

Office of International Programs  
2006 – 07 Annual Report

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

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Executive Director Dr. Lee Sternberger

CONFLICT AND COMPLEXITY. Opportunities and relationships. Insights and understanding. We live in an increasingly challenging 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. Indeed, over the last several years, the number of students and faculty engaged in scholarship and service abroad has grown dramatically, with participants venturing to all parts of the globe. With the hiring of an international recruiter in fall 2006, the number of international students has begun to increase, with students from more than 59 countries joining our campus community. International scholars, too, increasingly come to our campus as full-time employees and shorter-term visitors to engage in research and teaching, bringing an international perspective to the classroom. Through the endeavors of our students, faculty and staff, JMU has evolved into a truly internationalized university with opportunities that provide a “worldview” at home and around the globe.

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.

**International education exchange is the most significant current project designed to continue the process of humanizing mankind to the point, we would hope, that nations can learn to live in peace.**

*– J. William Fulbright*

# 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 the university's chief international officer and, working with faculty, staff and students, 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.

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 summer Semester in China, was added in 2007, and a new master's degree program in

political science, European Union Policy Studies, is set to begin in the fall of 2007. In addition, the OIP has offered — in conjunction with other individuals and academic units on campus — summer programs in Mexico, Ghana, Ireland, Malta, Egypt, Costa Rica, Argentina, Scotland, South Africa 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](http://www.jmu.edu/international).



Chantal Kennedy and Felix Wang all ready for the big move

## Office Changes

THE OIP MOVED to its new location in James Madison Administrative Complex (JMAC) in November 2006. The newly remodeled office space brought OIP staff from its South Main Street and Cleveland Hall locations into conjoined quarters. The move was conducted with minimal inconvenience for students and staff and with little disruption to day-to-day operations.

Donna Walker was hired as transaction assistant in May 2006. Her prior experience at JMU and her knowledge of financial procedures have brought great benefit to daily operations at the OIP.

Jennifer Coffman joined the OIP as associate executive director in July 2006. Coffman's work consists of collaborative projects in internationalization and environmental efforts at JMU. In her "spare time," she continues teaching anthropology and Africana Studies courses and directing the JMU Summer in Kenya Program.



The Administrative team

## 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.

## 2006–07 Office Highlights

THE 2006–07 YEAR has been exciting and productive for the Office of International Programs (OIP). The OIP Study Abroad and International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) 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 nearly \$341,000 in external funds for research activities, travel and programming. Overall, the 2006–07 year proved to be challenging and fulfilling, and the OIP looks forward to another dynamic year in 2007–08.

Participation in study, intern and service programs abroad reflected evolving student interests. During the 2006–07 year, with an overseas budget of \$4,884,000, the Study Abroad team sent 879 students to locations all around the globe (with an increased number participating in short-term programs). New programs operated in South Africa, Costa Rica, Mexico, southern Italy and Egypt, while a number of new courses were offered abroad including such subjects as Arabic language and civilization, the politics of the European Union, German language and literature, the history of the Middle East, contemporary India, industrial ecology and ecotourism. Team members have been pleased to work with faculty directors in the development of new programs



The International Student and Scholar Services team and the smooth operation of existing ones, this year inviting short-term directors to an informative lunch meeting to hear their ideas, to discuss operating procedures and to review safety and security issues.

The office saw negotiations in Florence come to fruition as JMU and the city of Florence signed a partnership agreement regarding Palazzo Capponi, home of the ground-breaking collaborative master’s degree program in political science, with a specialization in European Union Policy Studies. The Department of Political Science, the College of Graduate and Outreach Programs, and the OIP cooperated in publicity and recruiting and have welcomed a full complement of 18 students into the inaugural class, with the program set to begin in September of 2007. Renovations are underway in anticipation of the early-

## Jackie Ciccone, Director of Operations



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.

September arrival of the students, and a gala opening celebration is slated for October. For more information on the program and Palazzo Capponi, see Pages 22–23.



The Study, Intern and Volunteer Abroad team

ISSS initiated a number of new social and educational programs for students and faculty this year, including the LINK program (Leader for International Networking & Knowledge) to assist in student recruitment, a week-long career fair and expanded activities for students during school breaks. The 7th Annual International Student Leadership Conference, anchored by the theme “Transforming Intercultural Experiences into Leadership Opportunities,” was a great success, welcoming more than 260 participants from 70 countries attending 23 universities in the United States. International students had the opportunity to examine critically their own experiences and also develop a frame for analyzing future intercultural encounters – and they had some fun together too. For more information on ISSS activities, see Pages 24–30.

In a joint effort with Annick Conis and Dr. Sarah Jones, the OIP successfully chartered a chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education.

The OIP faculty and graduate student International Development Grant program is now in its third year and continues to grow. This year, grants totaling \$22,638 have supported 26 faculty, students and staff members in conducting research, presenting papers, attending conferences and meetings, conducting performances and developing curricula in Argentina, Australia, Dominica, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Guam, Haiti, India, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, among other destinations.

This year’s International Week focused on dispelling popular misconceptions and introducing the evolving India. Thousands of members of the campus community responded to the theme, “From Bombay to Mumbai: A Changing India,” and participated in a wide range of programs including music and dance events, panel discussions and speakers, a bazaar and Indian films – and the OIP Study Abroad Fair. Learn more about International Week on Page 32–33.

Empowered by grant support, OIP staff members, in conjunction with a number of faculty partners, imple-

mented a variety of projects including a Diversity Initiative Scholarship program for students participating in study abroad, a comprehensive Middle East and North Africa exchange program and the completion of the curriculum development component of last summer’s Fulbright-funded program in Kenya. On behalf of JMU, the OIP was recently selected to participate in a 20-institution assessment project examining the impact of study abroad longitudinally on personal, professional and social outcomes. This study will assess six JMU cohorts beginning with the 1980 study abroad group. In its concern for scholars at risk around the world, the office joined the Scholar Rescue Fund and the Scholars at Risk Network. 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 active role as the vice president of the International Network of Universities. This year saw the start of the INU’s shadowing program, with strong JMU participation; the success of the undergraduate peace and conflict symposium in Hiroshima; the inaugural meetings of the library and technology, international education and teaching and learning special interest groups (SIGs); and the launch of the INU’s new Web site and e-newsletter. In addition, a research manager’s SIG meeting is planned for September. Find more information on the INU at [www.inunis.net](http://www.inunis.net).

The OIP Web site continues to be the chief source of information for students and their families, so the staff has been especially vigilant in keeping posted material up to date. In addition, print materials remain an important publicity tool and an additional public “face” for the office. Both the Study Abroad team and the ISSS team have revamped relevant materials to keep students and faculty better prepared, most significantly, emergency

procedure manuals appropriate for students abroad and for international students on the home campus. The new Palazzo Capponi project in Florence created the need for several more printed pieces for promotion and recruitment, and the office worked with University Advancement in developing and designing program-specific mailings for study abroad alums. The Study Abroad team continued to refine 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 direct e-mailing, among other tactics. The ISSS team is creating a university/community welcome pack for international faculty and students and a brochure for the International Student Leadership Conference. The annual report and main study abroad booklet continued to evolve. Through these initiatives, the OIP expects to keep students, their families and faculty well informed.

Again this year, some staff members saw changes in their roles, and several new staff members joined the office, all in the interest of greater efficiency and effectiveness in serving the JMU community. Last year's changes in personnel abroad have resulted in streamlined operations in Antwerp, Salamanca and London. The Antwerp program is set to move into new quarters in the fall of 2007, and Semester in Florence will shift its undergraduate office to Palazzo Capponi. 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 2006–07 such a fruitful and dynamic year, the OIP looks forward to working with the campus community to provide support and develop new and innovative international experiences for all community members at JMU and abroad.



The OIP's Web site is the most versatile tool for communicating with students, faculty and families.

### 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, RI. Her international travels have taken her to a number of cities in Italy.



## Office Initiatives

### Joseph (Joey) Robinson, Technical Resources Coordinator



Robinson, having graduated from Harrisonburg High School in 2001, has maintained a keen interest and working experience in technology and information systems for nearly 13 years. With a strong background in information systems, from administration, optimization and maintenance of desktop computers and server-end machines, design and administration of business and personal Web sites, assembly and configuration of bare-bones computer systems, to instructing computing and Internet training classes, he puts to use his experience in and aptitude for technology in assisting the OIP with a myriad of technical services.

Here at the OIP, which he joined in 2005, Robinson maintains the OIP Web site, network and database infrastructures, oversees hardware and software equipment procurement and ensures that OIP project needs and requirements are effectively met with proper equipment.



Offering the world to a new student and his parents.

### Welcome Abroad

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS held an Open House on Saturday, October 7, 2006, during Family Weekend. Many parents stopped in to visit and learn more about ways they can help their student explore the world. OIP staff members as well as program directors were present to answer questions and talk about the many study, work, volunteer and internship abroad opportunities that are available to JMU students. Information about scholarships and financial aid was also at hand.

### Technology Makes the OIP Nimble

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS coordinated a successful and seamless relocation in November 2006 to a new office suite in JMU's JMAC 6 complex.

Coordinating with the technicians from JMU's Facilities and Telecommunications areas paved the way for a complete network overhaul. A healthy Ethernet backbone within the new complex ensured network stability and usability while alleviating overall network congestion. At the same time, the infrastructure created ample breathing room and readily available space for future growth potential within the OIP.

In addition to implementing such internal changes, the OIP has entered the final phases of launching a new online application process, slated to be available during fall semester 2008. The new application system will offer a range of improvements in program data, logistical statistics and demographic analyses, thus eliminating many pieces of paper.

Share your knowledge. It's a way to  
achieve immortality.

— Dalai Lama



### Phi Beta Delta

JMU'S NEWLY-CHARTERED Zeta Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education, celebrated its induction ceremony and dinner on April 5, 2007, with 28 faculty and student members. The chapter serves as a catalyst for noting and promoting international endeavors on campus. Elected officers guide the chapter in the initiation of new members and in scheduling events and activities of interest to the membership. During its 2006–07 founding year, the Phi Beta Delta chapter at JMU required each member to participate in one activity in the fall of 2006 and two activities during spring of 2007. Now officially recognized by the university, the group will move into its second year with renewed energy as it recruits new members among the faculty and domestic and international students with junior, senior or graduate status. Plans for the fall include a fundraiser, sponsorship of a speaker on campus, and active participation in International Week.

## Reaching Out to Study Abroad Alums

WITH ENORMOUS HELP from the Madison Fund and Marketing areas of the Office of University Advancement, the OIP has been able to contact thousands of study abroad alums who participated in JMU Semesters in London, Paris, Martinique, Antwerp, Florence and Salamanca. In reminding them, through words and pictures, of their own life-changing experiences abroad during their JMU years, the office hopes to encourage them to support JMU's international programs and thereby to enable more students to study abroad and to expand their own horizons in the same significant ways.



