GOALS

The Institute seeks to foster engagement and discussion by faculty, students, and members of the community of the major issues affecting American interests broadly defined, including:

- Maintaining and strengthening national security at home and abroad;
- Encouraging the understanding of and support for countries committed to the core values that inspired the American founding, including political, economic, social and religious pluralism;
- Fostering greater awareness and engagement with developing countries and peoples on the part of the United States;
- Promotion of a culture of respect for authentic human rights;
- Advancing an open global economy, governed by both an ethic of responsibility and rule of law.

FOCUS

The Institute's interests focus on global challenges that impact the overall strategic position of the United States and other responsible members of the international community, with programming focused especially on:

- Terrorism & National Security
- Africa
- Religion & Global Politics
- International Ethics & Justice

ACTIVITIES

The Institute draws upon and fosters the resources of the academic community—including the educational vocation of the university and the research of its faculty—to offer enhancement opportunities to JMU faculty and students as well as initiatives aimed at policy-makers, other scholars, and the public at large through a variety of programs, including:

- Ongoing research and analysis projects
- Publications and other media activities
- The Guardian Lecture Series
- An annual conference
- Scholar-in-Residence Program

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich delivers one of the Institute's Guardian Lectures.

Institute Director Dr. J. Peter Pham is frequently called upon to give congressional testimony on security issues in Africa.
The Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs, directed by Dr. J. Peter Pham, is a concrete manifestation of James Madison University’s commitment to meet both the educational requirements of its students in a changing world and its civic responsibility to respond to the “real world” challenges faced by society today. By supporting scholarship in the social sciences and humanities and providing an environment that will encourage interdisciplinary discourse on some of today’s vital global and national concerns, the Institute contributes to the advancement and diffusion of knowledge that the JMU’s namesake held constituted “the only guardian of true liberty.”