

Political Currents



JMU students active in hands-on community building

BY KATHLEEN FERRAILO AND KELLEY FREUND ('07)

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATIE LANDIS

Programs like PCLP are what set JMU apart from other universities.

James Madison University President Jonathan Alger has a goal: He wants JMU to be the national model for an engaged university. Alger believes that “a community that combines a commitment to learning with a conviction that all humans are interconnected has the potential to solve any issue.”

Professors and students in JMU’s Department of Political Science have long embraced the value of engaging with the local community. The department began offering supervised, academic internships in public affairs in the 1980s. In 2009, the department’s undergraduate Public Policy and Administration and Master in Public Administration programs established the Partners in Community Leadership Program to connect students to the greater community by offering a variety of assistance services to local city and county government agencies as well as nonprofit organizations.

The PCLP provides local organizations with professional assistance from JMU faculty and from students working under faculty supervision. Students apply skills learned in their classes in pursuit of community goals. “We are serving the [Shenan-

doah] Valley,” says Dr. Nicholas Swartz, the program’s director. “A lot of these organizations’ resources are strapped. We’re helping them to better meet their mission,” he says, noting that the organizations are getting access to products like development plans, needs assessments, and other resources that help the organizations improve at a reduced or free rate. In its first four years in existence, more than 10 different local organizations have received assistance via the PCLP. Some examples of those collaborations are discussed below.

Program evaluation for Mercy House

The first project in the Partners in Community Leadership effort was a partnership with Mercy House, a Harrisonburg homeless shelter and prevention center that serves families with dependent children. During the spring 2009 semester, students in Swartz’s graduate-level Program Evaluation course and Dr. Lili Peaslee’s Senior Seminar in Public Policy conducted a series of evaluations for Mercy House. Five students in Peaslee’s Senior Seminar conducted a process evaluation of Mercy House’s Homeless Intervention Program. Mercy House had been administering the program for under a year

and wanted to know how they could more effectively run HIP. Students interviewed staff at Mercy House and at four other Virginia HIP providers and made recommendations to Mercy House about how to improve their screening process, grant allocation procedures, and data management. Fourteen graduate students in Swartz’s PUAD 606 class conducted evaluations for three other Mercy House program areas. Students assigned to the Sandal House (a program assisting teen mothers) developed evaluation tools for future reporting and program effectiveness measures to help Mercy House secure future grant funding. Angel Food Ministries, the second group, is a faith-based food distribution program carried out by churches nationwide; students provided recommendations for a more efficient and effective service distribution process. The final program area was the Adult Services portion of Mercy House. Students assigned to this group monitored the completion of the Individual Service Strategy form and assessed the impact it had on a client’s ability to find full-time employment, to secure permanent housing, to reduce their debt level, and to achieve their desired level of education.

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Political Currents

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Supporting student achievements

BY CHARLES H. BLAKE

Making the Madison experience an enduring reality

This newsletter reflects a portion of the diverse interests of our current students. Over the past year, a moot court team at JMU was established with Elaine Chisek serving as its faculty advisor. Dan Richardson's research on the implementation of the Dodd-Frank reforms was published by the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress. A record number of MPA students participated in off-campus partnerships (including the international internship that Chris Murguia discusses in this newsletter). Julia Cramer was one of 20 students nationwide selected for the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute organized by the American Political Science Association—making JMU the only school in the country to place students in the RBSI program in each of the past two years. Dan Richardson served as the valedictorian for the College of Arts and Letters in May 2012 while a fellow member of the class of 2012, Sam Lasky, received the Phi Beta Kappa Best Thesis Award. Three departmental students—Victoria Berdini, Andrew Reese, and Adam White—received national Boren Scholarships to fund language study in Japan, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The JMU *Politicos* alumni group continues to grow—thus putting more alumni and current students in contact with each other. Our annual spring career workshop on campus and the summer careers workshop in Washington illustrate student interest in the perspectives of the alumni professionals in attendance. The May Public Service reception at JMU drew over 120 people in 2012. During the past year, we have worked to complement these workshops and receptions with dinners that permit extended conversations to unfold among students and alumni over meals; we plan to continue this practice in future years. Our departmental alumni board is contemplating additional innovations in alumni programming that are likely to generate some events focused on the particular professional interests of our graduates. If you have suggestions regarding alumni programming, please share them with our alumni board (see Page 10) and/or with our departmental office.

Fred Mayhew and Jennifer Taylor are the newest members of our 30-person faculty.

During the 2011-2012 school year, faculty published two books, 14 articles, and three book chapters; had three new book projects under contract; and presented 26 papers at professional conferences. Faculty supervised over 50 students in independent research projects. In spring 2012, Jessica Adolino received the Provost's Award for Excellence in International Education; I was fortunate to receive the JMU Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award; and Nicholas Swartz received the Provost's Award for Excellence in Outreach and Engagement. In mid-2012, Lili Peaslee was named one of eight national finalists for the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty. In August 2012, Scott Hammond received the Faculty Legacy Grant awarded by JMU Faculty Emeriti. In the 2012-2013 school year, Amanda Cleveland and Lili Peaslee developed program evaluation procedures for a local Boys and Girls Club initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. During the 2012 campaign season, Marty Cohen's research on party politics was tracked in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *USA Today* while Bob Roberts' work on Virginia politics informed multiple newspapers across the Commonwealth.