### 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.



Excavating a sarcophagus on a dig in Altamura

## 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.



Semester in Antwerp students in their "classroom" – the Port of Antwerp

## Overview

DURING 2006–07 OIP staff members, mindful of their ongoing commitment to serve the entire JMU community, embarked on a rich assortment of experiences in classes, workshops, seminars, travel and professional meetings. Team and staff meetings gave everyone the opportunity to profit from the expertise that staffers brought back to the office, thus multiplying the benefits of these individual accomplishments and improvements. Everyone dealt with the office move from 1077 South Main Street and Cleveland Hall to JMAC 6, but then staff members explored the world of international programs in a variety of ways.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

— Mahatma Gandhi

## Staff Development

### Administrative Team members

- Contributed a chapter on the assessment of international learning outcomes for the Forum on Education Abroad
- Presented papers on such topics as managing international agreements, higher education consortia, international service-learning and the assessment of international learning at eight national and international meetings in the United States, Switzerland and Canada
- Served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on two large grant proposals concerned with international arts programming and faculty/community interfaith dialogue (total request: \$539,095)
- Led a week-long field study/research trip to London as part of an honors art history course
- Received funding to support the Fulbright-Hays Seminar in Kenya for Virginia teachers, with subsequent articles, curriculum development, photo exhibit and conference
- Organized events on campus involving the Pashtun Foreign Language Teaching Assistant
- Developed an undergraduate international exchange program with the Middle East and North Africa
- Won a grant to encourage diversity in study abroad and administered the scholarship award process
- Facilitated the visit of the UNESCO-Iraqi scholar
- Continued the Art around the World project in Kenya and Virginia
- Successfully completed the JMU Finance and Administration Certification Training (FACT) course and passed the exam
- Presented a Brown Bag lecture for the Honors Program

### Study, Intern and Volunteer Abroad Team members

- Attended the regional (Washington, DC) and national (Minneapolis) conferences of NAFSA: Association of International Educators
- Participated in Webinars on legal and safety issues and the millennial generation of students studying abroad
- Attended workshops on multiculturalism and diversity
- Served on the JMU Pandemic Influenza Response Plan Task Force
- Represented JMU in Hiroshima, Japan, at the Global Citizenship Seminar, sponsored by the International Network of Universities (INU)
- Secured funding and administered scholarships for students studying with a JMU exchange partner
- Successfully completed the JMU Administrative Assistant Certificate Program
- Visited program sites in Salamanca, Antwerp and Florence
- Supported the publicity, admissions and enrollment process for the new master's degree program in political science in Florence

### Jennifer Coffman, Associate Executive Director



Coffman's chief focus at the OIP is on internationalization and environmental efforts at JMU. She also teaches anthropology and Africana Studies and established and directs JMU's Field School in Kenya, an intensive summer program

on contemporary Kenya and its histories.

Coffman earned her B.A. in cultural anthropology and political science at Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been working in Kajiado District, Kenya, since 1995, primarily researching the context in which community-based wildlife resource management has been posed as a solution to the environmental "problem" of wildlife conservation in southern Kenya. Her ethnographic case studies, derived from Maasai communities, illustrate how ideals of sustainable development and wildlife conservation play out in the daily lives and goals of the people they most directly affect. She has published and presented on this research and on international educational exchanges between the United States and Africa, gender-based political asylum in the United States (specifically focusing on fleeing female genital cutting) and representations of Maasai indigeneity in the United States. She directs the Art around the World Project, co-sponsored by the International Beliefs and Values Institute (IBAVI) and the OIP. In 2006, with a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad award, Coffman led a five-week Seminar in Kenya for Virginia schoolteachers.

- Attended the Western Virginia International Educators (WVIE) meetings at Southwest Virginia Community College and at JMU
- Visited JMU exchange partners and external providers in Australia
- Co-taught the International Student Success course
- Attended the Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA) advisory board meeting as a current member
- Presented a Human Resources workshop on Under-represented Students: International Students
- Worked with the Office of the Registrar to streamline enrollment procedures for incoming international exchange students
- Visited the Denver headquarters of AustraLearn, an external provider of programs in Australia and New Zealand
- Hosted visitors from Hiroshima, La Trobe and Flinders Universities as part of the INU's new shadowing program
- Held a lunch meeting for faculty leaders of short-term summer programs to standardize procedures
- Assisted students with applications for Fulbright and National Security Education Program (NSEP) Scholarships
- Presented the fall Study Abroad Fair and the spring Expo to publicize international opportunities
- Represented the OIP at Family Weekend, First-Year Orientation, Transfer Orientation and Choices
- Promoted JMU's new political science graduate program at the European Union Graduate Study Fair in Brussels
- Undertook Position Link training
- Served as liaison between the OIP and the JMU Honors Program
- Coordinated the spring break art history trip to London

### International Student and Scholar Services Team members

- Assumed the presidency of the Western Virginia International Educators (WVIE) and coordinated the March meeting at JMU
- Attended the WVIE meetings at Southwest Virginia Community College and at JMU
- Represented the OIP at the joint conference of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and the American College Personnel Association – College Student Educators International (ACPA) in Orlando
- Participated in a Fulbright training session
- Attended the regional NAFSA conference in Washington, DC
- Undertook training with the Assistant Secretary of State
- Completed workshops on diversity, student moral development, intergenerational differences and student identity development
- Negotiated a new international insurance policy with better coverage for international students at a lower cost
- Hosted a welcoming reception for new and returning international students



Human Resources Director Yohna Cone presents Study Abroad Adviser Peggy Zeh with the Administrative Assistant Certificate.

### Zeh Earns Certificate

ON APRIL 25, Administrative Professionals Day, Human Resources Director Yohna Cone presented Study Abroad Adviser Peggy Zeh with the Administrative Assistant Certificate at a luncheon ceremony. Over the course of two years, Zeh took workshops concerning accounts payable, human resources issues, students, communication, technology, professional development, event planning, finance, inventory, budget, procurement and administration. Zeh's supervisor, Assistant Director of Study Abroad Judy Cohen, was on hand to congratulate her on her successful completion of the demanding program.

## Western Virginia International Educators Come to JMU

THE WESTERN VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS (WVIE) is a network of staff from more than thirty Virginia colleges and universities. WVIE's goals include:

- Serving as a regional networking and support group
- Providing regional professional development
- Sharing program resources, expertise and ideas
- Investigating ways to collaborate

In an effort to meet these goals, WVIE members meet twice yearly at alternating institutions to discuss issues pertinent to international education. On March 2, 2007, JMU hosted the WVIE meeting, with 50 people from more than 20 institutions in attendance. The day's sessions focused on crisis communication, international programming ideas for campuses, Fulbright programs for the international educator and immigration and study abroad issues.

The membership voted on a new board of directors to serve the group for the next three years. JMU's ISSS Director Delo Blough was elected president of the net-



Outgoing WVIE President Joe Flory passes the torch to ISSS Director Delo Blough during the spring meeting at JMU.

work, where she will be in a position to give direction and leadership to this important group of Virginia educators. Blough's goals for WVIE include strengthening the membership by increasing the avenues for networking among the schools.

## Memberships

Collectively, OIP staffers hold memberships in the following organizations:

- Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)
- Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)
- Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
- Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA) Board
- European Association for International Education (EAIE)
- Fulbright Association (FA)
- Institute of International Education (IIE)

- International Association of Universities, UNESCO (IAU)
- International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership (IPSL) Distinguished Partner
- International Network of Universities (INU) vice president
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators board member for special interest groups
- Phi Beta Delta
- Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF)
- Scholars at Risk Network (SAR)
- Virginia Council for International Education (VaCIE)
- Western Virginia International Educators (WVIE) president
- The Forum on Education Abroad (FEA)

## 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.





Dr. Bob Hoskins revels with his students on a hilltop in Killarney.



Resident Director Jesús Jiménez begins Semester in Salamanca orientation while summer 2007 Faculty Member in Residence Dr. Bob Goebel awaits his turn.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover.

— Mark Twain

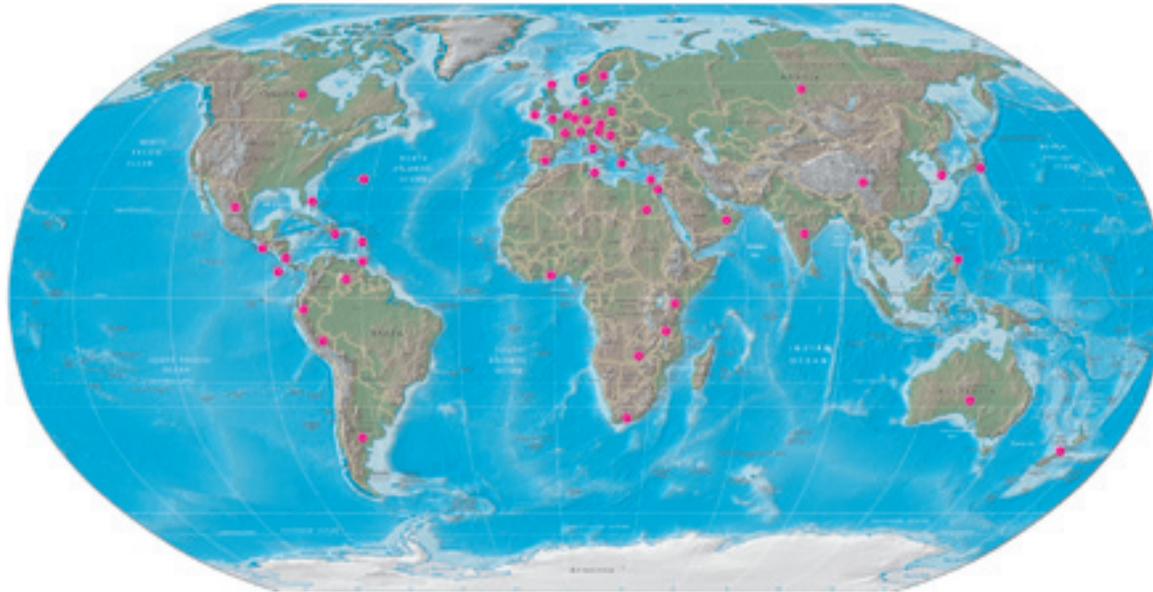
## Getting the Word Out

**Study Abroad Fair:** The annual Study Abroad Fair, held in late September, was again well attended by students interested in learning more about international opportunities. Representatives of semester, short-term and exchange programs, international internships and the International Network of Universities (INU) programs as well as staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships were available to speak with students and answer questions about opportunities that are offered through JMU and ways to fund such experiences. Also in attendance were representatives from several external programs, giving students access to information about an even wider range of program options.

**Spring Expo:** In January 2007, the OIP held its annual spring Expo to showcase summer international opportunities. Throughout the 2006–07 academic year, the Office of International Programs held many information sessions in conveniently located areas of the campus so students could easily discover the range of international opportunities JMU has to offer. Most sessions were geared to disseminate information about all opportunities, while some more specifically targeted a particular program or location. On several occasions, the OIP also took advantage of staffing an Information Table in Warren Hall to meet and speak with prospective applicants and answer any questions they might have.

**Classroom Visits:** This year the Office of International Programs has taken a new, proactive approach to study abroad recruitment. Representatives from the OIP took their information to the classroom this spring semester, visiting over 40 classes on campus. Foreign language faculty, short-term program directors and known advocates of study abroad were invited to share 5–20 minutes of their class period with OIP staff, who informed students of the many international opportunities available to them through James Madison University. The response rate from supportive faculty was overwhelming, and students who may have otherwise never considered study abroad as an option had their interest piqued. Study abroad advisers also visited several residence hall lounges throughout the academic year, spreading the word in an informal and friendly setting, often over pizza or ice cream sundaes.

