

# UVA IN THE WORLD

2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS



UNIVERSITY  
of VIRGINIA



# UVA IN THE WORLD

## 2022-2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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LETTER FROM VICE PROVOST FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

## UVA GLOBAL: RETURN TO INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT



**Dear Friends of UVA Global,**

Welcome to UVA Global's third annual impact report, which tells the story of the University's full return to international engagement with gusto and resilience after two difficult years of isolation at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In these pages, you'll learn about a dramatic rebound in study abroad programming to a host of old and new locations, including a record-breaking number of international J-Term courses; continued strong international student enrollment; exciting new global research including undergraduates; booming growth in the already popular Global Studies major; and a rich array of programming that brought to Grounds world leaders, ambassadors, and brave democracy activists fighting against repressive regimes, who inspired us all.

Most importantly, UVA's return to the world this year laid the groundwork for an even more exciting year to come, which will feature increasing opportunities for global engagement. In October, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the UVA's longest-running study abroad program in Valencia, Spain with hundreds of alumni and senior University leadership. We will accelerate planning to expand the University's overseas presence on the model of our office in China to new locations including India, the United Kingdom, and Africa to help expand opportunities for our students, support our faculty abroad, recruit new students, and strengthen our alumni networks. With the arrival of a new Director for Global Initiatives, we will expand resources for faculty to expand global content in their classrooms, and establish a University-wide Global

Engagement Council to shape UVA's long-term strategy for stronger global engagement.


This report also gives special thanks and pays tribute to UVA Global's numerous friends in the parent and alumni community who kept the faith in global engagement over the past few difficult years and provided extraordinarily generous support that helped award new scholarships for study abroad, expand opportunities for globally oriented research, and hire remarkable new faculty to take our students and research to even higher levels. This fall, we will organize many parents and alumni from around the world into a Corps of Global Ambassadors to help guide and support our deepening engagement in the world in the years ahead.

In a time of deepening uncertainty and threats to global security, UVA faculty and students are more passionate and committed than ever before to making the world a better place through engagement, learning, scientifically grounded research, and mutual understanding. It is to them we dedicate this report, with a vow to do all we can to support them.

**GO GLOBAL!**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Mull". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

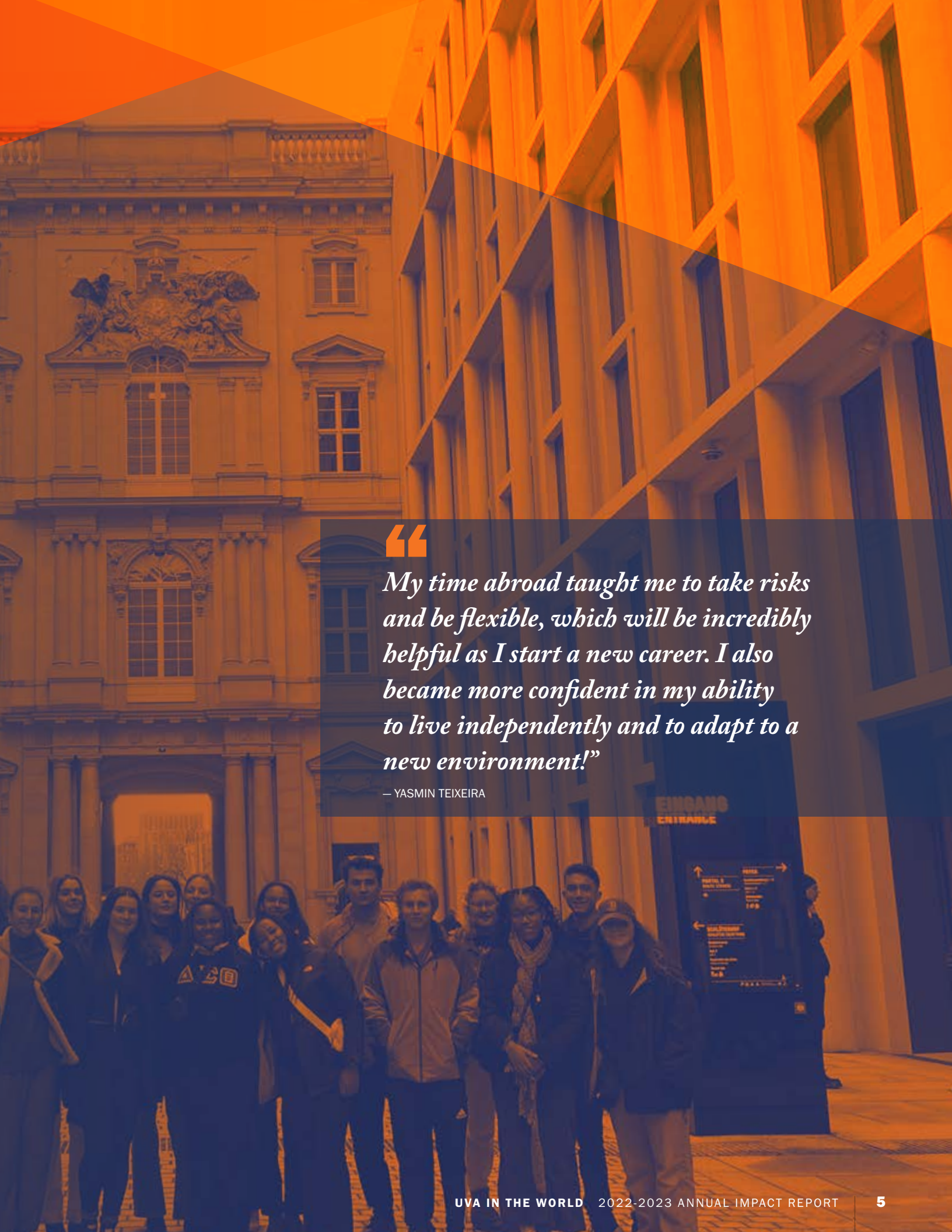
Stephen D. Mull



# FOCUS ON STUDENTS

- + **Education Abroad**
- + **International Students' Updates**
- + **Global Scholars Report**
- + **Global Internships**





“

*My time abroad taught me to take risks and be flexible, which will be incredibly helpful as I start a new career. I also became more confident in my ability to live independently and to adapt to a new environment!”*

— YASMIN TEIXEIRA

# NEW SUMMER PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS IN EDUCATION ABROAD

IN THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR:

# 2929

**UVA STUDENTS**  
traveled to

# 77

**COUNTRIES**  
and participated in

# 355

**PROGRAMS**  
around the world

*1344 students traveled this summer in UVA faculty-led study abroad programs which included several existing opportunities for students and many first-time programs.*

**The International Studies Office (ISO) also began awarding two new scholarships in the 2022-2023 academic year:**

The Cunningham Bicentennial Scholarship for International Study and the Stoplight Sisters Global Experience Scholarship were awarded to six students studying in Denmark, Lithuania, Singapore, and Spain. These scholarships are two of the more than a dozen awards the ISO administered for education abroad. For 2022-2023, the ISO awarded more than \$490,000 in scholarships.

## FIRST-TIME PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- + Greek Odyssey in the Anthropocene
- + Applied Organic Chemistry in the Netherlands
- + Muralism, Indigeneity, and Contemporary Art in Mexico
- + Additional internship programs in Paris and Buenos Aires
- + Hanoi's Hong River: Development, Climate, and Rights to the City in Vietnam
- + Sustainable Urban Design Challenges in Lithuania





## J-term Programs

Earlier this year, a record seventeen Education Abroad Programs took University of Virginia students to places as distant and varied as Argentina, Australia, Jordan, Kenya, and Vietnam, among others, for the first time since the pandemic disrupted travel in 2020.

J-Term, as it is popularly known, typically meets the last two weeks of winter break, and its programs are designed to foster interest in topics students might find useful as they build their careers. It concludes mid-January.

**According to the ISO, enrollment in J-Term education abroad programs was nearly 25% above the previous record for J-Term. The University continues to award the J-Term Grant to students who qualify on the basis of financial need. Fifty-eight students were awarded the grant in J-Term 2023.**

### UVA in Italy: Renaissance and Baroque Rome

This course, offered by Professor Lisa Reilly from UVA's Department of Architectural History, was introduced when J-term started 19 years ago. This course provided firsthand, direct knowledge of Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture through an intensive program of on-site visits in Rome.

**LISA REILLY:** The best way to see and understand art is to experience it in person, particularly in its original context. Teaching on site is the real highlight. In the classroom we are limited to slides, which first of all are flat and typically distort the scale. St. Peter's and a small painting can both look to be the same size on the screen. On site, we can look very closely at each object and site to understand the details, the materiality as well as the context for the work.

The students in the course were fabulous. We often started at 8:15 in the morning and were outside regardless of the temperature, but the students showed up on time and were enthusiastic about their visits.





## UVA in Vietnam: An Ecological-Economic Exploration

This was one of the newer courses in the J-term offered by Global Studies professor Spencer Phillips and Huong Ngo. The program began in Ho Chi Minh City (aka Saigon), with a stop in Dalat in the central highlands, and concluded in the capital city of Hanoi. Along the way students heard from businesses, NGOs, and policy leaders as well as farmers, foresters, entrepreneurs, and workers for whom sustainability issues are most salient.

*The University is fortunate that so many faculty answered the call to offer education abroad opportunities again,” said Dudley Doane, Director of ISO, adding that this interest in education abroad by students is truly exciting. “The students are ready to challenge themselves, take risks, and grow – both personally and intellectually.”*

**SPENCER PHILLIPS:** Hands-on learning experiences were definitely a highlight. After learning about the environmental legacy of the American War, we planted mangrove trees in the C n Gi Bioreserve, which had lost nearly all of its forests to chemical defoliants. Near Dalat, a guide from the K’ho ethnic minority group showed coffeemaking from tree to cup. Our students would never look at their cup from Grit or Starbucks the same way again.

This year, we also added a meal prepared by the students with ingredients purchased from the traditional “wet” market in Dalat to the program. Having the chance to not only eat like a local, but also to cook like a local was a lot of fun and gave a great sense of what it has taken all the other chefs, cooks, and hosts to put those other multi-course meals on our tables.

Vietnam is a fascinating, beautiful, and complex place. We barely scratched the surface in two weeks, but I think the students would agree that we saw, experienced, and learned a lot more in our 15-day traverse of the country than we would in a whole semester’s worth of on-Grounds courses about Vietnam.







## UVA in Jordan: Cultural Authenticity in a Modern Middle Eastern Society

This was the second time UVA in Jordan was offered to the students. Led by Bilal Humeidan from the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, the course took an interdisciplinary approach to the history, politics, economics, demography, and culture of Jordan.

**BILAL HUMEIDAN:** The highlights of the program were the site visits, such as Petra and Wadi Rum; meetings with government officials; and visiting a Jordanian family and interacting with Jordanians on a daily basis.

As a language educator, my main mission has been to teach the language and the culture of its speakers. This program gave me the opportunity to focus on all components of the culture of Jordan that I belong to, without having to worry about the language competencies of my students. The course also made students really interested in learning Arabic at UVA and perhaps majoring in Middle Eastern Studies, which I see as a sign of success for the program.

Planning is now underway for January Term 2024, with some exciting new opportunities, including:

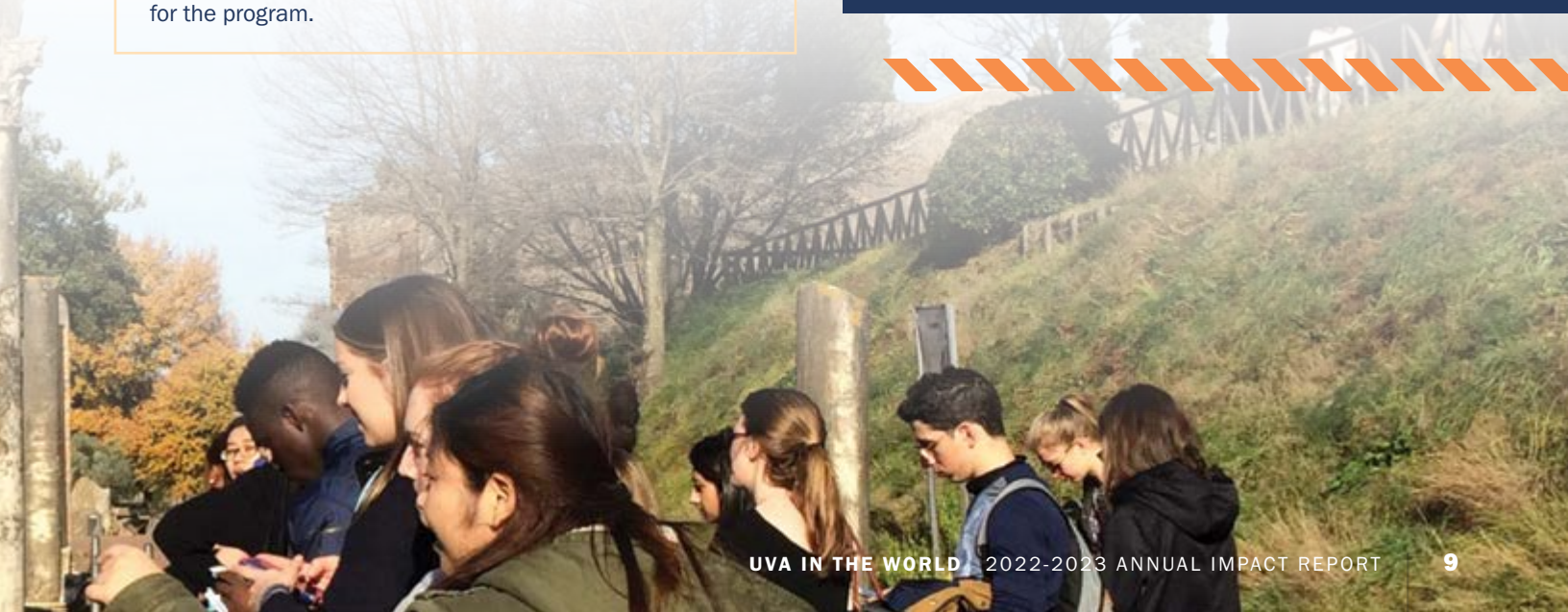
Engineering in Dubai

Business of Conservation in East Africa

Evolution, Ecology, and Ethics in Ecuador and the Galapagos

European Art and Culture in Prague

Sustainable Urbanism in India



## Applying Education Abroad Experiences to Future Endeavors

*A lot goes into preparing students for an education abroad experience, and then there is the time abroad itself. But the value of those experiences does not stop when a student comes home.*

In partnership with the UVA Career Center, ISO brought together students who participated in the Fall 2023 and January term 2023 education abroad programs for a returnee gathering.