Recent years have seen increased attention at JMU to fundraising as a priority—some might call it a necessity. I can report that contributions to our department's first endowment campaign reached \$20,000 in early 2013. As this campaign enters the fourth year of five-year cycle, I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this campaign—and to thank those who will make contributions during the coming months, as well.

While financial contributions are useful and important, the time and expertise of our graduates remain this department's most precious resource. When you share your time with current students and with other alumni, you make the Madison experience an enduring reality. If you are willing to conduct informational interviews about your career field with recent graduates and current students, please contact me. If your travels bring you back to the Shenandoah Valley, please know that you are always welcome in Miller Hall.

* Charles Blake can be reached at blakech@jmu.edu.

European Union Political Studies program celebrates fifth anniversary

BY JOHN SCHERPEREEL

Europe is at least as fascinating, diverse, dynamic, complex, and important to the United States today as it has been in the past.

Surrounded by the time-swept beauties of Renaissance frescoes, paintings, and sculptures, then-JMU President Linwood H. Rose was on hand in Italy last June to celebrate the graduation of 19 JMU students. These students were enrolled in our department's Florence-based M.A. program in political science with a concentration in European Union Policy Studies. Standing in the Salone dei Cinquecento of Florence's historic city hall, the Palazzo Vecchio, Rose delivered statements marking the students' achievements: completing a full degree program in 10 months; mastering a challenging subject with the help of a distinguished group of faculty and policy practitioners; and making connections and friendships that would hopefully propel them toward productive and meaningful careers.

Since its inception five years ago, the EUPS program has focused on providing students with advanced training in policy analysis and deep theoretical and practical knowledge of policy-making dynamics in contemporary Europe. Europe is at least as fascinating, diverse, dynamic, complex, and important to the United States today as it has been in the past.

EUPS students have access to a broad array of resources that help them make sense of this complexity. These resources help students figure out how Europeans get things done and help them understand future trajectories of our transatlantic relationship. Students take part in an innovative practitioners' seminar where high-level practitioners from Brussels lead sessions in Florence that will open doors for them in Brussels and Strasbourg. They interact with master's-level peers from the University of Florence in an EU decision-making simulation. They receive Italian language training, and many go on to complete internships with local government offices, businesses, and non-governmental organizations.

While in Florence, Rose also participated in a signing ceremony with the president of the European University Institute (EUI), the rector of the University of Florence (UNIFI), and the deputy mayor of the city of Strasbourg. At this ceremony, JMU and its partners signed agreements that will help the EUPS program maintain its momentum in the coming years. Our agreement with the EUI, located uphill from JMU's Florence premises, reinforces the institutions' commitment to each other.



Silvio Gonzato (Head of the Secretariat of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs), Caterina Paolucci (Academic Coordinator, EUPS Program), John Scherpereel (Director, EUPS Program), Dr. Linwood Rose (then-JMU President), and Alessandro Gentili (Senior Director, JMU in Florence).



Christina Craver ('12), Outstanding Student

This agreement provides our EUPS students with full access to the EUI's exhaustive library, archival resources, and speakers' series. It facilitates substantive contact between post-doctoral researchers at EUI and the EUPS master's students. The agreement with UNIFI underscores the mutual commitment to intellectual and personnel exchange, enables common projects between EUPS and UNIFI students, and promotes international mobility for faculty members. The agreement with Strasbourg, which sits on the historically contentious Franco-German border and has over the past 65 years become one of the most powerful symbols of post-conflict reconciliation and European integration, paves the way for EUPS students and alumni to participate in internships and other opportunities with the city's administration.

Graduation weekend provided our program, our department, and the broader university community with an opportunity not only to look back on the program's first five years, but also to look forward to productive years ahead. Members of the EUPS class of 2013 have thrown themselves into their studies, kicking off the year with an inaugural lecture at JMU's premises, Palazzo Capponi, led by the former president of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell Fontelles. If you would like to keep up with developments in the EUPS program, follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/JMUEUPS), Twitter (www.twitter.com/JMU_EUPS), or the recently overhauled program website (www.jmu.edu/eupolystudies).

JMU students active

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Partnerships with Dayton and Elkton, Virginia

Another set of projects under the PCLP umbrella has involved partnerships with the towns of Elkton and Dayton, Virginia designed to foster economic development. Swartz and other departmental faculty have been involved in a major collaboration with the town of Elkton. In July 2009 Elkton signed an agreement with the MPA and PPA programs to begin a year-long partnership to provide technical and policy analysis assistance. Elkton stakeholders envisioned creating a laboratory for JMU's programs that would allow students to assist with various projects which would help to improve the quality of life of the town's citizens. Instead of working with hypothetical situations, students would be given the opportunity to work in a real-world environment. With Swartz taking a leading role, this innovative partnership has provided opportunities to over 50 undergraduate and graduate students and has served the approximately 2,500 residents of Elkton as well as the nearly 25,000 residents of eastern Rockingham County.