**Choices:** Even before students actually enroll at JMU, the OIP meets admitted first-year students and their families at Choices, sponsored by the Office of Admissions. Future Dukes want to know what campus life is all about, and many of them are also interested in exploring the world and discovering the international opportunities that the OIP can offer them. The OIP staff members find them quite eager and full of questions about when, where and how they can study abroad.



Where in the world are JMU students going?

Destinations			
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Israel	Poland
Australia	Ecuador	Italy	Russia
Austria	Egypt	Japan	Scotland
Bahamas	England	Kenya	South Africa
Belgium	France	Malta	South Korea
Bermuda	Germany	Martinique	Spain
Canada	Ghana	Mexico	Sweden
China	Grenada	The Netherlands	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Greece	New Zealand	Tanzania
Cyprus	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Tiber
Czech Republic	Hungary	Norway	UAE
Denmark	India	Peru	Venezuela
Dominica	Ireland	Philippines	Zambia

**Felix Wang,  
Director**



Wang joined JMU in the fall of 2001 as assistant director of the Center for Multi-cultural/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 Campbell University in North Carolina. Prior to his arrival at JMU, he served as assistant director of international admissions at Campbell University. His duties included recruitment, student programs, immigration, study abroad and advising.

During his role as the 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, Felix plans, coordinates and promotes study abroad programs and opportunities for JMU students.

Felix presents numerous workshops on diversity and international topics and advises several student organizations on campus. Currently, he is working in the field of College Student Personnel Administration on his second master's degree. A member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) and NSHMBA (National Society of Hispanic MBAs), he is fluent in English, Spanish and Mandarin and has traveled extensively throughout Western Europe and several countries in Latin America and Asia.

**Judy Cohen,  
Assistant Director**



After ten years as a private tour guide and travel agent, Cohen began her international work at JMU in 1989, directing JMU's 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 students and the growing scope of the OIP. Currently, in addition to coordinating JMU's own international internships, Cohen advises students on non-JMU internship opportunities, promotes the new master's degree program in Florence, works with University Advancement in reaching study abroad alums and oversees various OIP publications. Her professional travels have taken her to Western and Eastern Europe and, recently, to Australia.

Cohen graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in French and worked for the administration at Duke University before coming to Harrisonburg in 1973. When her husband, Ralph Cohen, 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 in Staunton and serves on the board of the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival through Eastern Mennonite University.

## The "Non-JMU" JMU Programs

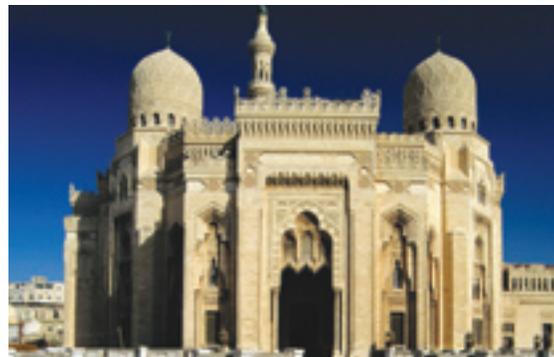
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY offers many wonderful and exciting international programs through Semester Abroad, Exchange, Short-Term Programs and Honors Abroad, but what about the students who want to study in Chile, Namibia, Malaysia or Guatemala? The Office of International Programs still has something to offer them. Through the availability of External Programs, the options for JMU students to study abroad are unlimited. JMU has official affiliations with a number of third-party organizations, many of them not-for-profit, and has close connections with many more. Students may apply to study anywhere in the world by choosing one such organization, or even by going through another university, all the while remaining a JMU student and keeping all services and privileges as such. In 2006–07, more than 110 JMU students studied abroad in 25 countries through an External Program.

The OIP's Resource Center is kept stocked with brochures and pamphlets from hundreds of these non-JMU program providers, and OIP staff are able to provide students with resources and advice on finding the best fit. Study Abroad

Adviser Kelly Poppen, who counsels all JMU students participating in these External Programs, had the opportunity in April to visit one of the affiliate organizations, AustrLearn, at the headquarters in Denver, Colorado.

Throughout the academic year, many program providers and JMU affiliates came to campus to meet with OIP staff and to connect with students. The following organizations held on-campus information tables and visited classrooms:

- Academic Programs International
- American College Dublin
- American Institute for Foreign Study
- American Intercontinental University
- AustrLearn
- Center for Cross-Cultural Study
- Cultural Experiences Abroad
- Institute for Study Abroad – Butler University
- International Education of Students
- International Studies Abroad
- Lexia International
- Middlebury College
- ProWorld Service Corp
- School for Field Studies



The allure of the exotic in Egypt



The tranquility of a Japanese shrine

## 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 \$170,000 in scholarships to students demonstrating financial need and academic merit. With grants from the U.S. Department of State and the IFSA Foundation, OIP-sponsored financial support to students more than doubled 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.



## Graduate Assistants – Help Goes Both Ways

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER, the Office of International Programs welcomed two graduate students from the College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) program to work in designated practica with the Study Abroad team. Lauren Franson and Brad Pearson undertook numerous assignments for the office and, in so doing, furthered their knowledge of international education. In addition to assisting in the semester and short-term orientations, they revised the short-term program online assessment protocol, started the task of editing the handbook for the European Union Policy Studies program in Florence and researched and began implementing the re-entry program for students returning from experiences abroad. As a result of their participation in OIP activities, both plan to pursue careers in international education and student affairs, and Brad has designed and this summer piloted the first practicum abroad for CSPA students.

Scholarship Type	Number of Scholarships	Amount of Award	Program	Criteria Based On
Honors Abroad	6	2,000-2,500	Honors Abroad	Academic merit and financial need
Diversity Initiative	16	1,000-4,000	JMU Semester-long or Exchange	Academic merit and financial need
Middle East/ North Africa	11	2,500-5,263	Middle East/North Africa Study Abroad or Exchange	Academic merit and financial need
Universal	8	2,500	JMU Semester-long	Academic merit and financial need
Study Abroad	One per every five students	500	JMU Semester-long	Academic merit and financial need
Student Assistantships	Two-three	500	Antwerp, Florence and London	Vary by study abroad program
Full-tuition Exchange	2	3,333 for '07	Exchange Programs for Spring	Academic merit and financial need

## Cheers, Mate!

IN THE SPRING of 2007, Director of Study Abroad Felix Wang and Study Abroad Adviser Kelly Poppen spent two weeks in Australia, visiting six different universities. The trip began in Adelaide, South Australia, a “small town” of 1.2 million and home to Flinders University. Here, Wang and Poppen were able to tour the campus, meet with international programs staff and other faculty, visit the on-campus living accommodations and befriend many chatty “cabbies.” The next stop was Melbourne in Victoria to visit La Trobe University, which has hosted six JMU students in the past year. Both La Trobe and Flinders are exchange partners and, along with JMU, members of the

International Network of Universities (INU). La Trobe is split into multiple campuses, and the OIP staff visited the largest two, Bundoora and Bendigo. Along with the usual site-visit business, they were also able to meet with a current JMU student on exchange there and two La Trobe students who had recently returned from their semester at JMU. On each campus, they held question-and-answer sessions for Australian students interested in applying to come to JMU in the fall of 2007.

The second half of the trip was coordinated by JMU’s affiliate partner, AustraLearn, a not-for-profit organization specializing in studies in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, and partnered with 23 universities in Australia. More than



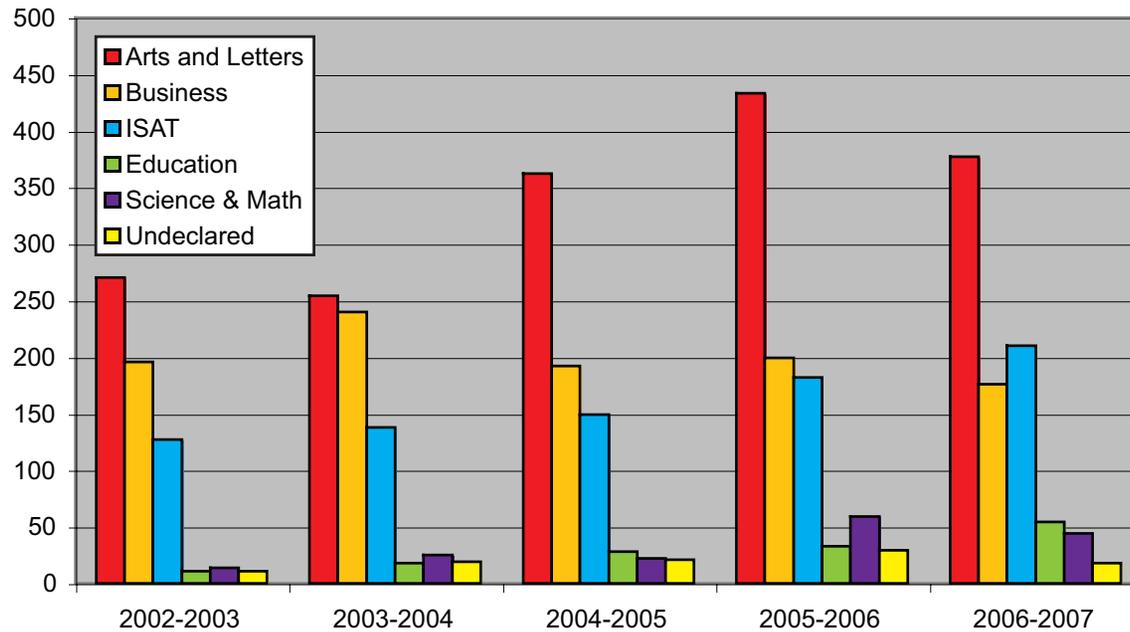
Study Abroad Adviser Kelly Poppen and Study Abroad Director Felix Wang at Mt. Keira in Wollongong, Australia



The Bundoora campus of La Trobe University, one of JMU’s partners in Australia

130 JMU students have participated in AustraLearn programs over the years, so understanding the operations and visiting a few of the sites were important aims of the trip. Wang and Poppen visited the University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Macquarie University in Sydney, the University of Queensland in Brisbane and Griffith University in the Gold Coast, where they also saw two current JMU students, who shared their enthusiasm for the program and the country.

Australia is becoming an increasingly popular destination for JMU students, and having first-hand knowledge of programs and their locations is invaluable in recruiting and advising students. Wang and Poppen are now not only able to compare and contrast universities and education systems, but they can also describe to students with certainty the great beauty of Australia, the unique taste of Vegemite, the extraordinary friendliness of the Aussies, the soft feel of kangaroo fur and the cheery feeling that comes with adopting the Australian mantra, “No worries.”



Study Abroad Participants by College 2002–2007

## Exchanges on the Rise

THE SECRET IS OUT. Previously unfamiliar to many, the exchange program at JMU is reaching new heights. Differing from the typical semester abroad program, the exchange program allows students to pay their regular JMU tuition while taking courses through direct enrollment in an overseas university. True to its name, the program brings international students from these same universities to the JMU campus to study in their place.

