

SCHOOL OF WORLD STUDIES ANNUAL REPORT

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our students, staff and faculty complete an exciting second year that has continued and solidified our transformation from an assembly of individual programs in anthropology, foreign languages, geography, international studies, and religious studies into a single World Studies community. Together we celebrate the recognition of our faculty, the creation of innovative curricula, and the strengthening of links to our community.

World Studies faculty earned recognition in a variety of arenas this year:

- Amber Bennett, Anton Brinckwirth, Kathryn Murphy-Judy, and Christina Turner earned Faculty Mentoring Awards from the Instructional Development Center.
- Christopher Brooks, Patricia Cummins and Paul Dvorak were among the faculty to participate in the second Arts and Humanities Research Institute sponsored by the VCU Office of Research.
- Lynn Nelson received the "VCU Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning & Technology."
- Volkmar Risch was recognized by the Outstanding Adjunct, Humanities Award by the College of Humanities and Sciences.

The School of World Studies presented itself to the university and surrounding communities by hosting and co-hosting many events this year, including:

- The first Joint Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies and School of World Studies conference with attendees from across the U.S. and Canada was a huge success which show-cased VCU to a national group of academics. This was held in conjunction with the Crossing Boundaries series and included Oscar Arias as the keynote speaker. Claudia Ferman, a noted film scholar moderated a

two day film festival to run concurrently with the Conference, "Crossing Boundaries: Latin American Perspectives."

- The 1st Annual VCU Arabic Film Festival, September 17–18.
The Grace Street Theatre hosted six films to capacity crowds over a two-day period. (co-sponsored with the VCU Honors Program and the Office for International Education)
- The 10th Annual World Studies Student Research Conference, October 14–15.
Carri Naumann–Monti organized our largest and best attended conference to date, including special exhibits and 150 students presenting on twenty–six panels organized and chaired by VCU faculty.
- The 2nd Annual VCU Grace Street Festival, October 16.
VCU students, staff and faculty joined with local merchants to fill the 900–block of Grace Street with music, food and approximately 1,000 people in celebration of the many cultures and traditions from around the world that have found a home in Richmond.
- The 13th Annual French Film Festival, March 26–28.
Festival directors Peter Kirkpatrick and Françoise Ravoux–Kirkpatrick oversaw the largest and best–attended festival to date. Festival intern and staff offices are now housed in the School of World Studies.
- Ties That Divide: A Conference On United States–German Relations, April 15
McKenna Brown, Patricia Cummins and Paul Dvorak collaborated with the World Affairs Council of Greater Richmond and the University of Richmond to host this well–attended event featuring keynote speakers: Dr. Karsten Voigt, German Foreign Ministry, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, Outgoing Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and Dr. Daniel Hamilton, Richard von Weizsaecker Professor of Trans–Atlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University.

- Crossing Boundaries Lecture Series, 2004–2005.

Amber Bennet, Cliff Edwards, Gina Kovarsky, Eugenia Muñoz, and Jon Waybright coordinated this successful series in collaboration with the University Honors Program, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which included:

1. Marjorie Agosín, Chilean novelist and poet, spoke on “Poetry and Human Rights” on Sept. 23. (co-sponsored with the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
2. Craig Kielburger, Founder of Free the Children, an international network of children helping children spoke on October 15, serving as the keynote speaker for the World Studies Student Research Conference.
3. Jorgen Flindt Petersen, Danish Filmmaker, screened his documentary “Your Neighbor's Son,” and discussed his art on October 27.
4. Michael Newton, a Ph.D. in Celtic Studies from University of Edinburgh, and Rhiannon Giddens, a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory presented a multimedia presentation “Lost Voices of the Afro-Celts” on February 3. (Co-sponsored with African-American Studies Program)
5. Katherine Frank, a cultural anthropologist and fiction writer, presented on “Love, Sex and Monogamy in Modern American Marriages”, on February 15.
6. Matthew Sanford, writer, yoga teacher, founder of Mind Body Solutions, spoke on “Crossing the Boundaries between Mind and Body” on March 9. (co-sponsored with the Department of Occupational Therapy in the School of Allied Health Professions)
7. Nasr Abu Zaid, Egyptian Islamic Studies Scholar, spoke on “The Boundaries of Exile” on March 31. (Co-sponsored with the Office of International Education)