Students have participated in this partnership in several ways. During the fall 2009 semester, for example, students in Swartz's Regionalism and Urban Policy class completed research for the town's Economic Development Plan, which Swartz ultimately presented to town leaders. As a result of this work, Elkton implemented a fellowship program for JMU MPA students to aid in implementing the recommendations he outlined in the report and which has offered five internship opportunities to MPA students. In addition, during the spring 2010 semester students in Swartz's Program Evaluation course completed program evaluations for the Elkton Police Department and the Greater Elkton Community Center. Students spent approximately 10 weeks conducting group program evaluations on behalf of their assigned departments, and the final evaluations were presented to the Police Chief and the Director of the Greater Elkton Community Center. The department heads were pleased with the end product of the students' efforts and have implemented several of their recommendations. In October 2010, this partnership between JMU and the town of Elkton received the Virginia Municipal League's Achieve-

'We are serving the [Shenandoah] Valley. A lot of these organizations' resources are strapped. We're helping them to better meet their mission.'

— DR. NICHOLAS SWARTZ
PCLP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

ment Award for excellence in innovations designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government.

Under Swartz's direction, students in his undergraduate and graduate courses in Economic and Community Development also helped develop a formal Economic Development Plan for the town of Dayton during the fall of 2012. Students were assigned to one of six working groups (including grant writing, survey, focus group, strategic planning, marketing, or property identification) based on their interests and skill set. A survey was mailed to all Dayton residents to gauge their ideas for the town's future, and focus group sessions were conducted with town residents and business owners.

Evaluation of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership

A third project that PPA and MPA faculty and students have undertaken is a program evaluation for the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, a nonprofit economic development resource for businesses seeking to locate in the Shenandoah Valley. The SVP is a public/private partnership that, according to its website (<http://www.shenandoah-valley.biz/Home.aspx>), "brings together business, government, and education leaders to promote new investment, strengthen existing business, and guide labor force development to ensure a healthy economic future for the region." By focusing on regional approaches to economic development, the SVP strives to encourage recruitment of targeted industries, facilitate the retention and expansion of existing business and industry, and enhance the prosperity and quality of life of all Shenandoah Valley citizens.

As part of the organization's participation in the PCLP, Swartz and a graduate assistant began in July 2012 by reviewing SVP organizational documents including its

budget, strategic plans, board minutes, and marketing materials. They conducted individual meetings and deployed structured surveys with officials from member jurisdictions as well as private partners in order to determine perceptions of SVP's effectiveness. Members of the organization's Board of Directors were also interviewed. Funding, marketing, and staffing materials from each Regional Economic Development Organization in Virginia were reviewed as part of a comparative analysis. The project also involved a review of Regional Economic Development Organizations representing jurisdictions similar to the Shenandoah Valley from across the United States. Swartz then composed an organizational development plan and issued recommendations based on these prior streams of research and comparisons.

Mutually beneficial partnerships

The PCLP presents a win-win situation in that it benefits faculty and students as well as the community. Swartz says that helping an organization provides faculty the opportunity to apply theory to practice and keeps them current in their field. Also, students are able to develop more skills and gain real-world experiences. "Reciprocity—that's what a partnership is all about," says Swartz. "Seeing that partnership blossom is the most rewarding part of being head of the program."

Programs like the PCLP are what set JMU apart from other universities. "This program is innovative," says Swartz. "Other universities might provide internships, but there's no formal partnership linking community leaders with JMU faculty and students, and that makes us unique. We're at a place where engagement is truly valued. It will be great to see JMU become a national leader for engagement as we move forward under President Alger's leadership."

How your generosity helps our programs

BY CHARLES H. BLAKE

Donations to department-level accounts enable us to support critical-need areas that are not sufficiently funded in the general university budget. Your generosity helps us every year to finance enrichment activities for students and to recruit and retain a dynamic faculty. Here are several examples of how donations support faculty and students in all of our departmental programs.

Funds in the department's general account with the JMU Foundation (fund code 1000324) support several opportunities for our students. Each year, our department selects one political science major to serve a year-long fellowship with the Center for the Study of Presidency and Congress. Your donations support this CSPC Fellow's travel to two conferences in which they interact with policymakers, scholars, and students from across the country. In both 2011 and 2012, our department's CSPC Fellows had their research published at the end of their fellowship years.

Your donations also help us to send a JMU representative each year to the foreign affairs conferences and workshops held at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. Each delegate serves on a working group that develops recommendations regarding a contemporary concern for U.S. policymakers. Delegates work with scholars and policymakers in their working groups and meet other policymakers at additional events.

Donations support the Model UN Club created in 2009-2010 and the Moot Court team that was launched in 2011-2012 by paying their registration for competitions. Your donations also help fund the attendance of graduate students at public administration conferences and the participation of undergraduates at the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law. When possible, we also support student participation in the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Over each of the past few years, we have been able to raise roughly \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year in support of enrichment opportunities that extend our students' horizons. A further increase in donor support would enable us to assist more students. It would also position us to pay a higher percentage of students' expenses in these activities.

Each year, \$3,000 supports one young faculty member's professional development. Half of these funds are financed by the Mr. and Mrs. F. Claiborne Johnston Endowment. In summer 2011, Dr. Manal Jamal conducted preparatory research in the British national archives. She subsequently secured a \$10,000 external grant to extend her work on the evolution of the United Arab Emirates via field research in mid-2013. In summer 2012, Dr. Amanda Cleveland attended two national workshops that helped her conduct program evaluations as part of two federally funded collaborations with the local chapters of

Big Brothers Big Sisters and of the Boys and Girls Club; these external grants provided over \$1 million in support of local youth development—and also helped to fund graduate education in this and other departments at JMU.

The Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Distinguished Professorship funds two professional development projects each year for tenured faculty members. In 2011-2012, Dr. Kathleen Ferraiolo attended several national workshops on teaching U.S. government. In 2011-2012 and in 2012-2013, Dr. Ferraiolo was recognized as one of the best teachers in the College of Arts and Letters and in the General Education program. In the other Byrd Professorship last year, Dr. Howard Lubert conducted archival research on the visions of federalism held at the time of the Founding of the United States. This research helped him to receive a \$4,000 Edna Shaeffer Award in 2013.

As these examples show, support of faculty professional development can pay considerable dividends. For that reason, in 2010 we launched the campaign for an Endowment Honoring Retired Professors (fund code 1000705) to create a permanent source of funds with which to extend support for faculty members. This new endowment campaign aims to extend the work begun by the Johnston Endowment and the Byrd Professorships. With your generosity, we can make our aspirations for enhancing faculty support into a reality.

Moot court offers students opportunities for critical thinking

BY ELAINE CHISEK

Students represented JMU for this first time at the American Collegiate Moot Court Association's competition in November 2012. Moot court offers students the opportunity to learn about appellate advocacy by asking them to step into the role of an attorney presenting a case in its most favorable light to a panel of judges. The student attorney seeks to persuade the judges about the application of existing law to a hypothetical set of facts. Judges, in turn, examine the attorney's line of argument by propounding difficult questions about its ramifications. Preparing for the lively give and take of the moot court conversation helps students develop skills in public speaking, critical thinking, synthesis and research.

These skills, though anchored in the legal profession, can be transferred to other areas a student might wish to pursue upon graduation. Effectively presenting one's views and thoughtfully responding to probing questions is useful in a corporate boardroom, a government agency, a graduate school classroom, and in many other forums.

Preparation for the November competition began last spring. Through seminar-style workshops, the students were introduced to the legal system, the constitutional issues raised in the working problem, appellate advocacy, and the elements of an oral argument. This training, combined with practical advice and counsel from alumnae

and local attorneys, helped the students to appreciate the level of complexity involved in legal argumentation. Catherine Crooks Hill (JMU '89), from the Office of the Attorney General, who practices before the Virginia appellate courts, visited JMU and gave the students a presentation on how to fully prepare for questions from the bench. Volunteers from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar Association participated as judges during our practice sessions and brought their expertise to a critique of the teams' performance.

Students welcomed the challenges of the program. Preparation continues for the competition next fall.

FACULTY RESEARCH CORNER

Look in the cabinet

BY JOHN SCHERPEREEL AND MELINDA ADAMS

The United States is in good global company when it comes to the feminization of cabinets.

One of the beauties of working in the relatively new field of cabinet personnel dynamics is in seeing our relatively young assistants here at JMU ask the right questions and contribute ideas about how to answer them.

Over the past few years, the secretary of state role in the United States seems to have become “feminized.” Men led the State Department for more than two hundred years; since 1997, three of the State Department’s four chiefs (Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, and Hillary Rodham Clinton) have been women. And so we ask ourselves such questions as, “Is this feminization of the State Department an accident or does it represent a meaningful shift in the way political leaders think about diplomacy and government? How significant is the fact that the American cabinet, run exclusively by men throughout America’s vast history, is now com-

prised of 33 percent women? And once women take the reins of departmental power, a commodity most other countries call ‘ministerial power,’ do they lead their department in predictably different ways?”

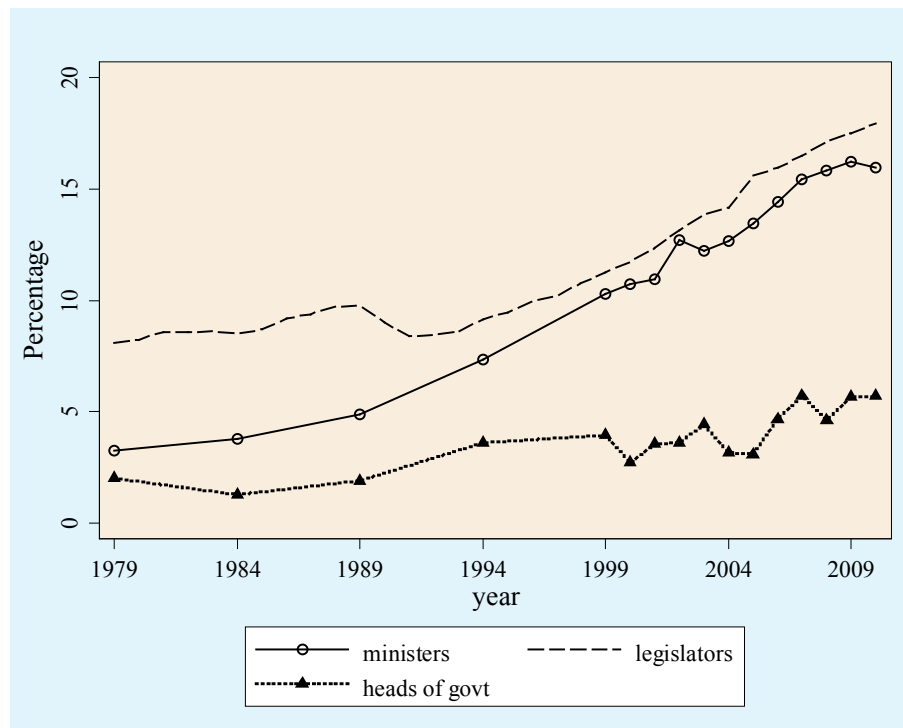
Suraj Jacob from JMU’s Department of Justice Studies has joined us in a project that seeks to answer these and similar questions. Together we have discovered that the United States is in good global company when it comes to the feminization of cabinets. Worldwide, women controlled 3.3 percent of ministerial positions in 1980 and 16 percent of those positions in 2011. Since women constitute more than 50 percent of the world’s population, we are still a long way from parity, but considering the global trajectory, particularly since the mid-1990s, women are gaining an increasing share of important political positions.