In 2006–07, six JMU students took advantage of this unique experience, and already the OIP has accepted eight more for the upcoming year’s fall semester alone. If the trend

continues to the spring semester as expected, the projected growth will be more than 250 percent in just one year. Incoming exchanges for 06-07 were made up of six students for the full academic year, eight during the fall semester only and five in the spring only for a total of 19 international exchange students on JMU’s campus. These numbers include students on scholarship from the Romanian-American University and the IREX program in Russia.

The exchange partnerships provide JMU students with incredible opportunities to take classes in their major as they are fully immersed in another culture, while also adding to the internationalization and diversity of the JMU home campus.

### Peggy Zeh, Study Abroad Adviser

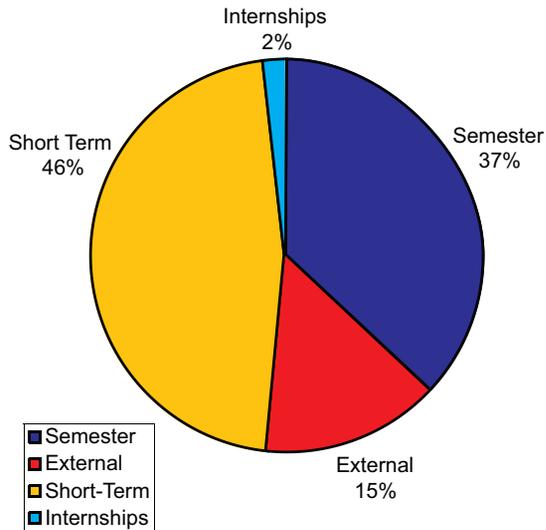


Originally from New York, Zeh joined the OIP in 1993 after moving to Harrisonburg from Charlottesville. In her role as a study abroad adviser, Zeh publicizes international events and advises students about international opportuni-

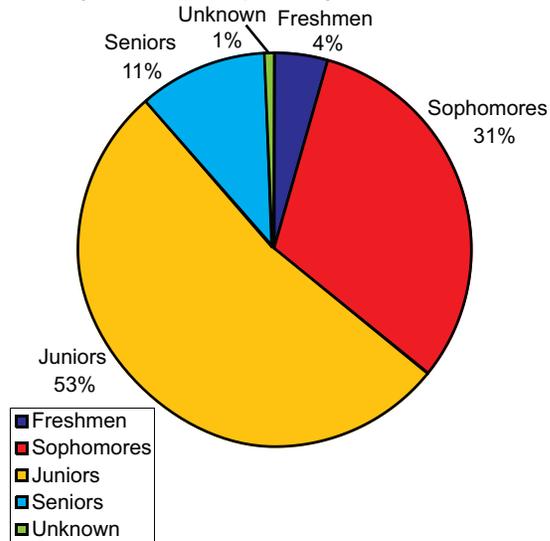
ties. She assists students and professors with academic matters and maintains academic data. Zeh manages the on-campus administration of the Semester in Florence Program and assists the program resident director as campus liaison. To become more familiar with the program, Zeh traveled to Florence to work with the resident director and his administrative assistant. To further her knowledge about JMU programs, Zeh has also visited program sites in Antwerp, London and Salamanca. While in England, she visited Leicester University, a member of the International Network of Universities, the consortium to which JMU belongs. Zeh also traveled to Australia to meet with exchange partners there in order to become more knowledgeable about the opportunities they offer JMU students.



**Study Abroad Participation by Programs 2006-2007**



**Study Abroad Participation by Class 2006-2007**



Students above the rooftops of Paris in the summer of 2007

## Short-Term Program Participation Increases

DURING THE 2006–07 school year, JMU faculty were hard at work planning summer study abroad programs. From developing curricula to researching housing, program directors worked with the OIP to create intensive international experiences from Canada to Australia. More than 400 students enrolled in short-term summer programs, including those in new locations such as South Africa, Costa Rica, Mexico, Egypt and southern Italy.

## JMU Partner Universities

With the recent addition of four new exchange partners in the Middle East and North Africa, JMU currently is partnered with the following universities:

- Flinders University, Australia
- La Trobe University, Australia
- American University in Cairo, Egypt
- Misr International University, Egypt
- Hiroshima University, Japan
- Nanzan University, Japan
- Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane, Morocco
- Universidad de Salamanca, Spain
- Yonsei University, South Korea
- Malmö University, Sweden
- American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- University of Leicester, United Kingdom



The Old Cathedral in Salamanca, where JMU has semester and exchange programs

## Ready, Set, Go

THE OIP GETS STUDENTS ready and set to go abroad to study by holding several pre-departure orientation meetings. The General Orientation Meeting is usually conducted first, since the information presented applies to all participants. Topics include safety and security, insurance, forms needed, academic issues, finances, packing, communication, important policies and State Department warnings. Individual program meetings then focus on issues relevant to a particular site: host families, cultural differences, computer and cell phone usage, food allowance, course offerings, registration for courses and arrival and departure from the program site. On many levels, the OIP prepares students for a safe and rewarding study abroad experience.



The OIP's Donna Sharpes and Kelly Poppen corral documents at the general orientation meeting for outbound semester abroad students.

## Kelly Poppen, Study Abroad Adviser



Poppen joined JMU in the summer of 2006 as a study abroad adviser. A native Oregonian, Poppen earned her B.A. in Spanish from Oregon State University and twice studied abroad in Santander, Spain. After graduating, she interned

for a study abroad organization in Spain, advising U.S. students on academic and cultural issues during their own foreign studies. Most recently, Poppen worked for two years in study abroad and exchange programs at Central Washington University, where she served as an adviser to students studying in South America and Oceania. Her own international experiences include travels to Honduras, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Australia and throughout Western Europe.

## Other Affiliations

- Academic Programs International
- American Institute for Foreign Study
- AustraLearn
- Council on International Educational Exchange
- Cultural Experiences Abroad
- Institute for Study Abroad – Butler University
- International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership
- International Research and Exchange Programs
- International Studies Abroad

## Honors Abroad Thrives

THE HONORS ABROAD PROGRAM had a fabulous third year of sending students to the University of Oxford and the University of St. Andrews. Six students studied at Oxford and eight at St. Andrews. The Oxford students studied in private one-on-one tutorials, meeting 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 a wide array of subjects including International Trade and Finance, European Union Studies, Middle Eastern Politics, Philosophy of Religion, Econometrics and Elemental Derivative Securities Analysis. At St. Andrews students took small intensive courses such as Heretics and Social Outcasts in the Middle Ages, Pictavia to Albania:

Scotland in the Viking Age and International Relations of Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe.

Tim Sandole, a JMU student at Oxford, made the varsity track team and competed against the University of Cambridge this summer. He took second place at the annual Oxford Cuppers meet at Iffley Field and traveled to Portugal with the track team to do warm-weather training. Tim was struck by the incredible range of nationalities on the team – something not normally seen in the United States.

One of the JMU students at St. Andrews, Katherine Hutton, participated in the clay pigeon shooting club. “It felt very British and was definitely something different,” she noted. And even residence hall balls were different, starting with a ceilidh (Scottish music and dance) before moving to rock’n’roll.

All of the Oxford students had the opportunity to travel to London, Stonehenge and Blenheim Palace, and many 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 in addition to journeys to the continent.

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



Punting on the River Cam at the University of Cambridge



International accounting team members Alana Miller, Mary Williams, Liz Heavner and Anne Hutt enjoy a day out with James Madison.

### Money Matters

WITH THE EXPANSION of short-term programs, additional work to enhance financial reporting procedures has been critical. The OIP and staff from International Accounting continue to provide specialized assistance to JMU faculty who take on the administrative and bookkeeping responsibilities of running study abroad programs.

In order to comply with state and university policies, the OIP administrative staff worked hard to facilitate travel and reimbursement procedures. With so many travelers and with changing procedures and requirements, the process can be confusing and complicated. Thanks to Chantal Kennedy, assistant to the executive director, and Donna Walker, transaction assistant, many tasks have been streamlined over the last year.

**A person needs at intervals to separate from family and companions and go to new places.  
One must go without familiars in order to be open to influences, to change.**

— Katherine Butler Hathaway

### 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 period, 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 Semester in Salamanca, Spain, program in May of 2005, and personal trips to England and Italy.

## A New Initiative

### Palazzo Capponi and JMU's New Master's Degree Program in Florence



SEVERAL YEARS in the planning, the new Master's Degree Program in Political Science, European Union Policy Studies, is set to receive its first class of students in the fall of 2007. On the 4th of September, the newly-refurbished Palazzo Capponi in

Florence will welcome 18 graduate students for nearly a year-long stay. All courses will be taught by doctoral-level instructors drawn from the University of Florence, the



A lively outdoor market adjacent to Palazzo Capponi reflects the community's energetic atmosphere.

University of Bologna, the European University Institute or other doctorate-granting institutions. Specialized policy courses will be taught by international scholars with academic as well as practical experience in the areas covered. Instruction will be supplemented wherever possible with guest lectures by practitioners and experts in the field of study.

Through the program, students will gain:

- Knowledge of the European Union, its history, institutions, structure and governance, major internal and foreign policies and wider integrative significance for the future development of Europe and within the global community.
- Knowledge of the processes that shape European Union politics and policies and the complex interrelationships of political, economic, cultural and ideological interests that influence them.
- Expertise in contemporary policy issues including international security, immigration, human rights, environmental protection, welfare provision, health and human services, information technology and their underlying

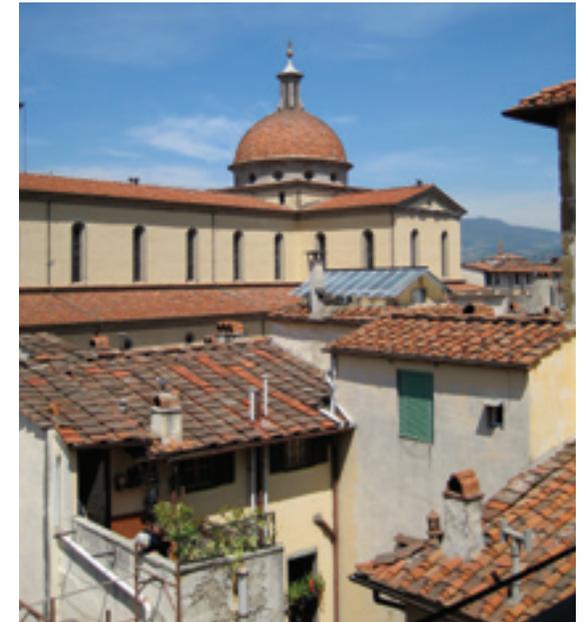


Administrative Coordinator Claire Stypulkowski with Resident Director Alessandro Gentili

political philosophies at the EU and individual member state levels.

- An understanding of Europe's position and aspirations in relationships with the United States and other global actors and the skills necessary to further the EU-US relationship.
- Analytic and language skills, the ability to express themselves in written and verbal form, the ability to formulate and execute a final in-depth project or apply their learning and skills in a practical situation and broad intercultural competence.