Students had the opportunity to network with each other and reflect on their experiences abroad. Students explored resources to help them integrate their education abroad experiences into their professional stories. Alongside identifying skills learned or strengthened while participating in education abroad, students discussed ways to integrate their experiences abroad into resumes, cover letters, and interview answers.

Skills students honed abroad are not just for international careers. Independence, adaptability, and the ability to work effectively with those from a different culture or cultural background are valued traits across job sectors.



**YASMIN TEIXEIRA (CLAS '23)**, a fourth-year English major with a minor in Leadership and Public Policy, first studied abroad as a participant in UVA London First, a program for incoming first years and transfer students who begin their academic journey in London. She then returned to London to study theater in January 2023. Soon to graduate, Yasmin will be teaching for the next two years in the Teach for America program. “My time abroad taught me to take risks and be flexible,” she said, “which will be incredibly helpful as I start a new career. I also became more confident in my ability to live independently and to adapt to a new environment!”

**IN OTHER CASES, STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH FUTURE EDUCATION OR JOB OPPORTUNITIES.** As an undergraduate, Patrick Robinson (CLAS '19) studied abroad with the School for International Training (SIT) in Ecuador. After graduating from UVA with majors in Global Development Studies and Foreign Affairs, Patrick is now pursuing a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Arizona. In April 2023, he was awarded an [Alice Rowan Swanson Fellowship](#) to return to Ecuador to monitor water quality.



SCAN FOR THE FULL STORY



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

## 2986

**STUDENTS**

(including OPT) from

## 105

**COUNTRIES**

## 410

**SCHOLARS**

## 397

**FACULTY**

**FROM**

## 77

**COUNTRIES**







**THIS YEAR, THE STUDENTS' PROJECTS CLUSTERED  
AROUND THE FIVE THEMES:**

## Organizing the University for International Students

### *A New Cohort of International Student Citizen Leaders*

The International Student Citizen Leaders Fellowship was founded two years ago to strengthen and deepen the engagement of international students at UVA. International students are selected for the year-long fellowship based on an original proposed project to make UVA a place where international students can flourish. The fellowship gives students two sets of tools—contemplative practices and ethnographic methods—to raise their self-awareness and lead them to new discoveries about the University and the lives of those around them.

The fellowship is a collaboration between the International Student and Scholar Program and the Contemplative Sciences Center and is run by Caren Freeman with support from Ellen Graves.

**EASING INTO UVA:** A large number of projects centered around easing the transition of newly arriving international students.

*For example, Pablo Garcia Silva and Adi Raghavan endeavor to provide every incoming international student with an international student peer mentor. International students can help newly arriving students anticipate the linguistic and cultural challenges they will likely encounter and reassure them that these challenges are part of the adjustment process. The peer mentor project taps into this profound sense of camaraderie, mutual understanding, and shared knowledge that only international students can provide to one another.*

**AFFINITY GROUPS:** These projects sought to create groups and/or spaces that cohere around a particular identity or intersectional one, whether based on region, nationality, sexuality, or some other marker of difference.

*Farzana Ahmad, Oriane Guiziou-Lamour, and Nnenna Onyima created affinity groups/spaces for the Bangladeshi, African, and International LGBTQ+ communities, respectively.*

**SKILL BUILDING:** Skill building projects focused on making academic and/or social skills more accessible to international students.

*Lingyu Yang, for example, sought to demystify the art of networking and presenting scholarly research to a broader audience.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** These projects endeavored to bring inspiration, mentorship, and sense of purpose to students in the local public high schools.

*Student athletes Logan Kotter, Sam Bond, and Nora Grabcheski spent time at Monticello and Charlottesville High Schools helping aspiring student athletes become engaged citizen leaders.*

**ADVOCACY:** Advocacy projects mobilized students to support a cause.

*Hang Nguyen conducted conversational interviews with international students to learn more about their perceptions of and experiences with the honor code. She called for university-wide efforts to decrease international student entanglements with the honor system and increase their confidence and active engagement in building a community of trust on Grounds.*

As the culmination of their experience, fellows presented the results of their projects in a spring semester public forum where Vice Provost for Global Affairs Steve Mull gave the opening remarks. Also in attendance were Vice President Robyn Hadley, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Brie Gertler, and Vice Provost for Academic Outreach Louis Nelson.

In addition to their community building projects, fellows provided valuable input to offices around Grounds to help improve the international student experience. Their insights contributed to new ways of imagining orientation, emergency management procedures, and the honor system. Inspired and guided by feedback from the fellows, the International Students and Scholars Program team is radically revising the format, content, and timing of orientation. Rather than waiting until the first week of orientation to begin preparing them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, ISSP will instead stretch the timeline of orientation to begin *prior to arrival* (through a series of interactive summer Zoom sessions) and continue *post-orientation* with an ongoing series of offerings. Sid Singh's Citizen Leader Fellow project contributed to these orientation efforts, and fellows from 2022 and 2023 will participate as panelists on the summer Zoom sessions.

Freeman is also considering scaling up the fellowship for the future: "This year we commissioned Professor of Education and Co-Principal Investigator of the Student Flourishing Initiative to conduct an Institutional Review Board-approved qualitative study to document and assess the extent to which the fellowship helps international students (as well as student-athletes, who are also participants in the fellowship) feel a greater sense of belonging, personal agency, and purpose. If proven effective, the fellowship can be scaled up to include more international students and student athletes and possibly be extended to other groups on Grounds that have unique pressures and those interested in taking a contemplative and ethnographic approach to promoting greater flourishing at UVA."



## International Center Programming

This year the Lorna Sundberg International Center began to offer some of their popular programs on a more regular basis. They held a monthly current events discussion over pizza and drinks at the International Center and a pizza and games night every other month. They led recurring nature walks on nearby woods trails, yoga sessions, and seasonal arts and crafts activities. Their annual outdoor fall and spring picnics saw international students, scholars, family, and community members joining in outdoor games, music, and dancing. Other engaging recurring programs were in-person cooking classes and weekly English conversation sessions. Two individual program highlights were a trivia night with crepes, in collaboration with the French and Francophone Club, and a UVA history walking tour.

International Students and Scholars Program also continued to hold events for international students over breaks, collaborating with the Student Council over Thanksgiving break to host a social gathering at the Lorna Sundberg International Center. Over winter break, a crowd of students gathered to watch the World Cup 2022 Final together with food and drinks sponsored by the Office of Vice Provost for Global Affairs, the International Studies Office, Student Affairs, and the International Student Citizen Leaders Fellowship. Over the winter and the spring breaks, the ISSP and the Lorna Sundberg International Center hosted additional events for students that stayed local, including nature trail walks and art museum tours.



## Global Greeters Ease New International Students into UVA

*Global Greeters had a fun-filled year welcoming international students from around the world—including China, Germany, Brazil, and many other countries!*

Global Greeters prepared for in-person and virtual events throughout the summer. They revised a resource guide for new students and introduced students to academic, social and cultural resources.

As orientation week arrived, the greeters started with a training session held at the International Center, along with bonding through food and painting the Beta Bridge. Greeters welcomed about 100 students and families the next day through their partnership with UVA Student Council's AirBus service, running five different buses throughout the day from Washington Dulles International Airport to Grounds. Global



Greeters also volunteered at multiple events for the remainder of the week, including meeting students at the International Student Dinner hosted by UVA's Office of Engagement and running a community BBQ for students to meet other members of the community. Lastly, Global Greeters ran their two signature events: an insider's tour of Grounds on two different days and shopping trips to Barracks Road Shopping Center to help new students learn to use the transit service and collect all of their supplies before the beginning of the year. Global Greeters are excited to greet new international graduate and undergraduate students in August 2023!

## International Student Awards and Scholarships


*The International Studies Office (ISO) presented five awards at its annual graduation awards ceremony on May 19th.*

**ALEX YANG** from China was awarded the 2023 Lorna Sundberg International Scholarship for his academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to volunteerism. Yang will receive a B.A. in Global Studies with a Global Environments and Sustainability concentration and a minor in Economics.

- + Undergraduate Award for Leadership: Polly Wu
- + Undergraduate Award for Academic Excellence: Yitong Yu
- + Graduate Award for Leadership: Moeen Mostafavi
- + Graduate Award for Academic Excellence: Antik Mallick
- + The ISO Student of the Year: Adrian Mamaril







*“Going through the fellowship process multiple times has taught me valuable lessons in resilience, perseverance, and the importance of being proactive in seeking out opportunities. I applied to CBYX because the program can provide me with valuable language skills, cultural knowledge, and professional connections that can further my interest in immigration resettlement, both in Germany and globally.”*

— SEKUM APPIAH-OFORI, CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE (CBYX) FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

## GLOBAL SCHOLARS



*“A lot of major tech companies have their European headquarters in Dublin. There is a general tech ecosystem, but Ireland is also known for its rich culture and Dublin is in the center of that.”*

— ZACH YAHN, MITCHELL SCHOLAR

# FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**1 (of 12)  
George J.  
Mitchell Scholar**  
7th ever from UVA

**1  
Schwarzman  
Scholar**  
the 12th ever from UVA

**1 (of 18)  
Luce Scholar**  
13th ever from UVA

**1 Rotary Global  
Grant recipient**  
11th in 7 years

**1 Congress-  
Bundestag Youth  
Exchange (CBYX)**  
for Young Professionals Program  
recipient

**5 Benjamin  
A. Gilman  
Scholarship  
recipients**



## OFFICE of CITIZEN SCHOLAR DEVELOPMENT

*Fellowships • Undergraduate Research*

 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

### Global Fellowships

*The Office of Citizen Scholar Development, now the home of fellowships and undergraduate research at the University of Virginia, continues to support students in their development as they pursue global opportunities.*

The 2022-2023 academic year represented a move toward more normal operations for many of the global fellowships. Most UVA recipients were able to accept their fellowship without having to plan for COVID-related contingencies or cancellations. We continue to support recipients as they discern their next steps, and the spring has been full of wonderful news from those who did not receive or declined fellowships – from pursuing a graduate degree or research abroad to accepting international professional work.

This year also marked the return of the Luce Scholars Program, which provides a year of intensive language training and professional placement in a country in Asia. The Luce Scholars Program debuted a completely revamped recruitment and selection process, and one of our young alumni, Ibby Han, was selected as one of 18 2023-2024 Luce Scholars and will spend the year working in Taipei.

Rujula Upasani received the Rotary Global Grant to pursue her masters in infection and immunity at the University College London. That marks the seventh year in a row that at least one recipient has come from UVA, and all of those recipients started preparing their applications through the process of applying to the Fulbright or another global fellowship in the Office of Citizen Scholar Development.



**AS A RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S 18 FULBRIGHT RECIPIENTS**, the University of Virginia returned to the “Top-Producing” institutions list for the Fulbright US Student Award. That marks the sixth time UVA has been on that list, all within the last eight years. The Fulbright US Student Award continues to be one of the primary gateways for our students to be exposed to and pursue global fellowships. The students who begin the Fulbright process go on to receive many other fellowships every year, and this year was no different.





## Global Internships Forges Ahead, Building Programs in New Countries

*After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, UVA Global Internships was excited to resume offering several of its signature in-person academic internship programs in Summer 2022, in addition to continuing to facilitate the Virtual Global Internship program.*

The unit (part of the International Studies Office) ultimately facilitated four programs with a total of 50 students this past academic year. Students participating in the in-person programs, which were located in Belgium, Ireland, and Morocco, negotiated evolving COVID guidelines yet still managed to make the most of their immersive, individualized experiences of international work. These positive outcomes were due in large part to the strong relationships UVA Global Internships maintained with its on-the-ground partners, despite several years of challenges.