“Hold on!” you may be thinking. “I remember my Mark Twain. There are three

kinds of lies: lies, damned lies—and statistics.” Is this global rise in the ranks of female ministers being driven by big gains in some states while other states show no gains? Are the Denmark, Norway, and Sweden of the world masking goose eggs in places like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Yemen? The answer is simple: Yes ... and no. It is true that Northern European countries report some of the highest levels of female ministerial representation in the world, with 2011 statistics claiming 55 percent in Denmark, 50 percent in Norway and 50 percent in Sweden. But countries like Cape Verde (with female representation at 57 percent) and Bolivia (with 50 percent female representation) are right up there with them at the top of the global table. Each year fewer and fewer countries boast of (or admit to) having “woman-less” cabinets, and the numbers suggest that the Americas and Africa—yes, Africa—have established themselves over the last decade as clear world co-leaders alongside Europe.

Political scientists and sociologists have been interested in the political representation of women for years, often focusing on legislatures rather than cabinets. This focus is understandable given the fact that legislatures are, after all, the voice of the people. Also, in contrast to cabinet members who are hired and fired frequently, legislators are relatively easy to study since they usually serve out the full duration of their terms. When one considers that the average cabinet minister controls dramatically more symbolic as well as material resources than the average legislator, though, the focus shifts. If we want to understand the relationship between women and public power, we must focus on the most powerful public institutions.

As we have tackled this important challenge, it has been our pleasure to work with committed JMU undergraduate students as well as EUPS master’s students. In exchange for a few credits and some practical project experience, the students help with data management, coding and—most importantly—ideas.



Women’s political representation

GUEST ALUMNICOLUMN

A lesson plan with global consequences

BY SAMIER MANSUR ('07)

Beyond just a feel-good theory, could pluralist ethics be leveraged toward meeting Bangladesh's national development goals?

Seven years ago when I was a sophomore at JMU, I was challenged with the profound question, "Does your religion claim to be the one true path?" I was dumbfounded. This was part of a classroom experience in interfaith dialogue, and I was on a panel tasked with representing the philosophical tenets of Islam. Being the only Muslim on the Islam panel, I felt an added pressure to answer this question correctly, and yet how does one answer a question that has been a source of debate for thousands of years? After deep thought and awkward silence, I spoke from my heart: It is not a question of its being *the* path. It is *a* path. A path among many.

And it was in this classroom that I would first encounter the theory of pluralism, which holds that on equal terms, different faiths, ethnicities, and ideas can collaboratively engage one another in the construction of an open, inclusive, and socially progressive society. It was a powerful idea that would directly influence my work in Bangladesh, an emerging country in the heart of a politically, religiously, and economically fragmented South Asia.

When I moved to Bangladesh two years ago, I was immediately drawn to the narrative of Bangladesh as a multi-faith, multi-ethnic society. During the popular Hindu celebration of Durga Puja, for example, in the midst of dancing, singing and other colorful expressions of devotion and merriment, the city's loudspeaker echoed with, "Today we gather as Hindus and Muslims, together we stand as Bangladeshis, as one nation." There was strength in this pluralistic vision, and I began to wonder: Beyond just a feel-good theory, could pluralistic ethics be leveraged toward meeting Bangladesh's national development goals?

I began to see that this was possible, that pluralism could be an effective tool of nation-building. Through my work as a consultant evaluating the successes of USAID's Leaders of Influence program in Bangladesh, a project that trains thousands of religious leaders in major development themes,



This issue's guest alumni columnist Samier Mansur ('07) established the Bangladesh Pluralism Project to help foster a more open, inclusive, and globally engaged Bangladesh.

I witnessed Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians all seated together discussing creative ways to address local development concerns. While their external trappings were different, their purpose was the same: to lift the nation toward greater social and economic progress. In these inspiring workshops, I witnessed first-hand pluralism in action as an effective tool of nation-building.

This experience led me to establish the Bangladesh Pluralism Project where my goal was to help foster a more open, inclusive and globally engaged Bangladesh. I researched the ancient political and religious origins of the pluralist ethic in Bengal and found that what made Bengal such an early civilizational success was their historical insistence and evolution of pluralistic values, values that today can translate into strengthened democratic practices, enhanced economic development and trade, and domestic and regional stability. In short, my goal is to help foster a more open, inclusive, and globally engaged Bangladesh.