The sixteenth-century Palazzo Capponi is located in the Santo Spirito district of Florence, a vibrant community of artisan workshops, neighborhood restaurants,



The palazzo is wonderfully situated near Santo Spirito in an area of artisans, shops and restaurants.

shops and other amenities, and is anchored by the Church of Santo Spirito and the Medici Palazzo Pitti. With over 14,000 square feet, Palazzo Capponi provides office, classroom and computer lab space for the James Madison University Semester in Florence and European Union Master's Degree programs as well as living space for the Master's Degree candidates and an apartment for JMU faculty fellows engaged in scholarship in Florence. From its enviable situation, Palazzo Capponi serves as a fitting base for exploration and study and, from this vantage point, offers students and faculty a world view. President Linwood Rose and his wife were able to tour the facility during its renovation.



Magda Kelley

The graduate students will visit the European Commission building in Brussels.



Courtesy of Judith Rose

JMU President Linwood Rose and Judith Rose with Senatore Graziano Cioni, deputy mayor of Florence



©Foto Locchi, Firenze

The signing: JMU's John Knight and Francesco Pinto of the Istituto de' Bardi

**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 in 2004, she served as the director of international student services and

coordinator of diversity initiatives at Eastern Mennonite University for seven years. While an attorney in private practice from 1988 to 1995, Blough specialized in immigration law. In addition, Blough has significant experience in the field of conflict management, mediation training and family law.

In 2001 Blough co-founded the International Student Leadership Conference, an annual event co-hosted by James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University that this year welcomed 260 participants from 70 countries. Blough has served as a mentor in the NAFSA Academy Class. 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. In the spring of 2007, Blough was elected president of the Western Virginia International Educators, an organization established to promote cooperation in international education among educational institutions and organizations in western Virginia. Blough's goal is to provide a welcoming environment for JMU's international guests.

**We all smile in the same language.**

— Anonymous



An old game serves to make new friends.

**LINK – Leader for International Networking & Knowledge**

THE GOAL of the newly implemented LINK program is to retain and recruit international students. LINKers are the main connections between incoming international students and the current international community at JMU. As a result:

**Potential incoming international students**

- Gain a better perspective on international student life
- Establish a more personal connection with JMU

**New international students**

- Feel more at ease about coming to JMU (and the United States), knowing that they already have established a relationship
- Create a larger network of friends and acquaintances
- Have role models and mentors to esteem

**LINKers**

- Use their skills and experiences to assist others
- Develop valuable leadership and mentorship skills
- Constructively re-shape the training of the new LINKers, the recruiters' orientation session and Transitions (the international student orientation) through their evaluations and feedback

This year's LINKers are Ipeleng Bosilong, Erika Orantez-Pedrero, Emily Jiang and Martin Perkasa. Ipeleng, from South Africa, is an RA in Ashby Hall; Erika is a first-year student from Mexico who dreams of becoming an ambassador one day; Emily, from the People's Republic of China, is a liberal arts and sciences major; and Martin is a graduate student from Malaysia.

**International Student Association (ISA)**

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ISA) strives to provide a support system for international students and to promote cultural events on and off campus. ISA has worked closely with the International Week planning committee to feature the cultures and languages of the JMU international community and has involved JMU faculty and guest speakers. Its most recent achievement is the publication of an International Cookbook composed of recipes its members provided.

The ISA's signature event, the ISA Culture Show, took place on Saturday, March 31, in Wilson Hall and featured Indian dances, salsa, merengue, reggaeton, Greek dance, poems, Chinese ribbon dance, flamenco and belly dancing – a joyful contribution to the JMU community.



Kate McDaniel from Career and Academic Planning guides international students seeking jobs in the United States.

## International Career Week (ICW)

FINDING A JOB in the United States can be a daunting task, made even more so for the international student here on a student visa. In addition to the immigration and visa restrictions, cultural nuances, while easily overlooked, can affect how an employer evaluates a candidate. In many countries (e.g., Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Germany and Mexico) a candidate is expected to submit a photo along with the résumé. In both Japan and France the résumé and cover letter must be handwritten, as the employer uses the handwriting to analyze the candidate's personality. Both of these practices, of course, are at odds with what is common and legal in the United States. Knowing what type of information to include in a résumé and how to convey it can have an enormous impact on the chances of landing a job.

In an effort to help guide the way, the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and the Career and Academic Planning (CAP) office have worked hand-in-hand to organize International Career Week (ICW), an annual program that began in 2005 as only a one-day event. Now a week-long offering, ICW gives more students the opportunity to attend the various sessions and presentations and allows potential employers and international alumni to meet the students, answer their questions and even to interview them.

This year the CAP office purchased two job search databases for international students: H1visajobs.com and H1Base.com, which contain listings of employers who have recently filed the appropriate paperwork to sponsor an international person for a work visa (H-1B), thus indicating the potential employer's willingness to "sponsor" an international student. Although international students have no guarantee of employment at one of these firms, at least they have an encouraging starting place for their search.

Next year's ICW will feature a session geared toward U.S. students who want to work outside the United States.

## Ashby Hall and Madison International

ASHBY HALL PROVIDES a very welcoming community for international students and U.S. citizens who learn from one another and make lasting friendships while undertaking their college education. In order to enhance this theme housing, the OIP and the Office of Residence Life collaborated to implement a new and improved Madison International Program. The program places a strong emphasis on helping students to become connected to the various communities to which they belong, on becoming true global citizens and on the cultivation of specific aspects of intercultural competence. Madison International aims to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the world in ways that honor the vast diversity of cultures and worldviews.

Between 60 and 65 residents (both U.S. and international), four resident advisers and a hall director comprise the population of Ashby Hall. Each student serves on one of four committees (communication and languages, politics and international affairs, food and pop culture and health and ecology), each one a cohesive, self-directed group assigned to one of the four faculty advisers: Dr. Jonathan Miles, Dr. Shah Hanifi, Dr. Cheri Beverly and Dr. Lucy Bednar. Committees grow together as a team and discuss their area of emphasis.

Finally, each committee chooses an issue to investigate locally that relates to the committee theme, often using International Week events as a good introduction to global issues. Each committee then designs a related service-learning project to complete together. Faculty advisers aid the committee in providing context for the issue in question as well as perspectives related to the faculty members' areas of expertise.

**Gina Kudrav,  
Assistant Director for Visa Services**



Kudrav has been with JMU for almost 12 years, first with the Office of Admissions. Wanting more student contact, she moved to OIP's International Student and Scholar Services in 1998. Kudrav has had more than nine years' experience

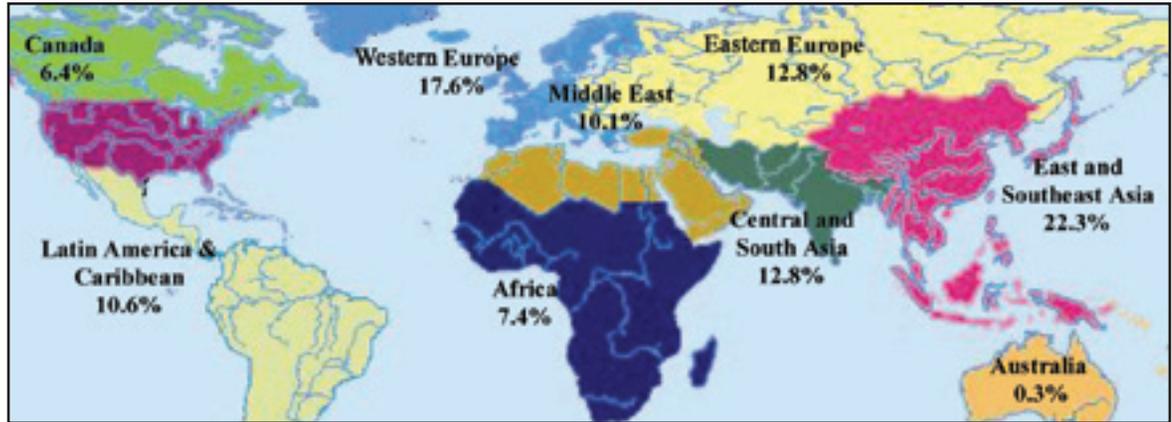
with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the inception and implementation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS.

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 comprise a large part of her job with particular attention to full-time status and strict employment regulations for students. 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.

Kudrav serves on the committees for International Week, the Transitions program and the International Student Leadership Conference.

Kudrav graduated from Edinboro State University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

## Regional Representation by Percentage



Where in the world do JMU international students live?

### 2006–07 International Student Population at JMU\*

International Students from 59 countries (students on non-immigrant or temporary visas)

**Top 6 countries represented:**

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| <b>Canada</b> | <b>Germany</b>    |
| <b>India</b>  | <b>Kazakhstan</b> |
| <b>Korea</b>  | <b>Pakistan</b>   |

JMU has worked closely with the governments of Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia to accept students through their government programs. Each government is funding thousands of full scholarships for its citizens to study in the United States, and JMU anticipates the growth of both of these populations in the coming years

\*The information provided here deals only with the “true” international student at JMU. In addition, JMU is home to more than 250 foreign-born students who are now permanent residents (green card holders) of the United States.

### International Faculty/Staff Social Committee

IN ADDITION TO almost 200 international students, JMU is currently home to more than 51 faculty, staff and research scholars in the United States on temporary visas. Also on campus are a number of foreign-born faculty and staff who now hold U.S. citizenship or permanent resident (green card) status. Responding to requests made by that population, the International Faculty/Staff Social Committee was formed in the spring 2006 semester. The committee, sponsored by the OIP, hosts monthly social events and provides a network of support for newly-arrived faculty and staff as they navigate Harrisonburg and the JMU community.

## International Recruitment

JMU'S INTERNATIONAL student population began to decline significantly at the turn of the century, falling from a high in 1998 of 337 to last year's low of 182. Although the decrease in numbers was almost certainly affected by the events of September 11, 2001, an additional cause of the decline may be related to JMU's lack of international student recruitment efforts. Fortunately, that has changed with the 2006–07 school year.

In August 2006, Catherine Fierro was hired by the undergraduate admissions office to serve as JMU's first full-time international student recruiter and admissions counselor. Fierro earned a B.A. in French from James Madison University and an M.A. in French literature from the University of Virginia, where she taught French as a graduate instructor. She studied in Paris while she was a JMU student and again at the Université de Lyon-II during

her graduate studies. Prior to returning to her alma mater in the fall of 2006, she taught English at the Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis in Nice. She is delighted to be back at JMU to help diversify the campus, to recruit international students and to assist them with the international admissions process.

Fierro's recruitment travel this spring and summer took her to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, India and Kazakhstan. While "on the road," she visited secondary schools, met with college counselors and education advisers, spoke with hundreds of students and participated in university fairs. Senior Assistant Director Shaun Mooney is also involving JMU alumni abroad in recruiting efforts, arranging for them to represent JMU at university fairs abroad throughout the year.