For program participants, the experience of working abroad opened their eyes in ways they could not have anticipated. William Clawson, a fourth-year Public Policy and Leadership major, participated in the UVA in Dublin:

Internship Placement Global program, in which students are matched with customized internships based on their interests. He explained, “When I left for Ireland, I really didn’t know what to expect. I knew that I would be working for the Peace and Neutrality Alliance, a nonprofit lobbying organization that promoted Irish neutrality, but I never thought that the work I would be doing, the people I’d meet, and the experiences I’d have would all be so fulfilling.” He became more aware of international perspectives, especially on America and American culture. As a policy student, it was especially enlightening for him to see how a country’s policies were affected by America’s international presence.

Keely Fitzsimmons, a fourth-year Economics and Global Studies Environments and Sustainability double major, participated in the long-standing UVA in Morocco: Participatory Development in Practice program, in which students work with an international development nonprofit, the High Atlas Foundation. She was deeply motivated by the people she worked with while abroad, “Every High Atlas Foundation employee inspired me with their unwavering passion about their work and how it connected to ‘building a better Morocco.’ I was also inspired by the diligence and



determination of the community leaders we met during field trips and conferences.” She mentioned that her interactions with Moroccan people, communities, and land challenged her notions of development work and resource scarcity in a profoundly personal manner.

Following the success of Summer 2022’s in-person programs, the director of UVA Global Internships, Ingrid Hakala, is looking ahead to exciting developments. “It has been energizing to envision the expansion of Global Internship offerings in the ‘post’-COVID period; we aim to facilitate student learning in important new locations that support the established wide-ranging applied learning opportunities in UVA’s Education Abroad portfolio,” she said.

This year will see the launch of two new in-person Global Internships programs in Summer 2023: UVA in Paris and UVA in Buenos Aires. To prepare for both programs, the office established on-the-ground partnerships, collaborated with academic departments, and began the process of customizing the Global Studies courses that accompany these programs to the French and Argentinian contexts.

The Virtual Global Internship program has also continued to thrive, matching UVA undergraduates with host organizations in Africa and South America for part-time remote internships.

*“Because of this program, I feel re-energized and inspired by my supervisors’ continuing enthusiasm for the issues that matter in the world, despite the struggles they face on a daily basis,” said Aditi Iyengar, a third-year Global Studies and Women and Gender Studies double major. She added that she plans to continue learning languages and hopes to study abroad this coming year. UVA Global Internships will continue to offer the Virtual Global Internship program in 2023, as it has proven to provide students with a valuable opportunity to extend their global learning from wherever they happen to be in the world.*





# NOTES FROM ACROSS GROUNDS

- + Law School
- + College A&S
- + School of Data Science
- + Darden School of Business
- + Architecture School





“

*The intense global awareness has been an invaluable benefit to academic success and to post-university life and work.”*

– MICHAEL LEVENSON



## School of Law students traveled around the world to conduct research, learn about law and legal practices abroad, and compete in international events.

*Eight students in the school's Human Rights Study Project traveled to Argentina to learn about human rights efforts in Latin America that have had a global impact.*

Accompanied by UVA Law Professor Camilo Sánchez, the students conducted field research on human rights initiatives after Argentina's Dirty War, which have included attempts to reunite families whose relatives were "disappeared" by the ruling junta, postwar truth commissions, and groundbreaking civil rights laws and trials.

Sánchez praised the Argentines' struggle to grapple with their past. "Their pioneering efforts for memory and justice have led the fight against oblivion and impunity for gross human rights violations around the world," he said. "We were excited about how the lessons learned by

pioneering generations of activists are being used by new movements that are channeling their activism into new rights-based agendas for social change."

Students in the International Human Rights Clinic, also led by Sánchez, attended the Organization of American States' (OAS) 52nd General Assembly in Lima, Peru, in October. As part of the clinic, students partnered with the OAS to conduct research on participation in the formal OAS Dialogue, a meeting between civil society organizations, social actors, and heads of member-state delegations.

"We were tasked with discovering barriers to participation that civil society organizations face at the OAS Dialogue and suggesting ways to improve the structure of the meeting to ensure all voices are heard equally," students Salwa Ahmad and Layla Khalid reported. "In recent years, this dialogue has become





more contentious as polarizing issues such as abortion, women's rights, and LGBTQ+ rights have dominated the discussions among certain coalitions."

A team of UVA Law students placed second in this year's International and European Tax Moot Court competition in Belgium, which attracts teams from around the world. UVA Law has quickly built a successful record in the meet, having won three times since first competing in 2017. The event allows law students to sharpen their oral and written argument skills on tax issues with global implications.

Members of the school's Black Law Students Association flew 20 hours to visit Cape Town, South Africa, during spring break to conduct and present legal research on international hate speech law to attorneys with the law

firm Norton Rose Fulbright. The students also learned about newer challenges South Africa is experiencing, including anti-immigrant violence and a wave of new refugees. "Obviously the research we were doing and the history we were learning about is real, but seeing people actively experiencing the uncertainty of, 'Will my family be torn apart?' stuck with me," said Laura-Louise Rice, a student on the trip.

Lillie J. Stephens will focus on human migration while interning at the Center for Justice and International Law in Costa Rica as a Monroe Leigh Fellow this summer. The school-sponsored Monroe Leigh Fellowship in International Law provides \$10,000 to one or more students to pursue a public international law project of their choosing.

**A team of UVA Law students placed second** in this year's International and European Tax Moot Court competition in Belgium, which attracts teams from around the world. UVA Law has quickly built a successful record in the meet, having won three times since first competing in 2017.



# UVA London First Introduces Incoming A&S Students to the World

*The University of Virginia has a long tradition of encouraging its students to explore different cultures through education abroad programs.*

Among these international programs, UVA London First is unique in that it offers incoming first-year students and new transfer students in the College of Arts & Sciences the opportunity to spend their opening fall semester in London. Beginning their UVA studies in one of the world's most global cities, London First Students build confidence and develop skills, so they hit the ground running in Charlottesville in the spring semester.

Yasmin Teixeira said that any concerns she had about not being on Grounds for her first semester faded quickly once she began the UVA London First program in the fall of 2019.

"My experience in London was invaluable. I wouldn't change a thing," said Teixeira, an English major who also completed a Leadership and Public Policy minor before graduating in May 2023. "I grew immensely as a person. I learned to be more independent and adapt to change. I would not have experienced this level of personal development if I had not studied abroad my first semester, and my closest friends are the people I studied abroad with."

UVA London First students take classes at Regent's University London, in the heart of central London's Royal Regent's Park. Students also are immersed in the diverse city through a variety of activities that encourage them to experience the cultural breadth of London.



Michael Levenson, UVA's William B. Christopher Professor of English and Director of UVA London First, organizes walking tours and excursions to theatre productions and museum exhibits, schedules public lectures, and arranges gatherings with young UVA alums working for Google and other companies with London offices.

The confidence that each year's cohort of London First students gains as they learn to navigate an international city, take classes with Regent's University students from around the world, and explore other parts of the United Kingdom and Europe on weekends is a tremendous advantage, according to Levenson. As they push themselves out of their comfort zones to explore the world around them, new goals and ambitions for their academic careers emerge.

"When they come to UVA in January, they arrive with academic confidence and unique real-world experience. They know what it's like to live in a European city, to meet students from around the globe, and to develop lasting friendships based on shared opportunity," Levenson said. "The intense global awareness has been an invaluable benefit to academic success and to post-university life and work."





## Data Science Researchers Tackle Emerging Issues

*In the last academic year, School of Data Science researchers have been hard at work offering expertise on emerging issues.*

Professor of Practice [Renée Cummings](#) is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Futures Council on Data Equity and an active speaker on the national and international stages for her work on ethical AI and other technologies. In the last year, she has been a featured speaker around the world, ranging from a presentation to North Carolina high school students to a roundtable discussion hosted at the European Union Parliament in Brussels as the EU discussed AI-focused legislation. Cummings has even made a television appearance – offering expert analysis in criminology and criminal psychology on iCrime with Elizabeth Vargas – and has been named to several “best of” lists, including the “Top 50 Innovators in AI” (named by World Summit AI) and “50 Influential Women” (named by Inspired Minds).



Assistant Professor of Data Science [Jess Reia](#) attended the United Nations World Data Forum 2023 in Hangzhou, China to discuss ethical data practices for nighttime governance. According to Reia, “it was a convergence of Internet Governance Forum and World Urban Forum” experts, and sessions focused on citizen-generated data.

**Experts from over 120 countries, 1,000+ in-person attendees, and 10,000+ people joined remotely.**

**Th forum resulted in the Hangzhou Declaration:** Accelerating Progress in the Implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) for Sustainable Development Data.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



## Down Under, Executive MBA Students “Put Their Money Where Their Heart Is”

*When Darden School of Business Executive MBA students reached Australia with Professor Shane Dikolli, they knew intellectually about the challenges indigenous Australians—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—faced. But data on poverty, educational attainment, and incarceration rates only came to life when they understood what one organization was doing about it.*

### THAT ORGANIZATION WAS THE CLONTARF FOUNDATION.

“We understood factually,” said Katelyn Sloan (EMBA '23), “but to see it was a totally different experience. They just completely wrapped these boys up into this support system.”

Clontarf exists to help young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men access paths to success long denied to them in Australian society. Dikolli, passionate

like so many Australians about his native land, saw the powerful impact Clontarf was having. And he saw a nation increasingly committed to making itself whole by including its original inhabitants. It was a perfect learning opportunity for his students.

A teacher, Clontarf founder Gerard Neesham, based his program on a simple insight. Indigenous Australian boys had a high propensity to drop out of school, radically diminishing their chances for a secure and fulfilling life. But an academy purpose-built to serve them could offer the foundation for the reverse: an exponential increase in life's opportunities.

Today, there are 148 Clontarf Academies. More than 560 staff serve more than 11,500 participants all over the country. Graduation rates for these boys have skyrocketed, and success has become the norm, rather than the exception.

Clontarf's Ben Jones told Darden students the story, but not alone. With him were three of the boys in the





program, offering first-person accounts. Inspired, Sloan and her EMBA classmates were so moved by the work being done that they arranged a simple fundraising campaign to provide the yearly tuition for one Australian boy, likely changing his life forever.

“We knew it would be a great legacy to leave for Shane — and for us, as visitors to Australia,” says Sloan.

For Darden students, Clontarf was a lesson in awareness, commitment, and leadership: awareness of the complete Australia and the value of all its people; commitment to a clear purpose; and the leadership required to build something meaningful.

Dikolli received a different benefit: seeing Australia anew, through the eyes of his students. “Clontarf was, for me, the biggest moment of the trip — when I saw the realization on their faces that this was really impactful. That was the moment I knew the whole trip was worth it. They ran on the beach. They played rugby with the boys. They opened their hearts, so they opened their minds, and they learned a lot.”

**“It was a small taste of the impact we can have as leaders,” says Sloan, “to see true leadership and true heart in action.”**





## An Immersive Program to Study Dwelling, Land, and Water Relationships

Last fall Professor William Sherman led 15 students, across both undergraduate and graduate programs, to participate in the most recent iteration of the program. There, they engaged with the city as an urban and cultural laboratory to study the centuries-old relationship among dwelling, land, and water.

Through lectures, site visits, independent research and a design studio, students focused on strategies for environmental resilience grounded in an understanding of landscape processes, the multiple histories embodied in the cities, buildings and art, and the cultural structures that enable communal life.

“Venice offers a chance to study the ever increasing risks posed to coastal urban centers,” said Ali Fard, Assistant Professor in Architecture and co-instructor of the program. “We, students and faculty alike, explore how well-considered design analyses and interventions, from urban and infrastructural strategies to detailed building and landscape proposals, could imagine more resilient forms of inhabitation.” Students designed proposals that focused on the connection between the historic core of Venice and its surrounding lagoon, imagining ways to enhance the unique ecological and urban interdependencies that are essential to the experience of the city.

Their work is informed by the rich historical and contemporary context of buildings, public spaces, infrastructure, landscapes, and art that comprise the evolving city of Venice. Students learn from local scholars, historians, and designers as they study the Piazza San Marco, Arsenale, Teatro Olimpico, the Palladio Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, the Biennale Gardens, among many other sites and structures.

The semester-long educational experience starts with six weeks of immersion abroad in Venice and the surrounding Veneto region, and the students finish the term in residence in Charlottesville. This multi-faceted, multi-location program allows students, often close to graduation, a chance to not only benefit from learning through travel and global experience, but also to not miss out on key opportunities for students on Grounds.

