked closely with campus departments and staff to facilitate the timely processing of all necessary paperwork to secure appropriate employment and/or research visas. At least 12 new H-1B petitions were filed during this fiscal year, costing the university a total of $6,000 for the government’s newly established anti-fraud fee.

A NEW SENSE OF COMMUNITY
Responding to requests by international faculty and staff, ISSS organized an International Faculty and Staff Organization, which met many times throughout the 2005-2006 year. Welcoming receptions began each new semester, and a number of individuals hosted dinners in their homes. A faculty/staff listserv is currently being developed to facilitate advertisement of events and ease communication among international faculty and staff members.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Rockingham Memorial Hospital’s Child Care Connection contacted the ISSS staff to request assistance in conducting an international fashion show. As a result, on April 8, 2006, more than 30 participants attending the hospital conference were introduced to students from around the world wearing their native clothing. Conference evaluations gave the fashion show a 98 percent rating and much praise for enriching the conference theme, “Everybody Has a Story.”
OIP wants to know

IN FALL 2005, the Office of International Programs conducted a survey to get a better sense of the international activity, interests and needs of JMU’s faculty and staff. Twenty percent of all faculty and staff responded, describing the kinds of personal and professional experiences they have had, including collaboration with international scholars, organizing internationally oriented co-curricular programming experiences and participating in international service activities.

From the wealth of useful information the survey provided, here are a few representative observations:

Approximately 15 percent of respondents indicated that they had experience performing or presenting artistic work with an international focus or in an international setting. Experiences ranged from traveling Europe with the Marching Royal Dukes, performing Hindustani classical music in Bangalore, working at the Opera Festival du Roma, reading poetry in Cork and Galway, performing international folk dances here and around the United States and performing in a production of The Phantom of the Opera in Australia.

Nearly a quarter of all survey respondents indicated that they had experience teaching international subjects and/or teaching in international locations. By discipline, Arts and Letters represented the largest body of international teaching experience, but nearly 30 percent of all respondents indicated that their experience was connected with study abroad. Faculty and staff teaching experience encompassed a variety of locations, including Germany, Bolivia, Israel, Slovakia, Nigeria and Taiwan, and covered topics ranging from ESL, land management and mathematics, to biology, marketing and management.

Of the 20 percent of survey respondents who indicated that they had international service experience, most were involved in volunteer work in such domains as women’s rights, children’s issues, health care and refugee aid. Overall, these responses were incredibly varied, representing a wide range of professional backgrounds, experiences organized independently or through institutions from church to military and ranging from geographic locations as near as Mexico and Jamaica to Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Russia and China.

A full report and the survey questions are available from the OIP, yet this brief look shows the breadth and depth of international experience and commitment JMU faculty and staff bring to the university. The OIP’s challenge is to work with these talented and concerned colleagues to take advantage of the wisdom and skills they have to offer, moving together to advance opportunities for JMU students, faculty and staff and the greater JMU community.
ACHIEVING our potential, fulfilling our promise: the strategic plan of the Office of International Programs

Enhance and refine JMU’s Internationalization strategy

- Continue to assess — on an ongoing basis — the needs, aspirations, interests and strengths of our students, faculty and professional staff regarding international education and programs
- Continue to develop programs that are flexible and dynamic, meeting the needs of the campus community regarding international opportunities
- Continue to advocate — within and without the institution — for international education generally, and the importance of international programs and experiences for all JMU community members, specifically
- Continue to develop appropriate external partnerships that further enhance JMU’s internationalization strategy and expand opportunities for JMU community members
- Continue the development of the Palazzo Michelozzi Project as an intellectual center in Florence, Italy, for the campus community

Promote greater involvement of all students in significant international education experiences

- Continue to promote minor and certificate programs abroad as models and mechanisms for curriculum development
- Continue to develop graduate student opportunities including practica, internships, research experiences, travel, exchanges, coursework and complete programs delivered abroad
- Increase the amount and type of scholarships for study, service and work abroad for undergraduate and graduate students
- Refine promotional strategies and materials to communicate more effectively regarding educational experiences abroad and funding possibilities for students
- Promote greater diversity of participants in study abroad through targeted promotional materials, marketing strategies and scholarships
- Develop and promote international service-learning opportunities, including the OIP’s Global Citizenship in a Service-Learning Context program
- Continue to develop and promote an active JMU chapter of Phi Beta Delta, honor society for international scholars
- Continue to develop and promote JMU’s International Week and International Student Leadership Conference, including the acquisition of adequate funding