In addition to recruiting degree-seeking undergraduate students, JMU has also seen an increasing number of

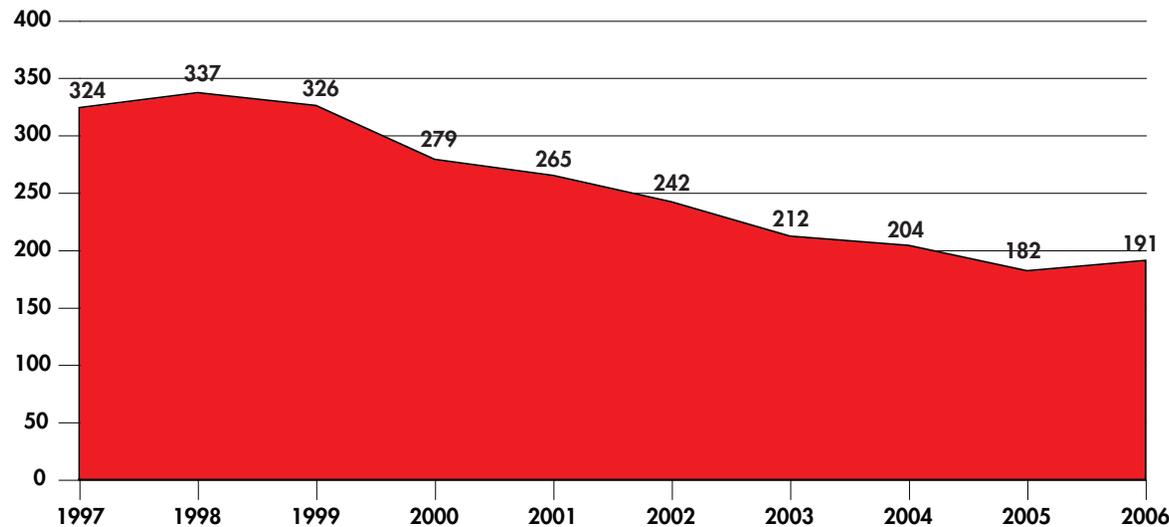


From the Office of Admissions, Catherine Fierro, counselor for international students, and Shaun Mooney, assistant director

exchange programs developed in the past few years. The Office of International Programs has entered into exchange programs with institutions in Japan, Australia, Romania, China, Korea, the United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, Germany and Egypt, accepting students to JMU's campus for part of their education in study abroad programs. Likewise, the undergraduate admissions office has entered into agreements with two language schools whereby JMU agrees to accept otherwise qualified international students who have completed the requirements of the language schools without requiring that students take an additional TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) test. Finally, the past year has seen a marked increase in students from both Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia through programs in which the governments of those countries pay full scholarships for its citizens to study in the United States.

This increased emphasis on international student recruiting and exchange programs will have a positive effect on student numbers, and the international student population will once again begin to grow and will continue to enrich JMU's campus life.

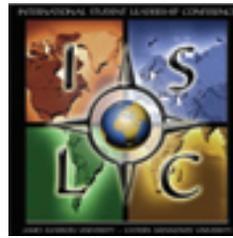
### JMU International Students by Year





Under Salorne McDonald's direction, ISLC participants happily enter the fray as, blindfolded, they search by sound for their own "herd."

### Transforming Intercultural Experiences into Leadership Opportunities – ISLC



260 STUDENTS from 70 countries attending 23 universities in the United States gathered right here in Harrisonburg, VA – this can mean only one thing: The International Student Leadership Conference, hosted by James Madison

University and Eastern Mennonite University, is once again in session. In its 7th year, the conference had more participants than ever (a 30% increase over last year), more

sessions than ever and more volunteers than ever. This year's conference had one key difference: students from James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University served as official and recognizable hosts (complete with special shirts) to promote interaction, help sessions and activities run smoothly and provide assistance for all the participants and presenters.

It all began on Friday night with Group Activities organized by last year's keynote speaker – the one and only Salorne McDonald. Only he could make 200+ students act as a mooing, braying, howling crowd of animals trying to find their "herd" while walking blindfolded through the Festival Grand Ballroom at JMU. This broke the ice and sent the conference off to a good start! With new-found



ISLC hosts from JMU and Eastern Mennonite University eagerly await the crowds.

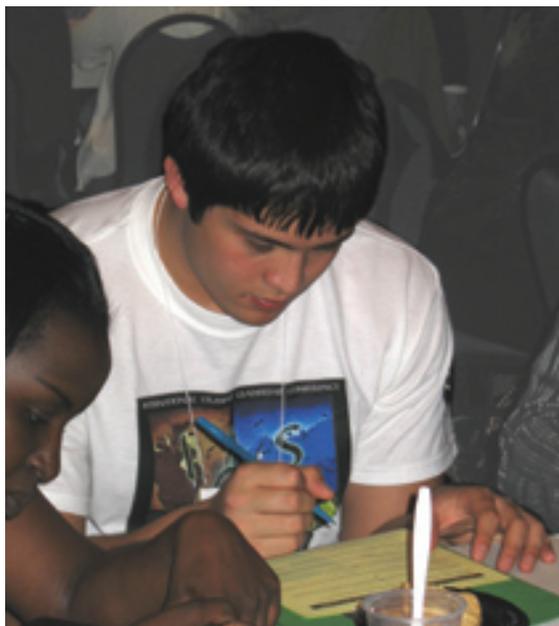
friends, the participants enjoyed dancing and singing along to Sattaskys, a local reggae-rock group that performed in the Grand Ballroom.

Saturday morning brought a good breakfast and the arrival of the balance of participants from many other campuses. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Darla Deardorff, executive director of the Association of International Education Administrators, headquartered at Duke University. She gave an introduction to intercultural communication issues aimed at giving the participants an overview of various communication styles, culture models and reasons for problems and misunderstandings when dealing with people from different backgrounds. This gave them a chance to decide on their focus at this conference and to choose accord-

ingly from the eight different workshops offered throughout the day on a variety of topics in relation to leadership (e.g., "Covey's Seven Habits and Leadership" and "The Leadership Secrets of Santa Claus") and practical issues (like writing a résumé appropriate for U.S. businesses and fundraising ideas for international student organizations).

The second part of Deardorff's leadership training focused on examining intercultural experiences and the opportunities that arise from them and challenged the students to examine critically their own experiences and also provided a frame for analyzing future intercultural encounters. After the official sessions ended, the traditional and almost legendary Saturday night dinner and talent/fashion show were still to come.

Encouraged in advance to come prepared, the students were able to showcase a part of their culture by performing dances or songs on stage in traditional clothing from their home country. The Grand Ballroom became the epitome of intercultural understanding and cooperation. "All Together One" was not just the JMU motto on this night; all the participants lived it during this informative, interactive and, of course, intercultural event.



Concentrating on leadership skills



An afternoon snack helps keep the energy flowing.

**Thomas Lavenir,  
Assistant Director for Programming**



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.

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 JMU Community.” He has conducted and continues to offer diversity and intercultural communication workshops. Furthermore, he serves as the JMU Safe Zone coordinator.

**A lot of people are waiting for Martin Luther King or Mahatma Gandhi to come back – but they are gone. We are it. It is up to us. It is up to you.**

– Marian Wright Edelman

**The Life of an International Student – Claudia Smolinski**

WHAT IF I MADE YOU LISTEN TO A FRENCH SONG, just once, and asked you to:

1. Describe the general mood of this song
2. Summarize the main idea of this song
3. Explain how this song reflects the current situation in France?

Those of you who are not familiar with the French language might be able to venture a guess as to the mood of the song, based on the melody and rhythm, and some familiarity with French and Francophone cultures would probably help you with number two. Now, even if you have traveled to France and/or other Francophone countries and have studied French, answering question number three might be a harder task than you expect. You may need a cultural, historical and political knowledge to understand the nuances and allusions made in the song.

Now imagine that you were in an environment where everyone spoke French all the time, and your fluency and some knowledge about French culture were not enough for you to understand everything that was said. Think about this! What if your stay in this environment depended upon your understanding and your contributions, and you knew that if you didn’t “get” everything you’d be forced to leave the country? Can you feel the tension building in your shoulders? And what about the inevitable feelings of frustration and isolation? Can you find others who can relate to your viewpoints? Who understands these feelings and situations that you are facing on a daily basis? How much would you miss a home-cooked meal and/or listening to familiar music on a regular basis, or even visiting your family on weekends when you are feeling a bit homesick?



ISSS Director Delo Blough with OIP intern Claudia Smolinski from Germany

Many international students face all these issues here at JMU. Consider the difficulty someone new to this country might have in relating to the most common interactions that you have every day regarding, for instance, the latest episode of *Grey’s Anatomy*.

What can YOU do to ease JMU’s international students’ discomfort? A greeting, an invitation to share a meal, willingness to lend a listening ear and simply introducing yourself are helpful gestures that will make individuals in this situation feel more comfortable. As the world is becoming a global village, interactions with your colleagues, the international students, may prove to be beneficial and constructive to your own future. So what about approaching an intriguing new person? Take a risk – and have some fun in the process.



OIP Executive Director Dr. Lee Sternberger with Dr. Kay Arthur, Provost Doug Brown and Dr. Alessandro Gentili

## Fourth Annual Provost Award for Excellence in International Education

THE PROVOST AWARD recognizes JMU faculty 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 competition for this award has been impressive each year, given the number of faculty doing such important work in this broad area. Both of this year's recipients have demonstrated a sustained and compelling commitment to international education through their scholarship, teaching and work in study abroad.

### Dr. Kay Arthur, Head of Art History

Dr. Arthur received her B.A. with honors in art history at Skidmore College and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts.

Kay Arthur founded the Semester in Florence program in 1984, directing it until 2001 and serving as assistant vice president for International Education from 1991 to 1997, when she elected to return to teaching. Her University of Florence studies taught her the benefits of living in a different culture and led her to create the same rewarding experience for JMU students and faculty.

Arthur organized the first Office of International Programs, uniting the five semester programs, stabilizing financial procedures and mentoring faculty wishing to develop discipline-specific programs. In moving JMU from a Eurocentric focus to a global one, she appointed area coordinators for Africa, Asia and South America, worked with faculty to develop opportunities in Ghana, Argentina and China and established

exchange contracts in Australia and Asia, thereby bringing JMU's international programs national attention.

She continues to travel in Europe and Asia, present papers at international conferences, publish in Italian journals and advocate for study opportunities abroad. This award gives thanks to Dr. Kay Arthur for her commitment to students and passion for international education.

### Dr. Alessandro Gentili, Director of the Semester in Florence Program

Dr. Gentili earned his doctorate cum laude from the University of Florence in modern Italian and Anglo-American literature.

In 1985, Alessandro Gentili moved to Florence, where he joined the British Institute's academic staff and where he met Dr. Kay Arthur, then the Director of the JMU Semester in Florence Program. Gentili quickly became an integral part of the Florence program, teaching Italian language and literature, liberal studies and humanities.

In addition, Gentili continued his studies and translations of Irish poetry and of Dante and published four books. He later incorporated his research into his courses and developed a new literature course: Dante's *Commedia*.

In September of 2000 Gentili became resident director for Semester in Florence, the first person in such a role for a JMU study abroad program. From this position, he has been instrumental in the creation of the new Master's Degree Program in European Union Policy Studies. Moreover, Gentili, working through his contacts within the European Union and the city of Florence, has helped secure JMU's newest residential facility and study center abroad, the Palazzo Capponi.

Throughout his JMU years, Gentili has been an asset to the university and essential to the international education of JMU students. This award honors Dr. Alessandro Gentili for his dedication to international education at JMU.