*The architecture, landscape architecture, history, and urban planning of Venice and Vicenza are deeply intertwined in ways that the UVA School of Architecture is uniquely positioned to explore through its strong and lasting connections in the region. With a dedicated faculty and a rapidly growing research network, the school continues to extend UVA’s global reach and identity abroad.*



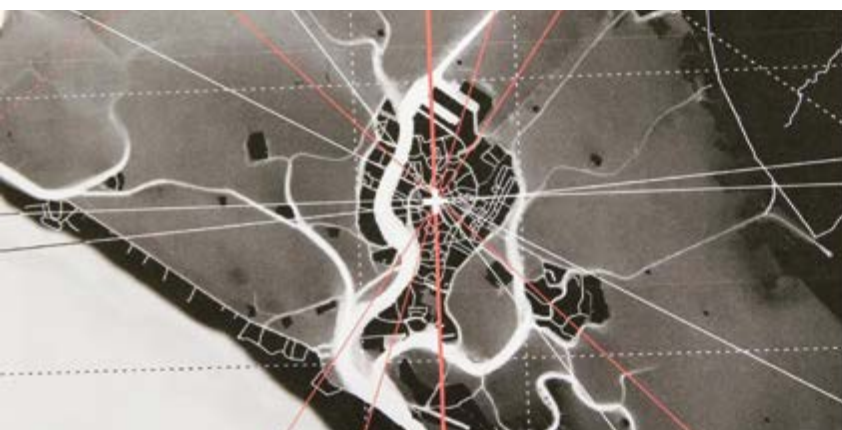


“

Nearly five decades ago in 1975, Professor Mario di Valmarana (1929-2010) established the University of Virginia’s first official international study abroad program — the **Vicenza** program at the School of Architecture. Four years later, he founded the **Venice Program** specifically for graduate architecture students. Valmarana envisioned these study-abroad programs as an “extension of the University in another realm,” in which students could immerse themselves in the culture, art and architecture of his native region of Italy, known as the Veneto.

Venice is a city shaped by the constant negotiation between human ingenuity and forces far greater than itself.

— PROFESSOR WILLIAM SHERMAN, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS IN VENICE AND THE VENETO







# PROGRAMMING AND INITIATIVES

- + **Global Programming**
- + **Languages and Working with Diverse Communities**
- + **Launch of India Initiative**
- + **Update from UVA's China Office**
- + **Reconnecting With Asia**
- + **New Round of CGHE Professorships**
- + **Offerings from Global Studies**



“

*This is the year of India for us, we have huge room to grow not only in recruiting talented undergraduate and graduate students, but in expanding research partnerships and establishing education abroad opportunity, including internships, for UVA students.”*

— AMBASSADOR STEPHEN D. MULL



## World Leaders and Experts Visit Grounds

*This year's global programming saw visits and virtual conversations by important political figures and world leaders, which included Malcolm Turnbull, former Prime Minister of Australia; Lucy Turnbull, former Lord Mayor of Sydney; Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France to the United States; Nguyen Quoc Dzong, Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States; and UVA Law alumnus Mark F. Brzezinski, Ambassador of the United States to Poland.*

In a vibrant conversation on democracy by the Turnbells, moderated by Vice Provost for Global Affairs Steve Mull, former Prime Minister Turnbull emphasized that in order to nourish democracy we need to focus on disseminating facts to counter the spread of fake news.

Ambassador Etienne sustained France's commitment to unity and solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia's "illegal, unjustified, and brutal military aggression" there. Ambassador Brzezinski also focused on Ukraine, discussing the U.S. perspective of Poland's response to the war. Ambassador Dzong spoke about the relationship between Vietnam and the U.S. and issues impacting Vietnam and the region.

Office of Global Affairs was thrilled to participate in two Democracy Dialogues events this academic year. Ambassador Steve Mull moderated a panel about "The Worldwide Struggle for Democracy," which included activists like Evan Mawarire, Srdja Popovic, Myo Yan Naung Thein, and Jhanisse Vaca-Daza while the second one hosted Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull.

The Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation Brown Bag Lunch Series also came back for a second year, featuring

a selection of this year's Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation grant awardees. Speakers for this year included Jack Chen (East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) and Dan Willingham (Psychology), Anastasia Dakouri-Hild (Art History), Mariana Teles and Hudson Golino (Psychology), and Steve Parks (English), as well as 10 graduate students from disciplines ranging from Architecture to Biology to Music.

A main theme that emerged throughout the programming was the necessity and strategies for protecting democracy in the face of global threats, such as mis- and disinformation and warfare. Politicians and scholars reflected on a growing concern for the global stability of democratic rule. Other themes included reflections on learning and processing information (whether through techniques for reading or newly developed virtual cognitive interventions), new technologies in archaeology and particularly the use of lidar, and the essential consideration of "place" in research from Landscape Architecture to Literature. Through these conversations, UVA has once again proved itself to be a hub for cutting-edge research and essential dialogue on questions of global scale.





## Start of a New Decade of Innovative Language Research and Teaching

*The Institute of World Languages (IWL) brings world languages to the forefront of the University of Virginia's educational mission and promotes innovative collaboration for research, instruction, and outreach activities in languages and cultures across departments and disciplines.*

It aims to prepare students to be linguistically proficient, culturally competent, and thoughtful global citizens. In 2022-2023, 4,045 undergraduate students were enrolled in classes in 23 world languages at UVA across 8 language-affiliated departments and the American Sign Language Program. Students greatly benefit from innovative curricula and pedagogy that have made impactful and life-changing experiences for learners. All these are made possible by a group of passionate and extraordinary faculty.

This fall, Malagasy will be newly added as the 24th world language at UVA. It will be taught by faculty at Duke University through the Consortium for Less Commonly Taught Languages. The consortium involves three institutions—UVA, Duke University, and Vanderbilt University and currently offers three languages: Swahili (UVA), Haitian Creole (Duke University), and K'iche' (Vanderbilt University). Instructors use immersive real-time online systems to deliver effective instruction that allows course exchange across the three campuses.

Each language is taught at the host institution and made available to students at the other two participating universities.

On March 2, 2023, the Institute of World Languages hosted an event to celebrate 10 years of collaboration for the consortium on Grounds. Duke and Vanderbilt faculty and administrators visited UVA to celebrate, reconnect, and reflect on a decade of collaboration and to generate visionary future plans.

Different parties met with University leaders to discuss seamless coordination for academic and administrative matters in the future. A series of language-specific activities and events took place within four departments on Grounds: Carter Woodson Institute (Swahili), French (Haitian Creole), Middle Eastern Languages and South Asian Languages and Cultures (Turkish), and Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese (K'iche'). An information session on Shared Consortium for Less Commonly Taught Languages was held at UVA along with faculty presentations.

After the presentations, faculty and students interacted and connected at different stations to explore the uniqueness of each less commonly taught language.



SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE

**On May 5, 2023, IWL held an annual faculty retreat to reflect, reconnect, and recharge, as well as celebrate the 10-year anniversary and discuss plans to move forward together.**

*Drawing from examples in his diplomatic career, Ambassador Mull made the argument that world language instruction is more essential than ever for our students' complete intellectual development and professional success in an increasingly interconnected world. Language instruction is undoubtedly necessary in an era of faster-than-ever advances in artificial intelligence.*



## New India Initiative Ignites Conversations Around Student and Faculty Engagement

*Vice Provost for Global Affairs Ambassador Steve Mull led a couple of UVA delegations to India last academic year to strengthen the University's presence and engagement.*

In addition to visiting UVA's leading partner institution in India, O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) near New Delhi, the delegations also met with industry and government leaders, visited the Indiana University and Harvard University centers, met with leaders of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, participated in engagements with the growing UVA alumni communities, and attended an international conference on Indian higher education in Goa.

Along with Mull, the delegations have included Nicole Jenkins, Dean of McIntire School of Commerce, Dudley Doane, Director of International Studies Office; Professor Pankaj Gupta, who leads India-focused studios for Architecture School students; Phil Trella, Associate Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, Judi Byers, Director of Admissions at McIntire School of Commerce; Darci Spuck, Director of Advancement at McIntire School of Commerce; and Ingrid Hakala, Director of the University's Global Internship Program.

Mull said the visits to India are an important next step in intensifying the University's engagement in India, the world's largest democracy, and soon to be its most populous nation. "This is the year of India for us," he said, as he identified a strategic plan to expand study abroad and exchange opportunities for UVA students, kickstart collaborative research in advancing key UVA priorities in the study of democracy and environmental sustainability with JGU and other potential partners, and support ambitious recruitment efforts, particularly among prospective graduate students. Mull noted that the possibility of establishing a permanent UVA office in India to advance and support all of these efforts is high on his agenda.

Dean Jenkins mentioned that in the next year, the McIntire School of Commerce will resume global courses in India. "As we reengage post-COVID, we look forward to expanding our existing footprint and forging new and exciting partnerships with Indian universities and organizations," she said.

Gupta, who has been leading the Yamuna River project in India during the past decade, was also enthusiastic about long-term engagement and partnership with





Indian institutions. “The new collaboration with Jindal may enable a greater cross-pollination among some of our research initiatives, and perhaps offer an anchor-center for advancing and expanding the research and academic projects that are already underway,” he said. “Issues of social justice, environmental degradation, climate change, and democratic values are all increasingly urgent areas of focus— both in the U.S. at UVA, and in India.”

Similarly, the International Studies Office is hoping to offer J-Term programs in India next academic year. “We are also planning to launch a summer global internship program in India in 2024 and looking forward to welcoming degree-seeking students from India to UVA in the years ahead,” added Doane.

## Passport Drive continues to grow

The Passport Drive provides an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the greater Charlottesville community to submit their passport applications during Global Week.

Annually, USPS Passport Officials support this event by coming to Grounds, reviewing, and processing passport applications, and answering applicants’ questions. An on-site photographer takes and prints passport-sized photos. Since the program restarted after COVID-19 in 2021, it has continued to grow. The Office of Vice Provost for Global Affairs has funded the passport application process for undergraduate students with financial need.

From 38 applications in 2021, the drive grew to serve **59 APPLICATIONS IN 2022, 26 of which were Passport Drive Scholarship recipients.**





# REPRESENTING UVA AT KEY EVENTS IN CHINA





*One of the highlights for the UVA China Office Director, Justin O'Jack, this academic year was participating in the U.S.-China University Dialogue, held on the sidelines of the 2022 Annual International Forum on Higher Education, which was hosted by the China Association of Higher Education in Wuhan.*

"Fifteen university leaders and government officials from the U.S. and China met in Wuhan during a closed-door session to discuss the obstacles, impact, and feasibility of international mobility and the challenges, prospects, and pathways forward for teaching and research collaboration in the post-pandemic era," O'Jack reported. He also participated in the main forum, which was livestreamed to nearly nine million participants worldwide, and spoke about mutual recognition of academic credit and degrees at a symposium on the sustainable development of higher education, cohosted by UNESCO.

The UVA China Office supported 42 undergraduate and graduate admissions events in a dozen cities, including Beijing, Fuzhou, Hangzhou, Kunming, Nanjing, Ningbo, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Zhuhai in China; Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam; Tokyo, Japan; and online, impacting over 6,700 prospective students and their parents (up 33 percent from last year).

In addition, the UVA China Office supported 20 alumni engagement events (up 82 percent from last year) in Beijing, Seoul, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and online, impacting over 700 UVA alumni. The Office also supported 44 career services events online, impacting over 3,000 participants, and 10 public events.

O'Jack was also one of 50 expatriates from 13 countries in 2022 honored by the Shanghai Municipal Government with the Magnolia Silver Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the city's development and international exchange.

**DURING THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR, the UVA China Office published over 300 articles and videos to over 17,500 followers on the University's WeChat, Weibo, and other social media accounts.** These posts received more than 8,500 interactions and over 3 million page views (up 184 percent from last year). The most viewed article is about O'Jack sharing best practices in campus accessibility with the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress legislative committee for a draft law to create a barrier-free city, which received over 354,000 views. The most viewed video is President Ryan's Happy 2023 Lunar New Year message, which received over 83,000 views.



## Connecting with Students, Alumni and Academic Partners in Asia

The University of Virginia led a delegation to Asia in May 2023 under the leadership of Vice Provost for Global Affairs Ambassador Stephen Mull. The delegation travelled to Taipei, Shanghai, Beijing, and Singapore to assess prospects for further development of the University's academic engagement in the region, following a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in 2020.

Ambassador Mull also met with newly admitted students, their families, as well as UVA alumni.

"Now that the world is moving beyond COVID, I am eager to get to work on reviving the University of Virginia's international partnerships in Asia in promoting student exchanges and research collaboration on some of the pressing challenges facing the world today," Mull said.



## Building bridges at UVA and Beyond

*The Center for American English Language and Culture (CAELC) provides academic English support to international students in the form of English language assessments, writing and oral English courses, ESL tutors at the UVA Writing Center, and leadership on English language and cultural issues at UVA. In addition, CAELC has been engaged in volunteer efforts that build bridges between UVA students and the larger multilingual community.*

### Volunteers with International Students, Staff, and Scholars (VISAS)

VISAS placed 405 UVA student volunteers in English language partnership and support roles throughout UVA in the fall of 2022 and 334 student volunteers (with 85 on the waitlist) in the spring of 2023. This was the highest level of UVA student participation since the program began in 1999 with six undergraduate volunteers. UVA students worked throughout the university with hundreds of international students, staff, and scholars in various programs.

### VISAS Student Interns and Global Leadership

VISAS employed 10 undergraduate interns for 2022-23, who trained with the Director and Program Assistant. Throughout the year, they learned leadership, intercultural, professional, and global competence skills through weekly meetings, office hours, and a three-day intensive internship training in August. These interns are critical to the success of the program, as they help coordinate VISAS' six programs.