What I appreciate now about my education at JMU is the interdisciplinary approach that allows me to understand the world in a holistic way. Majoring in international relations with minors in economics

and religion helped prepare me to grasp the dual forces of globalization and identity that drive our world. This preparation would eventually become central to the Bangladesh Pluralism Project.

This past September I found myself on the prestigious stage of TEDx, a program designed to give communities, organizations, and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue at the local level. There I faced young change-makers, corporate officers, policy-makers, and ambassadors. My goal was to highlight Bengal's ancient tradition of pluralism and the promising future that pluralism holds for the nation. My message was received with strong enthusiasm, with the Embassy of Denmark social media broadcasting it as one of their favorites. Being on the stage represented the sprouting of a seed first planted during my years at JMU and the subsequent fulfillment of a personal dream. My recognition served as a resounding testament, not only to the future of a powerful idea, but also to the respected institution that nourished it.

A link to the TEDx Talk can be found at "Unveiling Bengal's Legacy of Greatness," www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRZ20kD3Wck. See more on the Bangladesh Pluralism Project at www.ThePluralismProject.org.

PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY PROGRAM

Fellowship leads to improved teaching skills

BY KATHLEEN FERRAILO



S Nicole Cathey is serving as a Preparing Future Faculty fellow at JMU where she is teaching African American Politics and U.S. Presidency. A native of Jackson, Miss., Cathey is currently a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Howard University. Her dissertation is titled, “Rethinking Civil Rights: Race, Religion and Politics in Washington, D.C.” Her dissertation examines the political climate of African-American churches in response to the passage of same-sex marriage legislation. Her study also focuses on social and organizational values, ideology, and human attitudes that are influential factors contributing to the racial, political, and religious divide on the question of same-sex marriage.

PFF is a national program established by the Council of Graduate Schools, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Science Foundation. The program at Howard University provides a professional devel-

opment opportunity for advanced doctoral students interested in pursuing a career in academia. Through PFF, doctoral students learn about faculty roles and responsibilities, research and scholarship, teaching, and service. PFF fellows gain direct knowledge of the diversity in institutions of higher education through a structured mentoring experience with partner institutions such as JMU. “I have become more prepared to face the job search process, and I am now confident that I will obtain an academic career that will be a perfect fit for me,” says Cathey about completion of the PFF program.

“Being a PFF fellow at James Madison University has been an awesome experience,” says Cathey. “I have been given an opportunity to improve my teaching skills, become aware of faculty roles and responsibilities, develop a network of professional colleagues, and establish a mentoring relationship. I feel more confident as an academic professional, and knowing what to expect when I begin my career has given me an added bonus.”

BORENSCHOLARS

Boren Scholarship recipients bridge barriers

BY ERIC GORTEN ('86, '09M)

Adam White jokes that he doesn't know enough Japanese to request a date with a native Japanese speaker, but by this summer that barrier should be bridged. That's because during the 2012-2013 academic year, White will be studying Japanese in Japan as a Boren scholar. White, a sophomore, was one of three JMU students to receive last year's Boren Scholarship, a prize awarded to International Affairs students and coordinated through the guidance of Prestigious Scholarships Coordinator Melinda Adams.

The Boren Scholarship provides \$20,000 to selected students for study in areas of the world that are critical to U.S. interests and underrepresented in study abroad programs, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Other scholarship recipients

are Victoria Berdini, who studied Zulu in South Africa last fall, and Andrew Reese, who is studying Swahili in Tanzania. White, Berdini and Reese are all enrolled in the JMU honors program and all majoring in International Affairs.

White is no stranger to Japan. He claims his interest in Asia began when he was a small child and became friends with a child from China. Later he developed friendships with Japanese students when he participated in a high school diplomats program that assembled 36 American students with 36 Japanese students for a 10-day cultural exchange program in Princeton, N.J. The following summer, White was accepted into the second year of the program and spent three weeks in Japan. He says he has kept in touch with many of his Japanese friends through Facebook.

While in Japan, White will take courses in Japanese politics and foreign policy in addition to intensive language courses. Then in the fall 2013 semester he will study in South Korea on a scholarship he earned from the International Network of Universities, an organization with close ties to JMU.

Hamburgers are what he misses most during his travels to Japan. “You can't get just a red, white, and blue juicy all-American burger. They have McDonald's, but it's just not the same,” he says. With or without burgers, White says his career goal is to work for the U.S. government, ideally engaging in service in East Asia. And as for his goal of becoming fluent in Japanese by next spring, White says, “I think I will be able not just to get a date, but keep the date and talk to her family.”

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

My summer with the Danish Demining Group

BY CHRIS MURGUIA ('12M)

Landmines and explosive remnants of war threaten millions of people around the globe.