8. Oscar Arias, Former President of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Laureate, spoke on “Crossing Boundaries towards Peace” on April 8, and served as the keynote speaker for our first Crossing Boundaries Conference, co-sponsored this year with the Mid-Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS). (Co-sponsored with the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, and the Office of International Education)
9. Alexandra Halkin, Director of the Chiapas Media Project, and Greg Berger, Documentary Film Director presented and discussed their work as part of the 1st Annual VCU Latin American Film Series on April 9–10. Noted Latin American film scholar, Claudia Ferman, curated and moderated the films. (Co-sponsored with the Honor’s Program and the Office of International Education)

TEACHING

The School of World Studies reaffirms its commitment to outstanding teaching, and increased its teaching outreach in several important areas. Cliff Edwards served on the World Class Student Experience committee of the VCU 2020 Strategic Planning initiative. The number of credits and students taught increased by almost 20% over the previous year, reaching 46,984 credit hours to approximately 15,000 students. Courses offered include:

- Writing-intensive and other courses supporting seven of the eleven categories in the General Education Program.
- A total of 25 Writing-intensive courses, more than any other unit in the College.
- Upper-level courses supporting interdisciplinary programs in African-American Studies, VCU Honors Program, Women's Studies, Linguistics, and the Life Sciences.
- Upper-level courses supporting our majors in Anthropology, Foreign Languages, International Studies, and Religious Studies.

- A growing number of graduate courses (351 credits) serving K-12 language educators among others.

The number of students majoring in World Studies programs grew by 32% over the previous year to 370, reflected by growth in every program: anthropology-64 (16%); French-27 (58%); German-12 (9%); Spanish-80 (6%); international studies-100 (143%); and religious studies-87 (9%). Our number of graduates jumped 91% over the previous year to 84. These degrees were earned in: anthropology (11), foreign languages/French (4), foreign languages/German (4), foreign languages/Spanish (31), international studies (7) and religious studies (27). Seventy-two students graduated with World Studies minors and one completed the Undergraduate Certificate in International Management Studies. Over one-third of the students graduating with majors or minors in World Studies (56) did so with honors.

Significant curricular developments this year in World Studies include a new minor in Islamic Studies, a World Studies Honors Program and a combined proposal for a Masters and Ph.D. program in Global and Comparative Studies.

World Studies faculty demonstrated admirable success in securing grants and contracts to support and enhance our teaching mission, including:

- McKenna Brown's proposal to the Council of International Exchange of Scholars that the School of World Studies host a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies during the 2005-2006 academic year won recent approval.
- Martin Clagett received a fellowship from the Monticello Foundation for his work on "William Small, Jefferson's professor at the College of William and Mary", as well as a post-graduate fellowship to the University of St Andrews in Scotland.
- Pat Cummins continued in the second year of a planning grant from the Council of Graduate Schools (\$5,500) to develop a proposal for a professional master's program in languages and international affairs.

- Paul Dvorak began the second year of a contract with the Virginia Department of Education (\$500,000) to support hosting the “Governor’s Summer Foreign Language Academies: A Global Village” that will bring hundreds of high school students to the VCU campus in June and July.
- Robert Godwin-Jones was awarded \$800 from the National Foreign Language Center, University of Hawaii, for participation in the 2004 Conference on Distance Learning in July.
- Kathy Murphy-Judy participated in the Professional Opportunities for Developing Excellent Teachers: English Second Language (PODET) Program in the VCU School of Education supported by a U.S. Department of Education grant and currently serves as the College representative on a U.S. Department of Education grant to support the creation of liberal arts major for teacher training.
- Mark Wood co-directs a three-year grant from the Metanexus Institute (\$15,000) to support a series of public forums on topics related to Faith and Life Sciences.

Our faculty have collaborated widely in innovative curriculum development projects, including:

- World Studies faculty Saba Abed, Pat Cummins, Paul Dvorak, Gina Kovarsky, Christina Turner, and Mark Wood are developing an undergraduate certificate in international social justice studies with faculty in the VCU School of Social Work and the Christian Children's Fund supported by an on-going Department of Education Title VI grant directed by McKenna Brown.
- Pat Cummins continues to coordinate collaboration between World Studies language faculty and the Virginia Department of Education in the LINGUAFOLIO USA project.
- Anders Linde-Laursen continued his cooperation with professors from Lund University (Sweden), Bergen University (Norway) and the Danish Center for Human Rights to design and teach an interdisciplinary course in "Nordic Studies" at Fudan University, Shanghai.