### VISAS Café – Friendships, Food, and Fun

Every week this past year, VISAS volunteers hosted a discussion group with a topic of intercultural interest, international snacks, and other planned activities. Some of the topics covered were technology, multilingualism, education, celebrations, humor, silly debates, and food, as well as semi-structured discussions with conversation questions and other activities. This year the VISAS Café Intern and volunteer conversation facilitators added a scavenger hunt, international potluck, and an AI vs. human poetry competition.

### The Workplace English Program – UVA Students and International Employees

This program, which provides a rare opportunity for UVA students and UVA international custodial employees to work together, experienced an almost 60 percent increase in participation in the past year, from 37 student-employee pairs in 2021-22 to 59 pairs in 2022-23. In the Workplace Program, student VISAS volunteers work with international immigrant and refugee employees in UVA facilities. VISAS volunteers help personalize study for custodial employees seeking to improve their English and literacy skills as the VISAS Director and Interns provide curricular, assessment, and teaching support on-site. This past year VISAS was finally able to add a class for evening shift employees on North Grounds. Due to demand, VISAS will continue last year's pilot Summer Workplace Program this year with student instructional assistants. Training and support are provided for all.

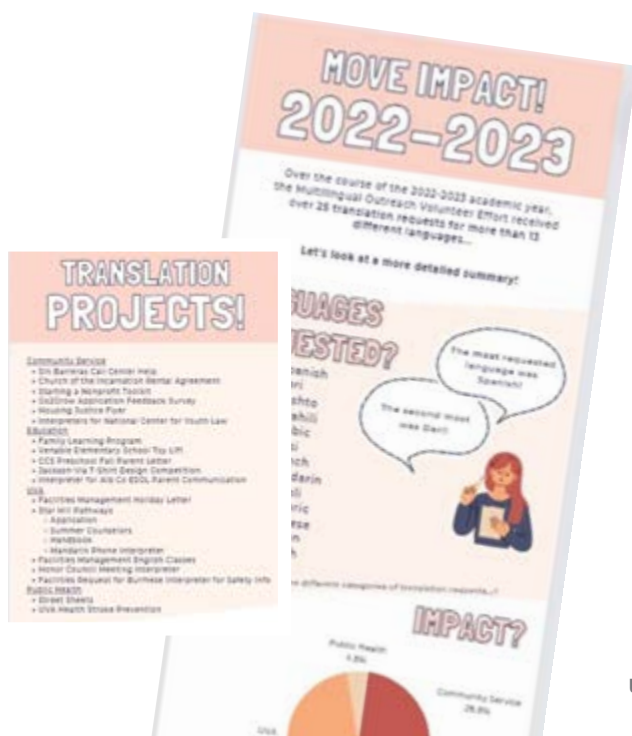




## The MOVE Program

In response to the COVID pandemic during the spring of 2020, CAELC's Workplace ESL Program identified a gaping information-equity gap existing in our local community for access to pandemic resources. Thus began the development of the Multilingual Outreach Volunteer Effort (MOVE). Over the past three years CAELC has built MOVE into a free translating and interpreting program that benefits UVA's immigrant and refugee community while providing a platform for multilingual students and faculty to use and develop their linguistic resources.

This year the MOVE Program has grown to 548 multilingual students, staff, and faculty translators who speak 55 languages. These volunteers provide language services to speakers of other languages in the UVA and greater Charlottesville communities. Volunteers engage with the community at large and use and further develop their own multilingual skills while immigrants and refugees in the community gain access to information about critical resources available to them, such as healthcare, childcare services, and nutrition services.



## Cville Tulips – English Programming with Refugee Women

In 2021, the U.S. departure from Afghanistan sent thousands of people fleeing to find stability in the U.S. With Charlottesville's position as a refugee resettlement city, the small city's receiving infrastructure was overwhelmed. Due to religious beliefs around gender segregation, as well as a lack of transportation and childcare, many Afghan women relocated to Charlottesville found themselves increasingly isolated and unable to take part in community resources. Initially, The Sound Justice Lab (established by UVA's Democracy Initiative) designed Cville Tulips to bring women together to create community around art and wellness while providing transportation and youth programming, but soon it became apparent that another factor isolating the women was their lack of access to English language learning.

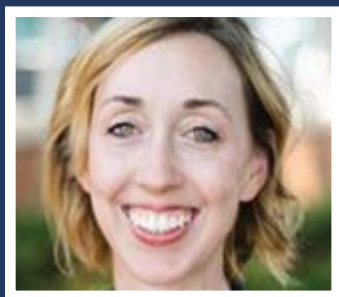
In February 2023, along with Bonnie Gordon, Co-Director of the Sound Justice Lab, Liz Wittner of CAELC helped secure a \$150,000 Jefferson Trust grant, which enabled Cville Tulips to develop an English language and literacy program. The new English Program at Cville Tulips now provides the first learning opportunities to many of these women, who did not have the chance to attend school in their home country and who are learning to read for the first time. Modeled after the VISAS Workplace English Program, CAELC offers training and supervision to UVA students who serve as "English Circle Leaders" and "English partners." The presence of the students allows us to differentiate instruction to a very diverse group of women who speak Dari and Pashto and who come with varied exposure to literacy and English. For the UVA students, the program provides a window into another culture, experience teaching and learning, and a vast shift of perspective.

Cville Tulips engaged over 80 women and children throughout the fall and spring of the past year, with many of the women involved in the English program.

## Next round of awards support faculty public health research in Cambodia, Kenya

*The University of Virginia Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE) announced awards for two UVA professors who address key challenges to the health and well-being of individuals around the world. The recipients of the CGHE's 2022 Richard and Nancy Guerrant Global Health Equity Professor Award will work on mental health in Cambodia and disability rights in Kenya.*

**The awardees receiving funding in the amount of \$10,000 per year for three years are:**



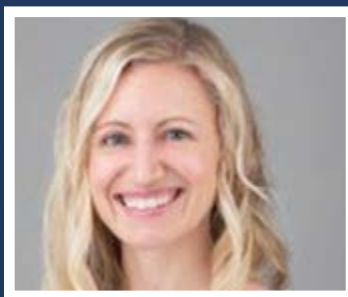
### AMANDA NGUYEN

Assistant Professor,  
School of Education and Human Development

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**“Pilot Evaluation of the Livelihoods Recovery Program for Rural Cambodians with Serious Mental Illness.”**

*“Our team has already held a planning meeting in Phnom Penh to collaboratively refine the intervention model, develop an intervention Theory of Change, and fully flesh out and refine a detailed study protocol. This meeting was critical in providing the UVA team a better understanding of the context, need, and services provided by MMH Cambodia and also facilitated the development of a strong collegiality among members of the team. As a result of this meeting, we have refined our project activities and timeline to better align with the regular program cycle while supporting formative research that will be led by two Cambodian master’s students (who will carry out these activities toward completion of their degree requirements). We are currently preparing all study materials and anticipate obtaining IRB approval soon to support initial data collection and analysis over the summer, with plans for a UVA student, Lucie Rutherford, to travel to Cambodia in July to work collaboratively with our team in the field.”*



### KATHRYN QUISSELL, PHD, MSC, MPH,

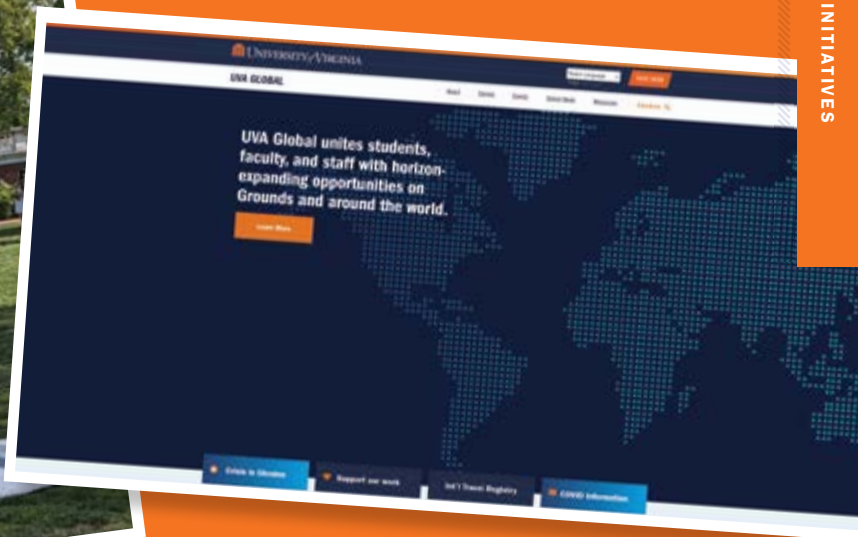
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Public Health Sciences,

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**Advancing Equity for Children with Disabilities in Rural Kenya/KENYA**

*The Guerrant Award is helping Kuhenza to support additional data collectors and a data entry specialist in the collection of this data. “As of January 2023, I am also beginning to put together my UVA team of students, which includes one third year GPH major and one third year medical student. I have been having meetings with other researchers through AMPATH and around UVA who are working on healthcare for children with disabilities – so this award is already spurring future research collaborations! Additionally, the executive director of Kuhenza visited UVA earlier this semester for a film screening of the Kupenda documentary hosted by CGHE.*





## UVA Participates in New Education USA Video

Education USA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. Over the last year, the organization has been updating videos that provide a window to the U.S. higher education system with a new series of 12 videos. Each video promotes a different aspect of US education.

UVA Global's Mandira Banerjee reached out to Education USA on behalf of the University of Virginia to be included in the series. Education USA agreed and was enthusiastic about shooting one of their videos on Grounds. The focus of the video was about professional/graduate education, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs worked with associate deans/assistant deans in Law, Darden, and Arts & Sciences to narrow down students for the video. The video was shot over the spring after a delay due to the tragic events on Grounds. The students spoke about their experience as an international student and about their experience at UVA. The final video will be released in 2023.

## Updated Website Features New Resources and Global Scholars List

Last academic year, the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Affairs embarked on a long-awaited website redesign. With support from staff in Provost's Office, the global communications team worked with an external vendor, Journey Design Group and UVA's Information Technology department to update the website with a new design, which refreshed the look of the website and included several new features for easy access to global-related information.

The website now boasts a new resources section, which includes tailored information for students and faculty. For example, the section has information about study abroad, international students, global research, and global opportunities in Charlottesville.

**Another feature involved taking a deeper dive into building a Global Scholars List from scratch that includes over 300 faculty working in different regions of the world.**

# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

The pan-university Global Studies program continued to develop in strength and size since its inception in 2014. In Spring 2023, the program received over 300 applications and 191 students were admitted to the incoming class. Currently there are 408 third- and fourth-year students enrolled in the major. So far, 1,241 students have completed an interdisciplinary Global Studies major since the first graduating class in 2016. This year 58 courses across six tracks were taught to over 1,400 students from across UVA.

Global Studies has increased Student Travel Fellowships this year with the support of generous donors. Four Aigrain Global Scholarships were awarded to students working in Vietnam; rural Nepal; Kilifi County, Kenya; and cultural heritage sites in Bolivia. The inaugural Kapadia Family Fellowship was awarded to a Global Studies student collaborating with UVA and Vietnam National University faculty conducting research on the Hong River revitalization.

## New Course offerings this year:

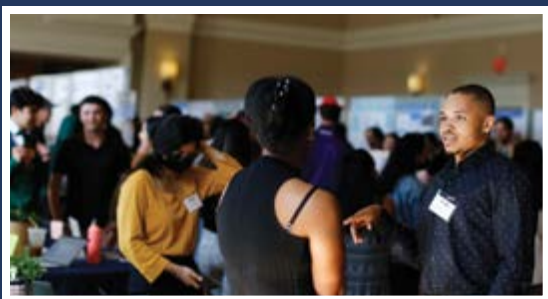
- + **GDS 3559:** Global Justice through Theater
- + **GSGS 2559:** International Human Rights: History and Practice
- + **GSGS 3559:** Ecological Economics
- + **GSGS 3559:** Business and Human Rights Across Borders
- + **GSGS 4559:** Applied Research in Global Studies, 2 sections
- + **GSVS 4559:** UVA in Vietnam: Hanoi's Hong River: Development, Climate, and Rights to the City
- + **GSMS 3559:** Development in South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa
- + **GSSJ 3559:** Law, Justice & Sustainable Development
- + **GSSJ 4559:** Peace, Security, Human Rights and International Relations
- + **GSVS 3310:** Sustainability Policy at Home and Abroad
- + **GSVS 3210:** Evidence for Sustainability Policy
- + **GSVS 4559:** UVA In Greece: Odyssey in the Anthropocene
- + **GSVS 4559:** GIS for Global Sustainability





## Faculty Hiring

Assistant Professor Levi Vonk will join the Global Studies faculty in August 2023. A medical anthropologist, writer, and two-time Fulbright scholar, Levi has conducted anthropological work with Central American migrants in Mexico since 2015. His first book, *Border Hacker* (2022), is a work of creative nonfiction that follows the journey of an undocumented migrant and computer hacker from his deportation in New York to his kidnapping in Mexico. Levi's next book, *The Body Migrant*, investigates a secret border militarization pact between the US and Mexico known as the Southern Border Program. Levi holds a PhD from University of California Berkeley-University of California San Francisco and has lived in Mexico, Cuba, England, and the Netherlands. Levi is excited to teach courses on migration, medical anthropology, Latin America, and journalism/creative nonfiction.