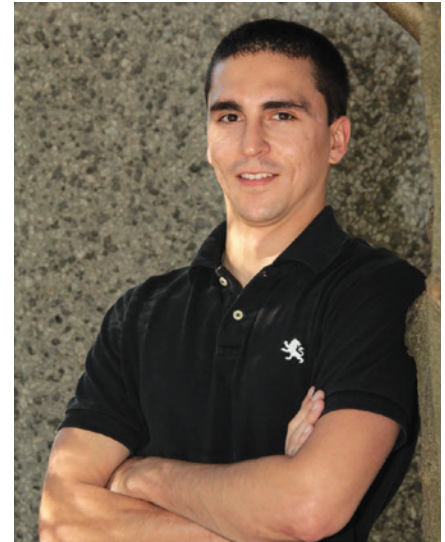
When Professor Amanda Cleveland offered her program evaluation class the opportunity to intern with a demining organization last spring, I jumped at it. This internship had been formed through a three-way partnership among the Danish Demining Group, JMU's MPA program, and the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery. As part of the internship application process, Cleveland required her students to complete an assignment for the DDG, proposing an evaluation of a mine action program. This assignment provided us with an opportunity to gain real-world experience in program evaluation by allowing us to analyze the problem of landmine contamination and devise a methodology for measuring the impacts of demining activities. At the end of the semester I was notified that I had received the internship position, and I left for South Sudan last June.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war threaten millions of people around the globe. They can remain active for decades after a conflict has ended. To combat these explosives, humanitarian demining organizations work tirelessly to remove them from the ground and to educate the public about their threats. My eight-week internship in Juba, South Sudan was with one of these organizations, the Danish Demining Group, a nongovernmental organization whose goal is to provide humanitarian mine action and armed violence reduction services across the globe. The DDG has field offices in countries such as Sri Lanka, Iraq,

and Somalia where they implement programs to remove and dispose of landmines and other explosives, raise awareness about the dangers of landmines, and reduce levels of armed violence.

During my time with DDG, I worked in their Armed Violence Reduction unit. This unit takes a holistic approach to solving the issue of armed violence by providing beneficiaries with conflict management skills, increasing security provision, and enhancing the ability of local institutions to control weapons proliferation. My primary responsibility as an intern was to conduct an evaluation of this unit's theory of change to determine how program managers thought their program would impact a specific problem. In particular, the DDG were interested in knowing whether their AVR projects were actually making an impact on armed violence and how these impacts were occurring.

Thanks to JMU's MPA program, I found myself prepared to perform the necessary monitoring and evaluation for DDG. Cleveland's course, for instance, gave me the knowledge and ability to develop a sound program evaluation design, prepared me for data collection through conducting interviews and organizing focus groups, and enabled me to analyze that data so that I could make actionable recommendations on how DDG could improve their AVR projects. Additionally, the MPA program's courses in international nongovernmental organizational management equipped me with the knowledge base to understand the political and economic environment of the



During his internship at the Danish Demining Group, Chris Murguia ('12M) used the skills he learned in his MPA courses to analyze the impact that the nonprofit organization's projects were having on armed violence reduction.

international humanitarian sector in which I was working.

JMU's MPA program continues its relationship with the DDG. Since returning from South Sudan, I have been working with Cleveland to carry out consulting work for the organization. This work involves developing new impact evaluation methodologies for DDG's demining projects in Iraq. We hope that our partnership will lead to continued research and internship opportunities for JMU students.

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PoliSci Faculty News & Notes



Dr. Marty Cohen

Dr. Marty Cohen published “A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands, and Nominations in American Politics” with Kathleen Bawn, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller in

the September 2012 issue of *Perspectives on Politics*.

Dr. Scott Hammond was the fall 2012 recipient of the JMU Faculty Emeriti Association’s Legacy Grant. This \$2,000 grant, directed at tenured, full-time faculty members, is for use in professional development with regard to teaching and research. Hammond was publicly recognized at the university-wide faculty meeting in August 2012. Selection was based on nomination letters, curriculum vitae, and other materials.



Dr. Scott Hammond

Dr. David A. Jones published an article, “The Polarizing Effect of a Partisan Workplace,” in the January 2013 issue of *PS*:

Political Science & Politics.

With Dr. Dennis Foster (Virginia Military Institute), **Dr. Jonathan Keller** published “Presidential Leadership Style and the Political Use of Force” in the October 2012 issue of *Political Psychology*.



Dr. Jonathan Keller

at the provost’s award luncheon in April. This recognition comes from a university-wide committee whose selection was based on nomination letters, letters of support, and curriculum vitae as well as other materials.



Dr. David Jones

received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Outreach and Engagement in spring 2012. He received a \$1,000 honorarium and public recognition

Dr. Nicholas Swartz received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Outreach and Engagement in spring 2012. He received a \$1,000 honorarium and public recognition



Dr. Nicholas Swartz

New departmental alumni board takes shape

In October 2011, 15 graduates of our department’s majors in political science, public policy & administration, and international affairs agreed to help our department form its first department-wide Alumni Board. Our department thanks the board members for their willingness to help us evaluate our current alumni programming and for their efforts to develop innovations that we can explore in the months and years to come.

DAN CAPRIO ('84)
FRANK CAVALIERE ('98)
AIMEE CIPICCHIO ('07)
TOM CULLIGAN ('05)
DANNIE DIEGO ('99)
MARY BETH GOODMAN ('95)
MEGAN HAUCK ('95)
RICHARD HORAN ('84)
CATHERINE CROOKS HILL ('89)
LUCY HUTCHINSON ('06)
DEUCE MARTINEZ ('88)
ROB OMBERG ('85)
LAUREN PESCE ('10)
MATT POLAK ('03)
SIERRA STANCZYK SHAW ('09)

NEW FACULTY



Fred Mayhew joined the JMU Department of Political Science in August 2012. Prior to coming to Harrisonburg, he taught in the Division of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University. Mayhew received a B.A. in political science from Dickinson College and holds a master’s degree in public administration and a Ph.D. in public administration from North Carolina State University. He taught in the private and nonprofit sectors before making his way back to the classroom where he has taught a range of public administration-related classes at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He enjoys teaching and continuing to learn about collaborative governance and intersectoral partnerships. His research examines public and private partnerships in the area of early childhood education as well as multi-tier systems for the delivery of services. His current interests include the nature of interorganizational relationships that are formed when governments contract out the provision of services.