Create and maintain a stimulating and supportive academic and cultural environment for international students and scholars

- Engage in a comprehensive assessment of international student and faculty needs in order to develop programs and services responsive to those needs
- Continue to collaborate with the Office of Admissions to support the strategic recruitment of international students
- Continue to identify and develop partnerships with external institutions (e.g., English language schools) that will attract international students to JMU

LOOKING TOWARD THE HORIZON: SOME MAJOR OIP PLANS AND PROJECTS FOR 2006-2007:

- Short-term seminar in Kenya for Virginia teachers, co-sponsored by the OIP and the Fulbright-Hays Program
- Middle East exchange program in Egypt, featuring Arabic language and Islamic studies
- Establishment of Phi Beta Delta on the JMU campus (see further details on Page 6)
- The 2006 International Week, September 25 – 29, 2006 with the theme, From Bombay to Mumbai: A Changing India
- Membership in the International Association of Universities, a UNESCO group bringing together universities from around the world
- Completion of the palazzo project in Florence and implementation of the new master’s in European Union Policy Studies (see Office Highlights for more details)
- Increase in Uzbek and Saudi student enrollment for fall 2006
- Presence of six Iraqi scholars on campus for fall 2006
OIP: Strategic Plan

- Continue to identify scholarships and other sources of funding that will attract international students to JMU
- Improve the retention of international students through further development of educational programs, social events and other services of International Student and Scholar Services
- Promote the hiring of international faculty and hosting of international scholars through the dissemination of materials regarding visa and hiring processes to the campus community
- Continue the development of programs and services for international faculty including a comprehensive orientation program and accompanying handbook

Increase the international activity of faculty and professional staff

- Further analyze the 2005 faculty survey data to inform OIP policies, procedures, programs and services
- Continue to develop and support faculty and professional staff exchange programs with partner universities, including the INU shadowing program
- Increase funding for international travel for scholarly pursuits, teaching and service opportunities abroad and participation in international conferences
- Further develop processes and funding for course/curricular development regarding international topics
- Advocate for the inclusion of international activities in faculty tenure, promotion and merit pay guidelines
- Promote greater participation in national and international fellowship programs (e.g., Fulbright Fellowships) among JMU faculty

Internationalize the curriculum

- Continue to develop on-campus programs that present international perspectives and critical thinking regarding world events
- Develop mechanisms and processes that facilitate the internationalization of JMU curricula
- Support and further develop foreign languages, including those critical to the United States, through alternative delivery methods and “proficiency” courses as well as study abroad programs

Assure that research and scholarship pertaining to international matters permeate disciplinary and interdisciplinary fields

- Survey unit heads regarding the specific international experiences and programs their faculty and students wish to see developed
- Better promote and disseminate information regarding international opportunities for science and math students
- Encourage the development within programs and majors of international education requirements for graduation
- Develop and support interdisciplinary programs, institutes and centers with an international focus

Ensure that international awareness is an integral part of appropriate outreach, extension and fundraising activities

- Continue to seek external funding for programming, student and faculty exchange and research opportunities at home and abroad
- Develop programs that engage and support the local community, particularly immigrant and refugee populations
- Continue to develop programs that engage and educate local K-12 teachers regarding international countries and cultures
- Continue to work with the Office of University Advancement regarding the OIP spring fundraising letter and other opportunities for private/corporate support for international programs
Lee Sternberger, executive director

As Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of the Office of International Programs, Sternberger currently leads a campus-wide effort to internationalize university curricula, services and programs, and coordinates global and international activities across JMU’s seven colleges. Sternberger is responsible for administering OIP programs, including study and service abroad, international student and scholar support and immigration services, and also works to develop opportunities for students, faculty and staff to learn about and pursue global education, funding, service and scholarship activities. In addition she directs JMU’s activities within its international consortium — the International Network of Universities — and serves as vice president on its executive committee. Finally, Sternberger is responsible for the promotion of a distinctive national profile for global education, scholarship and service at JMU that is congruent with the university’s mission and standard of excellence.