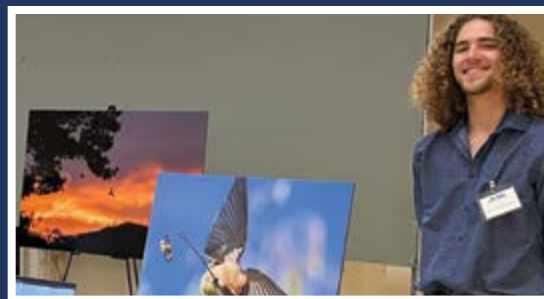
## Global Futures Student Research Symposium

Over 170 student research projects were showcased in the second annual Global Futures: A Global Studies Symposium held on April 25 in the Newcomb Hall Ballroom. The symposium was inaugurated last year to bring together the Global Studies community and has quickly become a signature event. Projects ranged from "Community Gardening and Black Liberation" to "Art Activism Through Disability Justice" to "The Effect of Climate Change and Related, Chronic Weather Events on Mental Health Outcomes in the United States." Seven projects were granted awards. The event closed with a panel of six Global Studies alumni who spoke about their experiences in the major, their career paths, and the impact the major has had on their life post-graduation.



## Notable Faculty Accomplishments

Global Studies faculty members received numerous grants and awards this year. Program Director Phoebe Crisman was awarded a five-year, \$5 million National Science Foundation Coastlines and People Grant with co-PIs S. Alston, A. Haines, J. Roe, and J. Goodall. Their research is focused on Enhancing Resilience and Equity in Urban Coastal Communities through the Co-Generation of Community Capitals. Professor Richard Handler received the 2023 Raven Award for his contributions to the University. Global Studies faculty published three new books this year: *Ethics or the Right Thing: Corruption and Care in the Age of Good Governance*, Sylvia Tidey; *The American Stamp: Postal Iconography, Democratic Citizenship, and Consumerism in the United States*, Laura Goldblatt and Richard Handler; and *Well Connected: Everyday Water Practices in Cairo*, Tessa Farmer.



## Accomplished Global Studies Students and Alumni

Global Studies was the top major amongst students accepted to live on the lawn this year. Abena Sekum Appiah-Ofori ('23) received The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals Fellowship, which is jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Department of State. Luca Pfeiffer ('23) premiered his new documentary, *Albemarle Wild*, in Newcomb Theater on May 1. Alumnus John Barton ('19) received his second Fulbright and will pursue a two-year master's degree in Development, Education, and International Cooperation at the University of Jyväskylä in Jyväskylä, Finland. This academic year 36% of Global Studies students participated in Education Abroad programs and this number continues to rise.



# GLOBAL RESEARCH





“

*Science is about teams; it's about getting a group of people together that bring in expertise. And together through research we can solve problems. And that is very doable at UVA”*

– BILL PETRI

# CGII UPDATE

## Global research exceeds pre-pandemic levels and establishes new baseline

Last year global research picked up after the COVID hiatus from 2020 through 2021. This academic year global research has come roaring back, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Numbers do not tell the entire story, but they do offer a picture of how things stand as faculty have returned to research agendas interrupted by travel restrictions and the risks of COVID. For the academic year 2022-2023, the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation funded projects in 45 countries across the globe, on every continent except Antarctica. These projects involved 35 faculty as principal investigators and 49 as co-investigators from the Architecture School, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Data Sciences School, the Education School, the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Law School, and the School of Medicine. Twenty undergraduates led by five faculty benefited from mentored global research projects.

**Nearly 50 graduate students** received global research awards, chiefly to fund travel.

Across all submissions, \$1.6 million was requested and **almost \$650,000 was awarded.**

*This amount exceeds the amount budgeted for 2022-2023 by roughly \$250,000 and is the result of funds returned due to COVID interruptions—a one-time occurrence.*

Projects represented a broad range, revealing the vibrancy of UVA's global research agenda and community. Topics included: assessing elder care in Indonesia; experimenting with new alignments for Amazonian and Andean studies; building better models to understand plant diseases resulting from global climate change; understanding how indigenous peoples are responding to land pressures in Tanzania; pioneering archaeological methods to uncover religious practices in ancient Athens and Attica; integrating humanitarian concerns into national and international diplomatic agendas; establishing an ecological park in Puerto Rico; understanding the financing of the European Union's response to refugees and migrants displaced by the war in Ukraine; promoting equitable computer education in Colombia and the U.S.; seeking ways to counter Russian disinformation regarding the war in Ukraine; questioning global lithium extraction as a design problem in Chile and the U.S.; promoting arts and democracy in Dakar; preserving climate-threatened landscapes by blending science, humanities, and arts; and many more.

What this list says is that global research, operating at many scales, from individual research to team-oriented, multi-disciplinary collaborations, has come of age. The geographical, trans-methodological, and collaborative reach of these projects makes clear how important it is to have an internal funding source to counterbalance the research "silozation" inherent in our institutional and professional structures. It will be imperative to strengthen this role as five new university-wide institutes take shape. In this environment, CGII's objective remains that of promoting inquiry that crosses disciplinary boundaries, promotes methodological innovation, and operates across scales. This mission will help UVA continue to deepen its impact around the globe through projects that pose fundamental questions, address concrete problems, and touch lives. As CGII approaches its tenth anniversary, it is evident that global research is becoming a critical element of the University's mission, a process that must accelerate to match the world's growing integration.



# FOCUS ON GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

- + **UVA Humanitarian Collaborative Report**
- + **Global Democracy Research**
- + **Mona Kasra talks about activism in Iran and its influence**





## New Launches and a Commitment to DEI Define Humanitarian Collaborative Work

*The UVA Humanitarian Collaborative (HC) brings together scholars, practitioners, students, and community partners to address the world's pressing humanitarian and development challenges.*

It conducts applied interdisciplinary research, engages in real-time analysis and assessment, and provides strategic recommendations. The Humanitarian Collaborative is funded through the Office of the Provost's Strategic Investment Fund, the [Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation's](#) Ruth Young Endowment/Indar-Riyukhe Fund, and the [UVA Batten Global Policy Center](#).

In the 2022-2023 school year, the HC focused its research on three themes: Early Childhood Development in Crisis, Migration and Displacement, and Humanitarian Advocacy and Operational Effectiveness. Together, these projects involved over 9 faculty and staff and 20 students from different schools and departments across UVA.

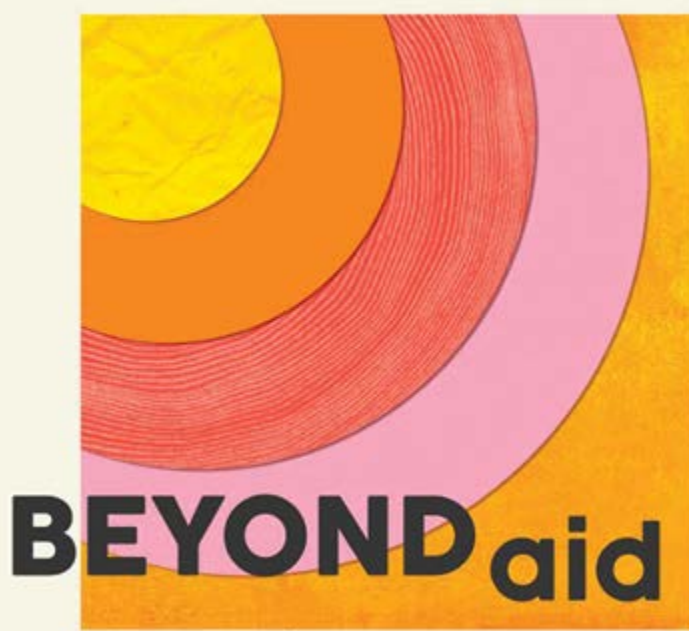
Highlights this year included the launch of [Read for Action: The Humanitarian Book Club](#) at the COP 27 United Nations (UN) Climate Summit in Egypt.

The project is a joint initiative between the HC and UN and began in response to a core question of humanitarian organizations: *How can we create durable and sustained engagement while encouraging collective action in ways that are responsible towards affected people caught in conflict and crisis?* Weaving together humanities and public policy, the project brings together readers and authors, researchers, and humanitarian policymakers to create a global community of readers interested in humanitarian crises; hosts online discussions with authors, researchers, and policymakers to connect the books to specific contemporary challenges and global crises; and develops a range of pro-climate and pro-human actions that readers can take collectively to create action at scale. To date over 1,200 members from around the world have joined the initiative, and the team has built an online platform, website, and social media presence, and hosted over 15 talks and panels that have included scholars and policy experts from around the world.

The HC also launched [Beyond Aid](#) in Fall 2022, a podcast series featuring stories about humanitarian actors and action that go beyond the challenging headlines to focus on how HC can find hope and opportunities to drive change.



CSIS



Jacob Kurtzer, Director and Senior Fellow with the Humanitarian Agenda at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Kirsten Gelsdorf, Director, Global Humanitarian Policy Center, hosted guests who are humanitarian leaders, practitioners, innovators, journalists, artists, and athletes who helped listeners relate to humanitarian crises in new ways.

As part of the Migration and Displacement theme, two students supported research conducted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on the humanitarian implications of extreme heat. The research project's final result was a joint publication of OCHA, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre entitled *Extreme Heat: Preparing for the Heatwaves of the Future*. The report covered both heatwave-related information humanitarians need to know and recommendations for preventing heatwaves from becoming emergencies. The comprehensive report covered topics ranging from climate science and the sociology of heatwave impacts to community-based preventative policy options, all with a focus on presenting actionable insights for OCHA decision makers and other humanitarian actors. The report was launched at a press conference in Geneva in October 2022 co-convened by the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths and the Secretary General of the IFRC Jagan Chapagain.

Across all themes, this year the HC deepened its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in two ways. First, by actively bringing in voices of the Global South and affected communities in research and policy engagement. One example of this is a new project, *If I Could Tell the World: Voices of Displaced Children*, which will share the perspectives of children in a range of emergency conditions around the world. Members of the HC will also publish an edited volume in 2023 that highlights learnings from the Global South. The book, *Young Children in Humanitarian and COVID-19 Crises: Innovations and Lessons from the Global South*, will be published through the [Routledge Humanitarian Studies Series](#).

Second, this year the HC focused on institutionalizing stronger diversity, equity, and inclusion practices and policies. It developed a new recruiting and hiring strategy for the student Research Assistants (RAs) who support faculty working on projects for the HC to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion. The HC reviewed best practices in other organizations and universities as guidance.

The guidance also provides a primer on avoiding bias and a sample RA job description template that incorporates anti-bias principles. All faculty and Practitioner Fellows who work with the HC are required to review and utilize this guidance in their RA selection.



## Research Provides Inside Look into Democracy Activists and Their Work

In May, 2023 three University of Virginia students attended the Oslo University Forum, thanks to the work of Steve Parks, Professor of English, who founded the Democratic Future Project (DFP), an alliance of advocates, academics, and policy makers committed to linking research to grassroots campaigns for democratic rights. Over the last year, he has invited activists from Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Serbia, and Russia to Grounds, which provided a unique viewpoint for students into democracy activist work around the world. In recognition of their research and work, three UVA students were appointed as Oslo Freedom Forum (OFF) University Scholars and had a chance to attend this unique event, where leading democratic advocates from across the globe come together to learn from each other and strategize for the future.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH PROJECTS THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON:**

**Keya Turkiewicz** is supporting Zimbabwe Pastor Evan Mawarire's efforts to create a Pastor Advocacy Institute for southern Africa, entitled The Nehemiah Project. She has helped to create the foundational curriculum and is now helping support the governing board.

"Hearing about ongoing world affairs not from a political journal or news publication, but from those actually experiencing and fighting oppression was invaluable," she said. "These testimonials were direct and easy to comprehend, if emotionally difficult to swallow. There was no ambiguity, jargon, or buzzwords. Only those on the front lines of these human rights battles can provide such clear insight, and as a result, any prior knowledge I had of world democracy issues grew exponentially in just those three days."

"As much as I learned, I am even more excited to continue doing so, following up with the connections I made there and further exploring this world of democratic advocacy. I personally know several students who are fascinated by what I've told them of these experiences and who are eagerly looking forward to the next time Srdja or someone like him comes to UVA to speak. They are looking for that connection between what we learn in class and its manifestation in the real world. The Oslo Freedom Forum was that for me. I hope many other students can have the same opportunity to hear from these advocates, because when it comes to feeling inspired to work for change, there really is no substitute for meeting our world's leaders in precisely that vocation."





**Gloria Wu** is supporting Myanmar democratic advocate Myo Yan Naung Thein to create the Burmese Democratic Futures Working Group, a project that provides documentation of human rights abuses by the illegitimate ruling authority, as well as supporting book-length publications featuring the testimonies of displaced Myanmar citizens.