# International Week

## From Bombay to Mumbai: A Changing India – International Week

Sept. 25 – Sept. 29, 2006



JMU'S International Week theme focused on dispelling popular misconceptions and introducing the changing India. The week opened with a performance by Devapriya Nayak, an Indian tabla player based in Washington, DC, and ended with "A Taste of

India," featuring an Indian dinner and a fashion show staged by members of the JMU community.

The week featured a concert, "Reflecting India," which combined North Indian Classical music with western works influenced by that tradition. In addition to Indian musicians Aashish Khan, performing on the sarod, and Salar Nader on the tabla, Chuch Dotas and the JMU Jazz Ensemble performed an original work Dotas premiered earlier in the month at the Staunton Music Festival. Other performers included The Madison Singers, JMU's Matt Coyle, Carl Donakowski, Wanchi Huang, Lori Piitz, David Pope, Matt Smiley and Staunton Music Festival's Artistic Director Carsten Schmidt.

In a panel discussion, "India through Our Eyes," JMU's own Indian students and faculty shared their perspectives about life in their country and here in the United States. Wednesday featured an Indian Bazaar – with an artist offering free henna hand-painting; information and activities with rangoli, a traditional art form in India; yoga sessions and artisans selling traditional Indian artifacts and clothing.

In addition to these highlights, I-Week events also included:

- The OIP's annual Study Abroad Fair, which featured all of JMU's own study abroad programs in addition to select providers of external programs abroad
- A photo contest, which amassed impressive entries in the categories of people, settings and nature



"India through Our Eyes" panelists Prasant (Phil) Patnaik, professor of management, and students Ajit Umrani, Sujata Sharma and Nileena Moolayil share their unique perspectives.



The OIP's Donna Sharpes, tempted by all the bazaar's offerings, admires the colorful array of slippers.

- An exhibit of Indian sculpture and artifacts in the lobby of Carrier Library
- Student dance and musical performances
- A presentation on “Mysteries of the Built Environment of Bombay/Mumbai” by city planner Prianjali Mascarenhas
- The showing of *Salaam Bombay!* and *Monsoon Wedding*, films by award-winning Indian director/writer/producer Mira Nair
- A lecture on “The United States of America and India: A Promising Partnership of Diverse Beliefs and Shared Values” by distinguished scholar, teacher, leader and humanitarian, Dr. Usha Nayar
- Information about a number of service organizations in India, with encouragement to donate resources to those worthy causes

Plans are already underway for next fall's I-Week, which will focus on the European Union.



Salar Nader on the tabla and Aashish Khan on the sarod dazzle a packed house with their virtuoso performance.

**From Bombay to Mumbai:  
A Changing India**  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY  
International Week  
September 25 - 29, 2006

**Monday, September 25**  
12 noon Opening Ceremony, The Commons  
8 p.m. Free Movie, Harrison 1287  
*Salaam Bombay!*

**Tuesday, September 26**  
8:00 p.m. Movie (\$2.50), Grafan-Stovall  
*Monsoon Wedding*

**Wednesday, September 27**  
1 - 5 p.m. Indian Bazaar, Grand Ballroom  
7:30 p.m. Reflecting India, Anthony Seeger Hall  
This concert combines North Indian Classical music with Western works influenced by that tradition.

**Thursday, September 28**  
11 - 3 p.m. Study Abroad Fair, Grand Ballroom

**Friday, September 29**  
6:30 p.m. Indian Meal and Fashion Show, Grand Ballroom

**September 25 - October 8**  
India Exhibit, Carrier Library Lobby

**oIP**  
[www.jmu.edu/international/iweek](http://www.jmu.edu/international/iweek)

# Partnerships and Programs

## Eleanor (Lorie) Merrow, Project Specialist



Merrow has worked in International Programs for six years. As project specialist, she is responsible for writing grant proposals and developing externally funded projects that extend JMU resources to internationalize the campus and community. Often working in conjunction with faculty and other departments, Merrow has coordinated or directed projects, budgeted at a total of over \$500,000, for cross-cultural understanding both in the local community and overseas. She also serves as a Designated School Official and Alternate Responsible Officer for international students, coordinates JMU involvement with “Scholar Rescue” efforts and works on miscellaneous projects. She has traveled to Egypt, India, Kenya, UAE and Morocco, as well as throughout Western Europe.

Merrow earned her B.S. in education, M.A. and “A.B.D.” in history from the University of North Dakota, with French language minors throughout. Born in Connecticut, she has lived in North Dakota, Oregon, Iowa and the United Kingdom, as well as Virginia. Merrow has worked in various sectors, including as college instructor, public school teacher, restaurateur and stay-at-home Mom. These reflect her over-arching and long-term interest in the large questions of life, particularly what we human beings are doing here on earth, and why/how we pass on our cultures, especially through educational systems. She is married, with two grown children, and enjoys walking, reading, movies, puzzles and cooking in her spare time.



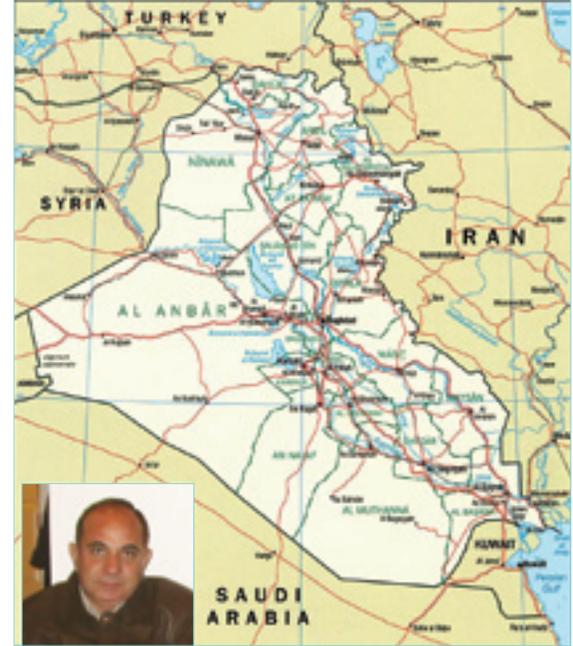
## Study Abroad General Education (SAGE)

FOR THE THIRD consecutive year, the General Education Program and the Office of International Programs (OIP) announced the Study Abroad General Education (SAGE) Grant Program to allow the expansion of general education offerings in international settings. The SAGE Grant supports JMU faculty in the development of general education courses to be taught abroad during the summer.

Recently, two SAGE Grants in the amount of \$1,500 each were awarded for possible programs in 2008:  
**GHUM200:** Great Works of Irish Literature and Film in Ireland, Susan V. Facknitz, Department of English  
**GHUM251:** Modern Perspectives, in The Netherlands, Dr. M. Louise Loe, Department of History

## Other Grant Initiatives Underway

IN RESPONSE TO “Faith & Community: A Dialogue,” a call from the Department of State, the OIP has submitted a project proposal entitled “Cultivating Inter-Religious Dialogue: Community-Building in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and the United States” in conjunction with Dr. David Owusu-Ansah from the Department of History. If awarded, this two-year project will allow a West African group to visit the United States for a three-week program organized by JMU and subsequently would enable an American group to visit all four West African countries for a three-week program organized by TrustAfrica.



Iraqi scholar Dr. Laith Bunni

## UNESCO – Iraqi Scholar Visits JMU

THE OIP CO-HOSTED Iraqi scholar Dr. Laith Bunni, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Baghdad. Dr. Karim Altafi of the College of Integrated Science and Technology spearheaded the six-week visit that was funded by a UNESCO program designed to enhance connections between U.S. and Iraqi academics and to improve the Iraqi education system as a whole. While here, Dr. Bunni co-authored a paper that was accepted at a scholarly conference for presentation, guest-lectured in classes, gained familiarity with U.S. academic traditions and visited local attractions and families.

### Middle East and North Africa Exchange

THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State awarded \$200,000 to the OIP to carry out the “JMU Undergraduate International Exchange Program with the Middle East and North Africa,” which will run from August 2006 to July 2009. The general goals of this project are to bring students from the Middle East and North Africa to study at JMU and to send JMU students to study in the Middle East and North Africa in order to improve mutual understanding and overcome stereotypes. To facilitate this exchange, the OIP has developed exchange agreements with four universities and is establishing two study abroad programs in the region. Two exchange partners are in Egypt, one is in the United Arab Emirates and one is in Morocco. The study abroad programs are in Egypt and Morocco. The lion’s share of the award will go to scholarships for students from JMU and from the Middle East and North Africa; to date, the OIP has awarded ten scholarships, half of which went to JMU students and half to students from the Middle East and North Africa.

### IFSA Diversity Initiative Scholarship

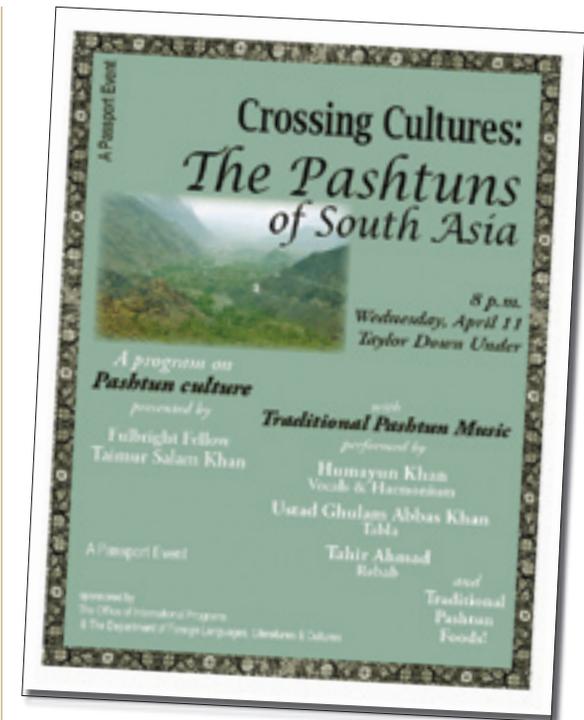
THE IFSA Foundation awarded \$49,080 to the OIP for a Study Abroad Diversity Initiative. The general goal of this initiative is to diversify the pool of students who study abroad by encouraging students who are under-represented as a group to participate by offering them financial aid. To date, sixteen students have received Diversity Initiative Scholarships, both for exchange and study abroad programs. These scholarship recipients commit to sharing information about their experience and promoting study abroad for other under-represented students once they return.

### FLTA Enriches Teaching

THE OIP JOINED with the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the College of Arts and Letters to sponsor a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) for the 2006–07 academic year. M. Taimur Salam Khan taught Pashtun language and culture to two classes and, as part of his agreement with Fulbright, took two classes each semester. Under the FLTA program, Fulbright brings English teachers from various countries to the United States to teach their mother tongue, which can range from less well-known languages such as Pashto or Telugu to better-known languages such as Arabic or Chinese. Khan teaches English at Edwards College in Peshawar, Northwest Frontier Province, Pakistan, and he took literature classes while here. Offering Pashto at JMU served to bolster the range of possibilities in Middle East studies at the university.