Sternberger earned her B.A. in economics from the University of Missouri, Columbia, her M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Washington State University, and an M.A. in architectural history from the University of Virginia; she has also completed postgraduate work at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Sternberger’s interests are demonstrably cross-disciplinary and international in nature. Her primary program of research is concerned with overarching issues in international education and the university internationalization process, including consortium management, effective leadership and the impact of international education. The second is concerned with the assessment of international learning processes and outcomes, particularly the affective, cognitive and developmental transformation that often results from exposure to different cultures. Currently, Sternberger serves as principal investigator or team leader on a number of externally funded projects, including a large-scale investigation addressing the assessment of international learning, international K-12 teacher training, State Department outreach and programming and the sponsorship of a Fulbright specialist. She has also published and presented on a number of interrelated topics, including the internationalization of the liberal arts, international service-learning, the management of international agreements, the assessment of psychological disorders, the relationship of various psychological perspectives to the discipline of art history and the development of a global curriculum for the training of clinical psychologists. An experienced and devoted advocate of international education, Sternberger has taught, conducted research, led students, presented papers and served as an administrator and counselor in a diverse range of countries and cultures, including Japan, Canada, Hungary, Korea, England, Turkey, Germany, Poland and Portugal.

Chantal Kennedy, assistant to the executive director

Kennedy, a French native, was exposed to multicultural influences early in life as her parents entertained artists from across Europe. After living in England, she returned to France and pursued her professional administrative studies. Once she had received her diploma, she worked in Germany for the U.S. Air Force Headquarters in Europe.

Marriage brought her to San Antonio, where she and her husband shared in the Amigo Program, entertaining many foreign military officers in their home. In Staunton, they hosted Japanese students attending Mary Baldwin College. When her children left for college, she returned to work and assumed the daily office responsibilities of the Beverley Street Studio School, a visual arts school in Staunton.

Among many things Kennedy has been a tour guide in a fortress, a teacher, a translator and a library worker. She enjoys history, reading and traveling.
Program Operations
Jackie Ciccone, director

Ciccone began work in the OIP in 1986 when there was a “one-person” office for JMU’s first three semester programs — in Florence, London and Paris. Today she directs the base operations of the OIP, manages the financial planning and administration of JMU’s international programs and serves as adviser to JMU faculty program directors. Ciccone supervises the planning phase, monitors budgets, maintains compliance with university, state and federal policies that may affect student security, and directs the office’s budget and personnel functions. She works closely with semester and short-term summer program directors and the OIP study abroad team to ensure an efficient and quality experience for JMU students. She has made site visits to JMU programs in London, Paris and Salamanca. She is also a member of the Faculty Member in Residence Selection Committee and oversees the Universal Scholarship Program.

Ciccone has been actively involved in university committee and service activities, including the Employee Advisory Committee, serving as co-chair in 2000-01, the Disability Resources Committee, the Employee Service Awards Task Force, the Employee Recognition Focus Group, and the Inaugural Committee for President Rose. She has also been a member of the Virginia Government Employees’ Association since 2002.

Joey Robinson, technical resources coordinator

A Harrisonburg High School graduate, Robinson has a keen interest in technology and information systems and has worked in the field for nearly 11 years. His strong foundation in information systems includes administration, optimization and maintenance of desktop computers and server-end machines, design and updating of business and personal Web sites, assembly and configuration of bare-bones computer systems and instructing computing and Internet training classes. Robinson joined OIP in 2005 and maintains the OIP Web site and database infrastructures, oversees hardware and software equipment procurement, and ensures that OIP project needs and requirements are effectively met.

Arlene Neff, secretary/receptionist

Neff joined JMU and the OIP in 2004 as secretary/receptionist. For 21 years, Neff worked at a company that was founded in 1920. She transferred her focus to academia in 1993 and served as an administrative assistant at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, first in the Department of Languages and Linguistics and later in the English department. Her administrative experience there, in dealing with students, ordering books and supplies, and supervising student workers, prepared her well for the work she does for the OIP.

Born and raised in New England, Neff attended Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Providence, R.I. Her international travels have taken her to a number of cities in Italy.

Study, Intern and Volunteer Abroad
Felix Wang, director

Wang joined JMU in 2001 as assistant director of the Center for Multicultural and International Student Services. A native of Taiwan, he spent most of his life in the Dominican Republic. He earned his B.B.A. and M.B.A from North Carolina’s Campbell University, where he served as assistant director of international admissions responsible for international recruitment and student programs, immigration issues, study abroad opportunities and student advising.