“The Oslo Freedom Forum had a profound impact on my personal and professional development,” she said. “At many moments in the conference, I was brought close to tears. Something that stood out to me in all of these stories is the theme of visibility and international attention. In one session that I attended, I remember the story of Soomaya Jaradi, who was a member of the Hazara ethnic minority fleeing the Taliban and ethnic persecution in Afghanistan. I vividly remember the way her voice cracked when reflecting upon her family’s journey all over Afghanistan looking for a way to leave the country.”

“It was through this conference that I realized I wanted to pursue a career in international law. Talking with the other young professionals I met through the conference, we all agreed we have limited attention and time. However, we can start with continuing to follow up with the places that were mentioned in the conference: Madagascar, Nicaragua, Iran, XinJiang, Rwanda, Venezuela, Ukraine, Qatar, Palestine, North Korea, Belarus, Iraq, Cuba, Tibet, Bolivia, Swaziland, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Lebanon, South Sudan, Burundi, Afghanistan, Honduras, and Equatorial Guinea. We all have the capacity to keep on learning, sharing, and talking about these places in our daily lives!”

**Madison Obermeyer** is one of four students, selected from an international pool of applicants, to serve as an intern for the Center for Applied Non-Violent Actions and Strategies, where she will be conducting research on how to combat creeping authoritarianism globally.

“The forum truly encapsulated the humanity behind the fight for freedom,” she said, “something I don’t think any textbook or article can ever entirely reflect. Perhaps the most moving discussion of the forum was by two Uyghur activists: one a concentration camp survivor and the other a former teacher in two camps. Even though their stories were not shared in English, their accounts of escape, sacrifice, and determination moved the audience... There was not a dry eye in the room.”

*“Coming away from the Oslo Freedom Forum, I still have a lot to process and reflect on. I am very hopeful for the continuation of programs between UVA students and current activists. A greater synthesis of academia and activism is mutually beneficial and truly bridges the humanity of struggle with the resources and knowledge to succeed.”*

## Mixing Visual Cultures and Politics Is Important for This Visual Artist

*Iranian American Professor Mona Kasra was a panelist at UVA democracy event this past academic year and spoke about the situation in Iran, the role of visual media in the crisis, how this impacts her work, and the role the diaspora and higher education institutions can play.*



**Q** You recently participated in a panel on Iranian women's role in the fight for democracy in Iran. How have the women in Iran shaped this battle for democracy?

**Kasra:** Iranian women have always participated in discussions about democracy, especially in the modern history of Iran. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, controlling women—their bodies, their rights—became very fundamental to the political agenda of the Islamic regime. This came out in the form of the compulsory hijab, discriminatory laws against women in terms of inheritance, divorce, and child custody, and so on. These were systemic tools to oppress and marginalize women, but even in the past 44 years women continued to participate through acts of resistance and resilience. As an Iranian woman, in post-revolutionary years, the way you present yourself in public can be an act of resistance. Gradually, these acts get at dismantling the systems of power and discrimination. Partly, I think civil disobedience is so important because it takes a lot to defy terror, especially when one grows up and lives every day with it.

**Q** You are Iranian American yourself. How does this identity play into your own work as a scholar and new media artist? Has this changed since the recent events in Iran?

**Kasra:** My perspective as an Iranian American is something I embrace, and it enriches my work, but doesn't singularly define it. A big part of my recent published work focuses on the power of network visual media, that is, photos and videos shared on social media to raise awareness, mobilize, or organize against socio-political injustice, but also as a way to exercise oppressive power and to misinform. We are seeing all of these uses in the revolutionary movement that's currently happening in Iran.

Over the past few months, I've been working on an experimental theatrical multimedia project in collaboration with a New York-based director, Adam Kassim, who is a Palestinian American. At this moment we're calling the project "Dreaming in Exile." Given what has happened in the past few months, we've been thinking that we need to get into the hearts and minds of Middle Eastern and North African artists and explore the complexities of exile and the diaspora identity. We're hoping that by the end of this year, we will be able to do an experimental staging of the project, and I am hoping to do one of the workshops here at UVA.



**Q** You mentioned earlier that one of the things that we've seen since the emergence of the protests is visual media reflecting what is going on in Iran, both on the side of mobilizing against injustice and also on the side of misinformation. Tell us about that.

**Kasra:** I think the images that we have seen, such as kids at school bringing down the pictures or having their hair cut, are very powerful. There is also a symbolic aspect to this movement. Mandating the compulsory hijab was one of the first things that the government did to control women at the beginning of the revolution. This movement uses that image and turns it around, by freeing the hair or setting the scarf on fire on the streets.

Unfortunately, the footage and the visual media coming out of Iran are pretty brutal. It's very hard to watch. Platforms like Instagram have put a warning at the beginning of these videos, making people ask themselves "do you want to see this?" which makes it harder for the media to have an impact. People are living that reality on the streets, but those of us who are not there can just choose whether or not we want to be confronted with the violence and the abuse that is happening.

On the other side of things, there is an Iranian cyber army and a big chunk of what they're doing is creating division amongst the opposition through misinformation. They do it by creating fake accounts. They pretend that they're a part of the opposition, they get a large following, and then they start adding misinformation and fake messaging in order to create division and chaos amongst even the opposition. This misinformation takes away trust and when you don't have trust, you can't have democracy. The totalitarian regimes are learning and, unfortunately, they're now even sometimes ahead of the game in terms of how to use these technologies.

**Q** How is the Iranian diaspora working to support Iranians during this crisis?

**Kasra:** The diaspora has maintained a very deep and consistent engagement with the events in Iran. There have been large protests in Europe, Canada, and the

U.S., sometimes on a weekly basis. Iranian protesters need to know that the world is watching. Seeing the solidarity and knowing the world has not forgotten them has helped inspire those who are risking their lives. The opposition in the diaspora is also now trying to create councils through which they can be in touch with democratic countries about the revolution and the needs of the people on the ground.

Another important thing that has been happening with respect to the use of media is that satellite media from the diaspora have been very active and instrumental. In Iran, even though they might have very restricted access to the internet, a lot of people have access to satellite dishes and can watch satellite programming. So, there are platforms and media, such as *Iran International*, for example, that are constantly covering what is happening in Iran in various regions. They are talking to people on the ground, showing imagery of what is happening, and that has been very accessible to people in Iran.

**Q** How can higher education institutions help in this crisis?

**Kasra:** I think higher education institutions are the perfect place for us to create platforms to discuss and contextualize what is happening in the Iranian protests, perhaps even to talk about the relationship of Iran and the U.S. and the interference of the U.S. in the modern history of Iran. Iran and the U.S. have a very sensitive and very complicated relationship. So, being able to talk about that and to really allow for a space where Iran is not just a nuclear power or the cause of a hostage crisis has been very important.

Another very practical way higher educational institutions can do something is to help Iranian students and academics who have been impacted by the recent events.

A lot of bright students and impactful scholars from some wonderful institutions are getting expelled because they participated in a protest. So, higher educational institutions can do things like waive application fees or give Iranian students and scholars more flexibility about the time they need to acquire resources.

# FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- + **Building an Environmentally Sustainable Black Power Station in South Africa**
- + **Student Finds Calling in Community-engaged Design**
- + **“Scenes of Toxicity” at Agbogboshie**



## UVA Collaboration Brings to Life Black Power Station in South Africa

*A team of UVA professors and graduate students traveled to Makhanda, South Africa in the summer of 2022 to co-design a new space for The Black Power Station, a self-managed, community-driven art space and organization. The project was funded by a Three Cavaliers grant, which supports professors from multiple disciplines and their students, to create collaborative interdisciplinary projects.*

The professors who received the grant—Noel Lobley (Music), Phoebe Crisman (Architecture), and Rupa Valdez (Public Health/Engineering)—had this idea in mind for several years, but the collaboration between Lobley and the Black Power Station dates back much further.

“I first met Xolile Madinda, known as X, more than 15 years ago in Makhanda (then Grahamstown),” explained Lobley, associate professor in the Department of Music. “I was conducting my fieldwork for my PhD in Ethnomusicology and exploring ways to activate a colonial sound archive.” They took sound fragments from public places and have continued to work together. In 2022, Lobley heard from Madinda that he had been granted permission by the National Arts Festival to develop a space in an abandoned power station in a derelict industrial area. “From that point, we started to imagine a collaboration between The Black Power Station

and UVA/Charlottesville.” This most recent collaboration has focused on the space itself and how to develop the power station buildings into an international artist destination.

“One of the existing buildings is a large industrial metal shed that we’ve kept and completely transformed,” said Crisman, Professor of Architecture and Director of Global Studies. The design by Crisman and her students provides a new entrance canopy with solar panels to power the building. “We created new dormers to bring in light, expel hot air, and collect rainwater for reuse. We studied rondavels, a traditional Xhosa dwelling type, and used local wood and earth to design new housing for artists in residence,” Crisman added. To keep the building sustainable, the design also incorporates recycled materials, including shipping pallets, rope, and reclaimed steel siding. The space is subdivided into three parts: a big performance space; a green gallery in between; and a section for everyday uses, including a flexible common space and artist studios.

Reflecting on the collaboration between a big institution like UVA and a smaller one like The Black Power Station, Madinda said “I don’t feel overpowered because I’m part of the process of what we’re trying to build together. I’m not overwhelmed by [this collaboration] because I can see the heart and the vision of the people I work with. I feel empowered working with the University of Virginia.”



Part of the collaboration came about through the labors of the four graduate students who came to Makhanda. Matías Vilaplana Stark (Music), Courtney Rogers (Public Health), Eli Sobel (Architecture), and Bucky Gerson (Architecture) did extensive background research to prepare for the trip. “The students were very excited about doing work that could make a difference, and will be public-facing,” Crisman commented. “For the architecture students, this was their first experience designing with communities or even clients. It stopped being purely theoretical and became more tangible. You need both.”

Music student Stark was also moved by his experience and what they were creating. “It’s much more than an art space. For many of the people who work and participate in events, it has become a home,” he said. Stark added that this space offers shelter from the harsh realities of Makhanda and a space that allows its participants to grow intellectually, artistically, and spiritually.

Working across not only disciplines and academic hierarchies, but also temporal and seasonal changes

and timelines was a challenge for the participants.

“The biggest challenge and greatest reward of this kind of complex, community-engaged research is working collaboratively,” explained Crisman. “You have to invest time, commitment, and open-mindedness in this type of work.” But everyone agrees that a collaboration like this is essential. “It would be unthinkable to not have worked together with The Black Power Station,” said Stark. “Who knows better than them what their needs are? Or the way things work and function in Makhanda?”

“I would never design in isolation,” said Crisman. “It’s about combining my knowledge of architecture with the community’s needs. With a team, we can all think through options together.”

By the end of the summer, the team’s vision had come to fruition in the new design. The next steps for the project will be to transform that vision into physical materials and a virtual space that The Black Power Station can use for fundraising. Once enough funds are raised, the group hopes to make these plans a reality.

*“We have to raise awareness in Virginia, to a broader community of supporters, to rally people to make this dream come alive,” said Madinda.*



# Helped by Aigrain Grant, Student Finds Calling in Community-engaged Design

*Miriam Hossaini is a fourth-year double majoring in Architecture and Global Studies on the Middle East and South Asia track. Raised in Richmond, Virginia, she wanted to reconnect with her Persian heritage, from which she had been disconnected since her grandfather's passing. UVA gave her an opportunity to rebuild that lost connection through courses in culture, religion, and language.*

## Q How did you decide on your project on Egypt? Tell us about your project and your experience.

**Hossaini:** I was originally going to Cairo with a research group directed by Professor Tessa Farmer to work on charitable water fountains (sabils). We partnered with Athar Lina, a participatory conservation initiative. Athar Lina “aims to establish modalities of citizen participation in heritage conservation based on an understanding of the monument as a resource, not a burden.” Run by the Built Environment Collective | Megawra, a twin organization including an NGO and an architecture firm, they use community-engaged methods and co-creation techniques to regenerate the historic Cairo community. This opportunity managed to become the perfect intersection of my Global Studies and Architecture studies. I not only would get to learn about another region and conduct ethnographic research, but it would also have design outcomes!

We hit a road bump when the region became politically unstable due to a change in wheat suppliers, a rippling effect from the war in Ukraine. We had to cancel all of our travel plans and I was left without a plan for my summer, a scholarship, and nowhere to travel. This pushed me to pursue and find new ways to use my grant meaningfully, even if I had to make these opportunities myself.

As an Architecture major, I did not want to miss this opportunity to work with an organization whose mission statement resonates so clearly with my architectural and career goals. I reached out to Dr. May al-Ibrashy, the initiative's coordinator, and formed a professional connection outside of the research group.



She welcomed me onto her team as a summer virtual intern. Even virtually, this was an opportunity of a lifetime. I was put on a team working on the regeneration of historic Cairo's Al-Khalifa Market, a redesign-focused project aimed to reinvigorate a dilapidated cultural hub of the neighborhood. I worked closely with two Megawra employees, the architecture firm, meeting once a week to compile and organize a report on the work done on the project so far. While the beginning of my internship consisted of compiling all their proposals and history into a single report, I was able to finally offer my real design knowledge when they asked for my help with unique diagrams for the report. I got to analyze the different facets of ethnographic research and site analysis and create new ways of visualizing the data.