Pashtun scholar M. Taimur Salam Khan at the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC



### Pashtun Event Enlightens and Entertains

IN APRIL 2007, the OIP joined with Fulbrighter M. Taimur Salam Khan to present “Crossing Cultures: The Pashtuns of South Asia.” Approximately 200 students and faculty attended the program, which offered food, music and information on Pashtun traditions. After Salam Khan outlined some of the primary features of his home culture, master vocalist Humayun Khan sang and played harmonium, Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan played tabla and Tahir Ahmad played rebab in a concert of traditional Pashtun music.



Judy Kiprop in Kajiado District gives Swahili lessons to the visiting Virginia teachers.

## Virginia Schoolteachers in Kenya

IN JANUARY 2003, Kenya's newly elected President Mwai Kibaki fulfilled a campaign promise by declaring primary schooling to be free. As elsewhere in the world, though, citizens have been expected to contribute to schooling costs through taxes, school or user fees and labor services. Predictably, downturns in the economy have been paralleled by drops in school enrollment, as user fees increase when state funding lapses.

Kibaki's recent move to abolish user fees did initially reduce the overt prices of sending children to primary schools, but the teaching staff, students and local communities continue to bear a great many of the costs. Most primary schools are now grossly understaffed and lack significant resources.

The conditions in which people are formally schooled have an enormous impact on how people understand and negotiate their world. Further, how people in the so-called West imagine Africa and its histories and connections affect Western forms of, and rationale for, aid and assistance to Africa.

This Fulbright-Hays funded seminar, consisting of three pre-departure gatherings, five weeks in Kenya and continuing, post-return curricula-development meetings, served as a hands-on introduction to cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa through the particular case study of Kenya. The group pursued three major themes: histories and cultures of Kenya, the relation of peoples to the land in Kenya and the history of the education system in Kenya. The Virginia participants worked with Kenyan teachers in five schools to study pedagogic traditions in Kenya and to learn about teaching with minimal resources. Living with host families and working in schools exposed them to student and community responses to the educational system.

Participating teachers expanded their own knowledge base while producing specific projects and curricula to benefit their students and fellow teachers in Virginia for years to come. The Virginia teachers contributed funds and supplies, thus providing tangible benefits to the Kenyan teachers, students and schools. The Virginia and Kenyan teachers exchanged teaching methods, lesson plans and personal stories, forging relationships that have already proven to withstand geographical distance. Plans call for ongoing support and connections to ensure that what a committed group of people from these two countries started can continue.



Jennifer Coffman with her Kajiado hosts, colorfully dressed in traditional garb for the occasion

## Global Citizenship Seminar in Hiroshima

ON AUGUST 4, 2006, four JMU representatives attended a seminar sponsored by the International Network of Universities, which brought faculty and students from around the globe to Hiroshima University in Hiroshima, Japan, to discuss global citizenship and prospects for peace. As part of the experience, both faculty and students were able to enjoy activities including a Japanese language crash course, the art of kimono dressing, a visit to the Peace Memorial Museum, and a lecture from a survivor of the atomic bomb.

The highlight of the trip was the Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the Peace Memorial Park. More than 10,000 people attended this ceremony and heard speeches from the mayor of Hiroshima, the prime minister of Japan, a representative speaking on behalf of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, as well as representatives of atomic bomb survivors and of today's children. The same evening all participants took part in the Lantern Ceremony, in which Japanese citizens built lanterns out of wood and tissue paper and placed them in the Motoyasu River in memory of the deceased.

The balance of the conference consisted of lectures on peace building during this present age of ongoing conflict, security dilemmas and peace construction. Participants also attended group workshops on conflict, development and poverty, and religion and culture, facilitated by selected faculty members from the INU universities.

The purpose of these lectures and workshops was to give the students a greater awareness of the issues that face an increasingly turbulent world today, how these issues create difficult barriers for prospects of peace and what is necessary to break down these barriers. The current predicament concerning Japan's Article 9 Peace Clause was also a major topic of discussion.

On the last day of the seminar a United Nations role play session brought nine countries/regions (Australia,



Dr. Bill Hawk, professor of philosophy, with student participants Amanda Cassiday and Jessica Hines and Felix Wang, director of study abroad



Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park

China, the European Union, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the United States) together to debate and eventually decide to accept, reject or alter a resolution that encourages the Japanese government to keep its Article 9 Peace Clause.

As a result of this experience, four more JMU faculty and students will attend the 2007 conference.

## Tribute to Hiroshima

By Amanda Cassiday ('08)

Walking dead, seared skin,  
Outstretched arms,  
Begging for water.  
Humanity in ashes.

A shining city  
Falls to dust,  
Bleak and dismal  
From petty brawls of men.

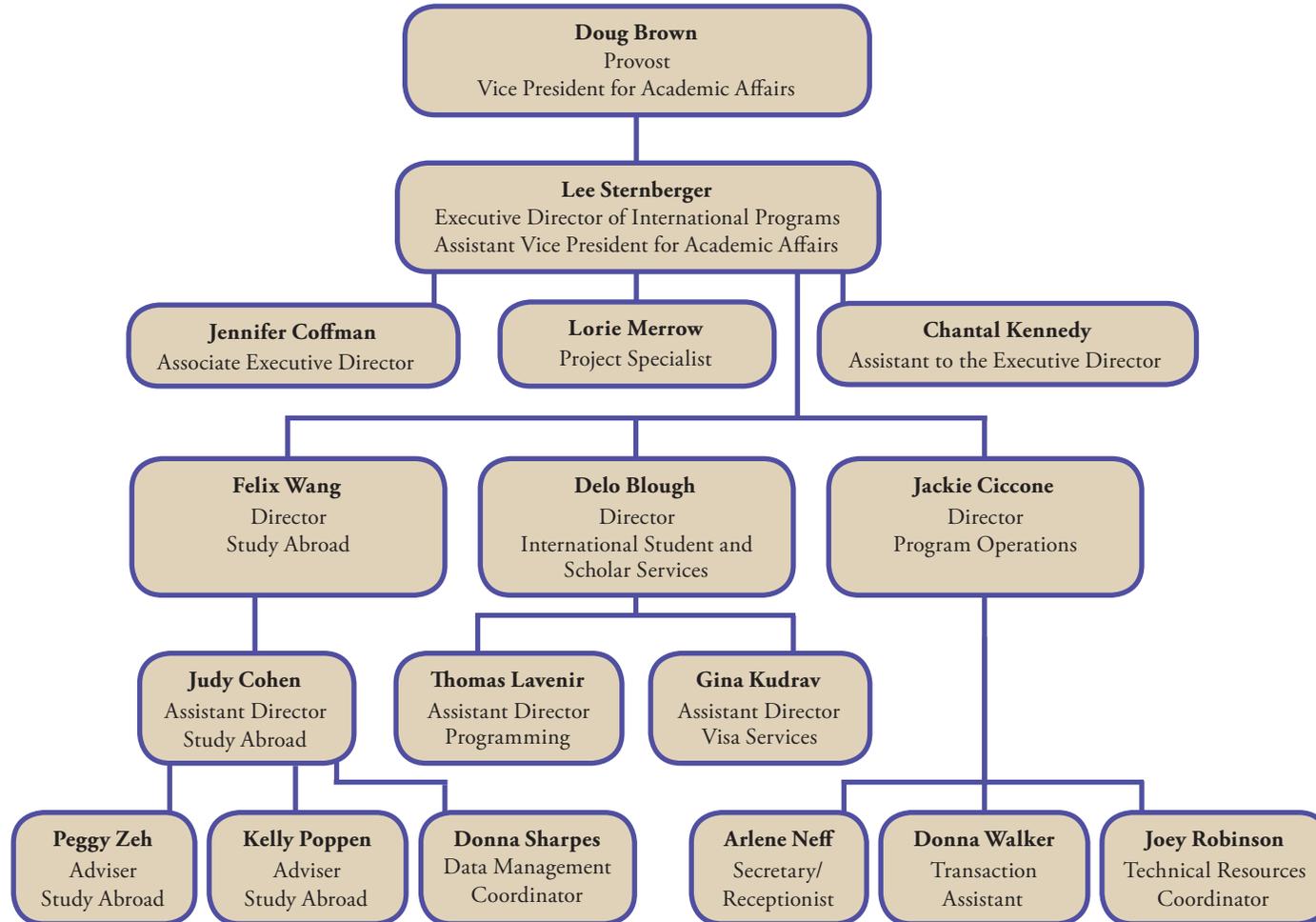
Sunrise awakens  
Man-kind from its early grave.  
We must salvage peace.

A new city, built  
From the ash,  
Shines again,  
With scars from years past.

These scars still burn—  
A reminder of War's malice.  
Dove's flight cools the sting.

Tell your children tales  
Of petty men and  
The city of ash  
So peace may rise with the sun.

Junior Amanda Cassiday is a political science and philosophy double major from Fairfax. She traveled to Hiroshima last summer to attend the Global Citizenship and Peace Conference, which was sponsored by the International Network of Universities, in which JMU is the only U.S. member. Her participation in the Hiroshima Conference was instrumental in her being chosen to intern in London during the summer of 2007 at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.



**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. — Nelson Mandela**

**When you reach for the stars you may not quite get one, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either.**

— Leo Burnett

## 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 Capponi 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 promote and nurture 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
- 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 2006 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
- Develop and implement the Renaissance Fellowship at the Palazzo Capponi, Florence, Italy

### **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**

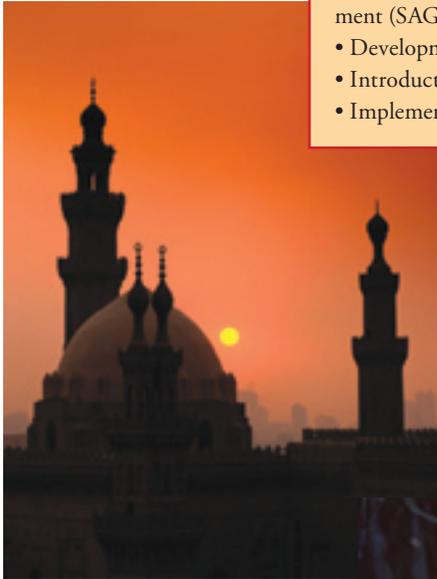
- Survey unit heads regarding the specific international experiences and programs their faculty and students wish to see developed
- Better promote and disseminate information regarding international opportunities for science and math students
- Encourage the development within programs and majors of 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 fund-raising 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 follow-up of the OIP spring fundraising mailing and other opportunities for private/corporate support

### What Lies Ahead – Some Major OIP Plans and Projects for 2007–08:

- “Cultivating Inter-Religious Dialogue: Community-Building in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and the United States,” pending Department of State funding
- Facilitation of JMU’s involvement in the Scholar Rescue Fund and the Scholars at Risk Network
- Active involvement of the new Phi Beta Delta chapter on the JMU campus (see further details on Page 6)
- Celebration in October of the opening of Palazzo Capponi in Florence
- The 2007 International Week, September 24 – 28, 2007, with the European Union theme, United in Diversity
- Participation in the University of Minnesota’s study: “Beyond Immediate Impact: Study Abroad for Global Engagement (SAGE)”
- Development of an international practicum at all three residence halls abroad
- Introduction of a Faculty Fellowship program at Palazzo Capponi in Florence
- Implementation of an internship and service-learning component to the Semester in London Program



**Dux femina facti**

– *Virgil*



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