As assistant director at CMISS, he worked with international students to ensure their adjustment and support their needs during their studies at JMU. In addition, he was responsible for promoting cultural awareness and diversity initiatives for the university. As the director of study abroad, Wang plans, coordinates and promotes study abroad programs and opportunities for JMU students. He directs all exchange programs and leads the annual trip to the Dominican Republic for volunteer and service-learning projects.
Wang presents numerous workshops on diversity and international topics and advises several student organizations. Currently, he is working on a second master’s degree in college student personnel administration. Fluent in English, Spanish and Chinese, Wang is a member of NAFSA, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and National Society of Hispanic MBAs. Wang strongly believes that the key to better understanding the world is to explore the world.

Judy Cohen, assistant director
AFTER TEN YEARS as a private tour guide and travel agent specializing in custom European trips, Cohen began her international work at JMU in 1989, directing the JMU/Commonwealth of Virginia International Internship Program and managing bookings for Madison House, JMU’s student residence hall in London. Her duties have changed to reflect the evolving interests of JMU students and the growing scope of the OIP. Currently Cohen is involved in advising students on non-JMU study abroad and internship programs, guiding students through the application process for a number of scholarships and fellowships for educational opportunities abroad, supporting the OIP’s efforts to involve students in service-learning and exchange experiences, and overseeing various OIP publications. Her professional travels have taken her chiefly to Western and Eastern Europe and more recently to Australia.

Cohen graduated from Wellesley College with a major in French and worked for the administration at Duke University before coming to Harrisonburg in 1973. When her husband, Ralph, began establishing JMU’s study abroad program, she provided secretarial support, helping to set up the semesters in London and in Paris. As part of the faculty family in residence, she accompanied her husband to London for five semesters and to Florence for two, providing administrative assistance. An avid supporter of the arts, Cohen has contributed in a variety of ways to the growth and success of the American Shakespeare Center. She is currently on the board of the Bach Festival through Eastern Mennonite University and is president of JMU’s Friends of Carrier Library.

Donna Walker, transaction assistant
WALKER HAS BEEN EMPLOYED with JMU since 2000. Her background includes working as the fixed asset accountant in the Office of Accounting Services, where she was responsible for the accounting and recording of university fixed assets, equipment trust fund reconciliation and financial statement preparation for university equipment purchases. Prior to her position in accounting services, Walker worked in the Office of Telecommunications, where she was responsible for administrative billing and accounts payable.

Walker joined the Office of International Programs in May 2006. Her responsibilities include performing various fiscal transactions, budget and credit card reconciliations and other financial reporting.

Peggy Zeh, adviser
ORIGINALLY FROM New York, Zeh joined the OIP in 1993 after moving to Harrisonburg from Charlottesville, where she worked for 10 years with the Albemarle County school division. As a study abroad adviser, Zeh publicizes international events and advises students of international opportunities. She assists students and professors with academic matters and maintains academic data. Zeh manages the on-campus administration of the Semester in Florence Program and assists the program resident director as campus liaison. To become more familiar with the program, Zeh traveled to Florence to work with the resident director and his administrative assistant. To further her international experience, Zeh has visited program sites in Antwerp and London. While in England, Zeh visited Leicester University, a member of the International Network of Universities, the consortium to which JMU belongs. Zeh also visited Australia to meet with JMU’s exchange partners there and to explore other opportunities for JMU students.
Donna Sharpes, data management coordinator

SHARPES BEGAN HER EMPLOYMENT at JMU in 1999, working two years part time in the Office of International Programs and then at the Center for Multicultural/International Student Services for three. During this time, she gained experience and knowledge in visa regulations for international students, JMU study abroad programs, diversity issues, the need for international awareness and tolerance and college student support on campus.

Sharpes has now returned to the OIP as the data management coordinator. In this position, she is the primary contact for study abroad applications, manages the student files and databases, communicates with program directors regarding enrollment, verifies eligibility and admissions data and aids enrolled students in meeting program requirements.

Her own experiences abroad include participating in a JMU alternative spring break trip to the Dominican Republic, a site visit to the JMU Salamanca, Spain, program in May 2005, and personal trips to England and Italy.