This was an amazing experience. Even though it was virtual and halfway across the world, I was exposed to many projects, learned all that goes into community-engaged design, and made professional relationships that I will carry beyond my time at UVA. It is such a rare opportunity to find things that meet both the standards for Architecture and Global Studies.

## Q How did the Aigrain grant help you?

**Hossaini:** Because Athar Lina is a small nonprofit, a paid internship with someone halfway across the world was not within their budget, but having the Aigrain grant made it possible to work with them.

As a student on financial aid, looking for work in the nonprofit field, finding work experience while also making ends meet has been a challenge. Having a grant like this made a world of difference. Not only did I get an amazing summer internship, but I found a job for the semester and even a professional connection for my post-graduate career. Without the grant, I wouldn't have been pushed to find alternatives after the cancellation of the trip, nor have the ability to fully concentrate on my internship. I am so happy that that the Aigrain grant made that possible for me.



## “Scenes of Toxicity” at Agbogbloshie: An Ethnography of E-Waste Workers in Ghana Brings the Legacy of Western Influence in Africa Alive for Two Undergraduate Students

*In 2022, third-year students traveled to Ghana with Kwame Otu, professor of African American and African Studies, for a project called “Scenes of Toxicity.”*

In their three-week summer research project, conducted in Ghana, Tichara Robertson Lewis and Tyler Busch assisted Professor Otu in detailing the lives of electronic waste (e-waste) workers and understanding the factors that influenced their decision to leave their homes in northern Ghana, outside of Kumasi, to work at a site that puts their health at risk.

Otu calls this process of being exposed to new realities through global travel and research “making the strange familiar and the familiar strange.” “I believe being in the field exposed them to an Africa that the classroom did not articulate quite well,” said Otu. “Ghana became an entirely new classroom. That is what ethnography does: it makes you a student of multiple and vexed realities.”

The Scenes of Toxicity project, funded by the Richard and Nancy Guerrant Global Health Equity Professor Award, focuses on the impacts of e-waste on e-waste workers at Agbogbloshie, located in Ghana’s capital city, which has been dubbed the world’s largest and most polluted e-waste dump.

Work at Agbogbloshie is dangerous, with reportedly high levels of lead, cadmium, antimony, PCBs, and chlorinated dioxins. But the precious metals, such as copper and brass, which are extracted from old computers and cell phones, provide a livelihood for these workers.

Through conversations with an e-waste worker named Zak and his colleagues, along with visits to the Cape Coast and Elmina Slave Castles, Robertson Lewis and Busch drew connections between the lives of the enslaved people of the past and those of the people who live and work at Agbogbloshie today. “We hope to reveal the continuation of exploitation of Black labor that continues in a different form in our present day,”





Robertson said, adding that present-day Western conceptions of Africa are intertwined with legacies of Western influence in Africa, including that of the slave trade. These legacies, they argue, created the conditions for this kind of work.

Though they could have studied these phenomena from home, Robertson and Busch agree that it might have felt removed when mediated by textbooks. “Most of the time, we are aware of injustices around the world, such as child labor or sweatshops in other countries, but seeing an example of this firsthand made it real for us,” Busch said. Beyond the working conditions, the lack of access to adequate food and water was something that stuck with them and made them grateful for what they have. They also felt the need to share these stories widely to effect change.

Otu has always been keen on sharing the joys of conducting ethnography with his students. He explained

that very few undergraduate students have the opportunity to pursue ethnography internationally. He involved the students to give them the opportunity to conduct research outside the U.S. and to understand a world that was truly unfamiliar and strange to them.

This research gave deeper life to the students’ coursework as African American and African Studies majors. Robertson Lewis, who is also double-majoring in Political and Social Thought, reflected that this project fits into her larger course of studies because it is centered on inspecting the long lasting impacts of slavery, colonization, and white supremacy. She hopes to tie the project into her research for her fourth-year thesis for the Political and Social Thought Major. Busch said that the project also gave insight to his personal experience as a person of the African diaspora.

**Robertson Lewis and Busch returned to Ghana with Professor Otu** this summer for the second part of this three-year project. They will continue building their relationships with the workers at the e-waste dump and to do further archival research on Agbogbloshie’s history. The team will also work with Charlottesville filmmaker Darnell Lamont Walker to film the ethnographies for a documentary. The students plan to continue their education and research through graduate studies, building on the work they have done with Otu through further global research and deepening their knowledge of Black Studies.







# FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

- + Work in Bangladesh Expands after the Pandemic
- + 10th Anniversary of CGHE Global Public Health Case Competition





# Wastewater Pathogen-Tracking Project Pivoted to COVID, Now Expands to New Diseases

*In 2019, Mami Taniuchi from the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health at UVA established a novel sewage surveillance program to track poliovirus, other enteric pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance in wastewater in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.*

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, she realized her work could help inform public health officials. In March 2020, as the world's cases were rising, she revisited samples collected from December 2019 to March 2020 to see if she could find evidence of the virus—and she did find it from wastewater samples collected in mid-March 2020. Taniuchi also noticed that she could detect evidence of the virus about a week before the increase in cases, which meant that her team's efforts could act as an early warning system and pinpoint hotspots of community transmission of COVID-19.

The results from these tests were shared weekly with the Bangladeshi government and, through a web dashboard (<https://dhakaesforsars-cov-2.research.virginia.edu/>) built by UVA Biomedical Engineers, with key public health stakeholders. Their work was able to predict impending increases in clinical cases by 1-2 weeks. Due to the success in the northern part of Dhaka, the director of the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control Research, a Bangladeshi government partner, asked Taniuchi's team to expand into the southern part of Dhaka, increasing their sewage collection sites from 32 to 51 currently.

Details of the study are now published in *Lancet Microbe* 2023 Jun;4(6):e442-e451. doi: 10.1016/S2666-5247(23)00010-1.

In addition to tracking SARS-CoV-2 in sewage, the team is also sequencing the wastewater for the variants of concern (VOC), which allows them to identify specifically what is driving the peaks of cases throughout this pandemic. Taniuchi reports that “as clinical surveillance for COVID-19 recedes, environmental surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 and genomic surveillance for VOCs will play important roles in monitoring the community transmission of COVID-19.”

In the coming months, the team plans to pivot away from environmental surveillance for only SARS-CoV-2 to one that can monitor multiple diseases concurrently and efficiently. Diseases of interest are COVID-19, RSV, influenza, measles, and cholera. They aim to discover if the detection of these new pathogens in sewage will be associated with the clinical burden of these diseases in the community.

Taniuchi has also expanded the wastewater surveillance study to Karachi, Pakistan with a project called KEPS (Karachi Enteric Pathogen Surveillance). Working with partners at the Aga Khan University, the team is establishing clinical and environmental surveillances for poliovirus and other vaccine-preventable diseases (such as cholera, COVID-19, and typhoid).





## A Decade of Challenging UVA Students with Global Public Health Problems

*The room was brimming with students from across Grounds ready to present their global public health solutions to the tuberculosis crisis in Tanzania. The students were participating in the 10th anniversary of the Global Health Case Competition (GHCC) hosted by the Center for Global Health Equity.*

UVA is among a small group of institutions that writes a new global health problem, and students compete annually to come up with a solution. A case shares a global health problem and the competing groups share how they would approach and intervene. Modeled on the Emory University Morningside Global Health Case Competition, teams from across Grounds participate in a challenge in which global partners advise and edit an original case each year, with the help of CGHE Student Advisory Board.

“The students’ energy, their relentless capacity for addressing challenges, their ability to collaborate across multiple barriers, and their enthusiasm for engaging with global partners and global issues is remarkable,” said April Ballard, associate director of CGHE. “Their work during this event is the manifestation of both the good and the great.”

For this year, CGHE collaborated with Dr. Stella Mpagama and Dr. Bibie Said from **Kibong’oto Infectious Diseases Hospital** in Tanzania and Dr. Heysell from UVA Health, along with UVA students on multiple aspects of the case for GHCC. Tanzania is one of the 30 countries with the highest rates of tuberculosis.

The partners worked with student leaders on the CGHE Student Advisory Board, GHCC Committee from the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science to develop the case. The problem for this year’s competition was titled “Fight for equitable prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in Tanzania.”

One of the judges for the competition was Pranay Sinha, assistant professor of Infectious Diseases at Boston University, who described this moment as coming “full circle.” He was one of the key members who laid the foundation for the case competition at UVA.

A decade ago, when Sinha signed up for the Emory case competition, he was teamed up with a nurse, an engineering student, a commerce student, an education student, and an anthropology major on a challenging case study of post-civil war Sri Lanka.





“I realized that UVA needed an internal competition to prepare us better,” Sinha said. “But more importantly, global health case competitions lay bare the need for a plurality of thought and perspectives to handle thorny, cross-cutting problems that are not amenable to simple biomedical approaches.”

Sinha teamed up with Colleen Laurence, a UVA alum, who was returning to Charlottesville for medical school; Dr. Rebecca Dillingham; April Ballard at the Center for Global Health Equity; and other student leaders on campus to establish the first UVA case competition.

This competition has run successfully for the past decade, driven mainly by student participation and interest. This year, 31 student teams competed in GHCC. To choose the winner, the judges considered how well the teams understood the problem, how practical and acceptable their recommended interventions were, how well they delivered their presentation, and how effectively they answered questions during the question and answer session.

The winner for this year’s case competition was Team #21. It included Briana Corrielus, a third-year student majoring in Cognitive Science and Youth and Social Innovation at UVA School of Education and Human

Development; Mackenzie Chen, a first-year Human Biology major at the College of Arts and Sciences; Yash Patel, a third-year Biology major at the College of Arts and Sciences; and Nina Jannatifar, a fourth-year Chemistry major at the College of Arts and Sciences.

Patel said that one of the factors that helped them was having lived through the COVID-19 pandemic. “Observing how different dimensions in life can be unrooted by this infectious disease gave us a unique lens to approach this issue.” Another team member credited the opportunity to interact with guest judges from Tanzania. “When developing ideas for public health initiatives, it’s imperative to understand the local context and prioritize the needs of the community,” said Chen.

Other student participants share Sinha’s enthusiasm for the competition. “I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate across disciplines and have crucial dialogue on a pressing matter and help develop ideas that could have a real-world impact,” Jannatifar said.

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The work highlighted in this report would not be possible without the help of our donors. A huge thank-you to all who support global initiatives at UVA! This year, our donors were critical as we emerged from pandemic related travel restrictions and began sending UVA students and faculty back out into the world.

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# Donor Spotlight

We are grateful for our community of alumni, parents, and friends who fuel the University's global goals.

## FENG "FRANKIE" GAO AND YANQING "JOANNA" ZHU

Frankie and Joanna established the She Mountain Global Experience Scholarship in 2020 to provide need-based scholarships for students pursuing international experiences at UVA, such as study abroad, research abroad, or global internships. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the fund supported four students studying abroad in Spain, Italy, and Israel. Frankie and Joanna feel that scholarships are an essential tool for promoting education and providing access to opportunities that would otherwise be unattainable.

### What inspires you to support education abroad initiatives at UVA?

Education abroad scholarships provide a pathway for students to achieve their goals and aspirations, regardless of their background.

These scholarships can promote cultural exchange and understanding. We hope students will immerse themselves in different cultures and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. This can help promote tolerance, respect, and empathy between different cultures, which is essential for building a more peaceful and harmonious world.

International experiences also build a sense of global citizenship and responsibility. We established the scholarship program with the hope that it will help diversify the talent pool and help students stand out in an increasingly global job market.

In summary, we chose to establish an education abroad scholarship because we feel that these experiences have a significant impact on students and communities around the world and help to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.



## DR. LAURA DABINETT AND DR. RUSSELL MCKELWAY

Dr. Laura Dabinett and Dr. Russell McKelway established the Dabinett-McKelway Center for Global Health Scholarship in 2021 to support a School of Medicine student who participates in a summer research project that is mentored by faculty from the Center for Global Health Equity. The Center for Global Health Equity is a pan-University center that promotes an integrated, thoughtful approach to problem solving with a truly global perspective. Their generosity will develop the next generation of global health leaders who are committed to equity.

### What inspires you to support the Center for Global Health Equity?

We met while in medical school at the University of Virginia. We had both already developed a passion for travel and an interest in medical care throughout the world, not just in our own home environments. During Russell's fourth year, he went to Mexico with his advisor, Dr. Erik Hewlett, to perform clinical research on pertussis. After residency and moving to Winchester, Laura began to make mission trips to Nicaragua and later to Haiti, bringing along practitioners and students from many disciplines.

We want students from the School of Medicine at UVA to be able to broaden their horizons, as we did. But all of us are only too aware of how increasing tuition and student debt make it hard to avoid anything beyond the bare minimum. Regardless of their resources, we want students to be able to travel overseas as a part of their medical education if that is where their talents and interests lead.

We have deep respect for the Center for Global Health Equity and the people who make it work. It has been a privilege to feel part of that team and to give back to the University that made our careers possible.



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