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Jennifer A. Taylor is an assistant professor at JMU where her teaching and research interests include philanthropy, volunteerism, civil society, and military families. Prior to coming to JMU she worked as a chief development officer and management consultant in the nonprofit sector for 15 years, raising over \$10 million in operating funds in the arts, social services, and education. She earned a B.A. in art history from the University of South Carolina and a M.A. in public policy and administration-arts from the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. Taylor recently completed her doctoral studies in public administration and urban policy at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. She is a military spouse of a naval aviator who retired last year after 24 years of service in three wars. After numerous deployments and 14 relocations, Jennifer and her husband, Asa, made their last move to the Shenandoah Valley with their children, Amelia, Wyatt, and Stella.



Class Notes & Alumni News

97 Gary A. Marx moved to Atlanta in June of 2011 to begin work as the executive director of a national grass-roots public policy organization called the Faith & Freedom Coalition. Marx reports that the coalition recently sponsored a Sprint Cup NASCAR car in the Richmond race as part of a campaign to register two million new conservative people of faith.

00 John Cosgrove is the deputy team lead for SRA International's Cyber Exercise Solutions. He is currently developing cybersecurity exercises for government customers. To date, Cosgrove has developed in excess of 100 all-hazards exercises for international, federal, state, local, and private-sector customers in four countries and 29 states. This experience includes exercise support

for the U.S. Division of Homeland Security Offices of Cybersecurity and Communications, Infrastructure Protection, and the National Exercise Division, as well as the European Commission and the 2004 Athens Olympics.

01 Lateisha Garrett is the deputy director of marketing at Women for Women International where she manages a team of six marketers raising more than \$12 million from supporters who annually give less than \$5000 a year.

06 Laura Searfoss received her Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2011. Searfoss has accepted a municipal planning job in Eastern Carolina.

08 Lee Brooks is the legislative assistant/new media coordinator in the office of Congressman Duncan Hunter. Brooks works with budget issues, federal government affairs, and homeland security as well as judiciary, space, science, technology, tax, and trade issues.

09 Monica Plecker is the city/county planner and floodplain administrator for the city of Laurel in Southern Montana. She writes that she has "undertaken a 20-year update for the city's long-range and comprehensive plan to grow in a way that promotes the character of this community."

10 Sean Lowry began work as an analyst in public finance with the Congressional Research Service in July 2012.

Please share your email address so we may send you department updates. Return the card below with your complete contact information to Advancement Gifts and Records, 220 University Blvd., MSC 3603, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or share your current email address at www.jmu.edu/polisci/alumni.html.



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Thanks for thinking of Political Science! 70727

The price of peace

BY JEAN YOUNG KILBY

Marine Major Justin Constantine ('92) is patrolling the hot, sunbaked terrain near a village in Iraq when a sniper shoots him from behind. The bullet strikes him behind his left ear and explodes out of his face. Initially thought to be dead, Constantine is rescued by a courageous navy corpsman and evacuated to a military hospital in Germany. He emerges from a two-week coma to find himself in the navy hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, his face completely bandaged. With support from those closest to him, he finds the inner strength not only to survive, but also to help a fellow wounded warrior combat an acute depression, which Constantine knows can often lead to suicide.

Suicide among active-duty troops is a growing national concern with about one per day, according to reports by the Department of Defense, and the military has yet to find a solution to this epidemic. Jane Wiggins, director of JMU's Campus Suicide Prevention Center, uses the public health model to make sense of this perplexing and complex problem. "Community is a major protective factor against suicide," she says, noting that college students are less likely to commit suicide than are other people of the same age group who are not enrolled in college.

Professor Jennifer Taylor of JMU's political science department recognizes through her own experience as a military spouse the invisible wounds nursed by our troops. Currently a lead investigator on our nation's largest annual survey of military families, Taylor works

'Soldiers are traditionally taught not to acknowledge that they have a problem.'

- JUSTIN CONSTANTINE ('92)



Lieutenant Colonel Justin Constantine inspires students to overcome adversity at JMU's December commencement.

to identify and explore issues that face those who serve in the military. One recent finding, for example, reveals that 95 percent of military family members feel that the general public does not truly understand or appreciate their sacrifices.

"Suicide is complicated," Constantine says, "because soldiers are traditionally taught not to acknowledge that they have a problem." He hopes to help remedy this. Graduating from JMU with majors in political science and English, Constantine embarked on a series of illustrious careers encompassing law, the military, and public speaking before beginning his present work as an attorney for the FBI. Constantine now serves on the Board of Directors of a nonprofit called the Give an Hour Foundation, which provides critical mental health services to U.S. troops. With his work at the foundation, he hopes to help combat suicide in the military community. "Teamwork is critical for success," he concludes. "I hope to be part of an effort that heals the wounds."

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