International Student and Scholar Services

Delores (Delo) Blough, director

Blough earned her B.S. in social work from Eastern Mennonite University and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to joining JMU, she served for seven years as the director of international student services and coordinator of diversity initiatives at Eastern Mennonite University. While an attorney in private practice from 1988 to 1995, Blough specialized in immigration law. In addition, she has significant experience in the field of conflict management and mediation training.

In 2001, Blough co-founded the International Student Leadership Conference, an annual event co-hosted by James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University, which this year welcomed more than 200 participants from 65 countries. Blough currently serves as a mentor in NAFSA Academy Class III and as a board member of the Western Virginia International Educators Association. She continues to educate others about issues related to international education, including immigration regulations, international student policies and international faculty/staff employment. She has conducted workshops, participated in training programs and provided assistance to department heads and search committees. Blough’s goal is to provide a welcoming environment for JMU’s international guests.

Gina Kudrav, assistant director of programming

KUDRAV HAS BEEN employed with JMU for almost nine years, initially with the Office of Admissions. Wanting more student contact, she moved to OIP’s International Student and Scholar Services in 1998. Her more than seven years’ experience has given her background with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and the inception and implementation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS.

At the OIP, Kudrav’s work centers on issuing the SEVIS I-20 and DS-2019 forms and other duties that help students maintain F or J international status. SEVIS compliance involves student registration, underloads, employment, terminations and changes of status, programs of study, and financial status. Keeping current with immigration regulations and advising international students on how regulations are interpreted and applied also comprise a large part of her job with particular attention to full-time status and strict employment regulations. Kudrav uses presentations, panels, workshops, handbooks and e-mails to help students and JMU personnel with regulations surrounding these temporary visas. She authorizes curricular practical training, extensions and underloads, recommends optional practical training to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, maintains and updates the health insurance roster and explains the basic concepts of the American insurance system to international students and parents.
Kudrav serves on the committees for International Week, Transition America and the International Student Leadership Conference.

Kudrav graduated from Edinboro State University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She grew up on Lake Erie and has lived in the Midwest but has made Virginia her permanent home.

**Thomas Lavenir, assistant director of visa services**

LAVENIR, A NATIVE OF FRANCE, joined JMU in 2004 as assistant director of the Center for Multicultural and International Student Services. He worked with international and multicultural students to provide them a safe place, advocate on their behalf and organize events and programs to celebrate their cultures and heritages while educating the larger campus and community about diversity issues.

As the assistant director, Lavenir makes ISSS a “home away from home” for international students, ensuring their smooth transition and adjustment. He is also responsible for enlightening the JMU campus and nearby community about the importance of looking beyond one’s country to understand the world and appreciate the richness that lies within all people.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in rhetoric and communication at Hamilton College, he pursued his master’s in intercultural and international management at the School for International Training, which led to a position as program coordinator at Duke University’s International House. There, he designed, delivered and coordinated international student and family orientation programs, developed and organized educational programs, oversaw the production of departmental marketing publications, and redesigned and edited the International House Web page.

Lavenir’s interests lie in the intersection of domestic and international issues of diversity. In May 2006 he received the Diversity Enhancement Award “for significant contributions and demonstrated commitment to the enhancement of diversity in the James Madison University Community.” He has conducted and continues to offer diversity and intercultural communication workshops. He is also fascinated by technology and how to integrate it as a learning tool. Furthermore, he serves as one of the JMU Safe Zone coordinators (http://www.jmu.edu/safezones/). His favorite quote is from Paul Watzlawick: “The belief that one's own view of reality is the only reality is the most dangerous of all delusions.”

**Lorie Merrow, project specialist**

AS OIP’S PROJECT SPECIALIST and international student adviser, Merrow divides her time among grant writing, project development and student advising for the International Student and Scholar Services team. In this capacity, she has developed and directed the community education project, Illuminating Islam: A Guide to Better Understanding, and the American Studies Institute in Egypt for Egyptian secondary school teachers. Additionally, she acts as a designated school official and an alternate responsible officer in the area of student visas. Working as both international student adviser and project specialist provides opportunities to make small but meaningful contributions to global understanding and to facilitate the same for others on the JMU campus. Merrow holds a B.S. in education and an M.A. in history from the University of North Dakota, where she has all-but-dissertation status in history. Her background includes teaching college history, editorial work, conference administration and working and volunteering in public schools with the cooperative movement and for the underprivileged. She has presented or published on topics in women’s history and international education.