World Studies faculty continue to pioneer the effective use of technology in support of teaching, including:

- Anton Brinckwirth has overseen the purchase, installation and integration of several important software products in the Language Learning Center through support of a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant.
- Anders Linde-Laursen developed and taught INTL 591: Globalization and Transformation in cooperation with a network of universities in China, India, Bulgaria, Rumania, Germany and Sweden in which students from the participating campuses will collaborate on joint discussions and assignments on shared course content.
- Lynn Nelson continues teaching an online SOCY 101 course for students at the Qatar campus of the VCU School of the Arts. He continues his use of web-based components that enable him to teach about 1,200 introductory sociology students each year.

RESEARCH

World Studies faculty are active and productive scholars in their fields as demonstrated by the list of their publications. A representative sampling of on-going research efforts include:

- Martin Clagett collaborates with Colonial Williamsburg Chief Curator Emeritus Graham Hood on biography of William Small.
- Anders Linde-Laursen collaborates with Christian Tangkjær of Strategic Leadership at Copenhagen Business School on the global trend to "brand" spaces (regions and/or cities), resulting in a published article this year.
- Dan Perdue has an ongoing collaboration with Geshe Gelek, a Tibetan scholar living in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Weiping Wu continues her research collaborations with Shahid Yusuf of Development Economics Research Group, the World Bank; with Emily Rosenbaum of Fordham University; and with Drs. John Logan of SUNY-

Albany and Fulong Wu of University of Southampton on spatial restructuring in urban China.

The School of World Studies faculty have widely presented their research at professional conferences, including:

- Anton Brinckwirth, "Teaching Language and Culture with Virtual Technology," Mid Atlantic Association of Language Learning Technology, March 2005.
- Christopher Brooks lectured and signed copies of his book with Shirley Verrett at the DuSable Museum, Chicago in 2004 and the Voice Foundation in 2005. He also provided a lecture tutorial for Robert Sims' Carnegie Hall debut, February 2005.
- McKenna Brown, "Vanishing Voices and Globalization: the Guatemalan Mayas" XXVI Mid-Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Conference. VCU, 2005.
- Martin Clagett, "The Medical Career of William Small," College of Medical History, University of Birmingham, England.
- Cliff Edwards lectured on Van Gogh and other painters at the major collection exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts November 6.
- Robert Godwin-Jones, "Sharing Learning Content for Distributed Language Instruction", National Foreign Language Center, University of Hawaii, July, 2004.
- Robert Godwin-Jones, "Creating Learning Objects for Language Learning", SALT Annual Conference, Washington, DC, August, 2004.
- Robert Godwin-Jones, "Creating Interactive Web Lessons in Blackboard," Northeast Blackboard Users Group Conference, Pittsburgh, March 2005.
- Robert Godwin-Jones, "Learning Objects: An Introduction," TechED Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, April 2005
- Anders Linde-Laursen chaired the opening session at the 2nd Nordic-China Conference on European Integration and the Nordic Countries" Fudan University, Shanghai.

- Mar Góngora, "The Construction of Royal Subjectivity: Disease and the King's Natural Body in 'Letters to His Daughters' by Philip II," Renaissance Society of America, April 2004
- Muñoz, Eugenia, "Sobre las fronteras del tiempo: La masacre de Tlatelolco y un poema de Rosario Castellanos," XXVI Mid-Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies Conference. VCU, 2005.
- Angelina Overvold, "L'écriture en tant qu'auto-psychanalyse chez Myriam Warner-vieyra et Louise Lambrichs," Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones. Liège, Belgium, 2004.
- Robert Sims, "Intertextualidades inevitables: García Márquez, Eduardo Galeano, Mijail Bajtín y la aventura dialógica: Periodismo, Literatura, trasgresión genérica y escritura bigenérica,"
- Christina Turner, "Guaraní Language Usage in the Trilogy by Roa Bastos, part 2" at the XXV International Congress of Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, NV October 2004.
- Amina Wadud, "Islam, Gender and the Challenge of Modernity," Muslim Intent on Learning and Activism Series, University of Denver, 2004.
- Weiping Wu, "Creative Clusters and Dynamic Cities." 46th Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Portland, Oct. 2004.
- Weiping Wu, "Targeted Public Policies in Shanghai's Path to a Knowledge-Based Economy," Annual Conference one Research Committee 21 on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development, International Sociological Association, Singapore, December 2004.

Books

Argenter J. and R. McKenna Brown eds. *On the Margins of Nations: Endangered Languages and Linguistic Rights*. (Barcelona: UNESCO Chair of languages and Education). Bath: Foundation for Endangered Languages. 2004.

Turner, Christina, *MACLAS Journal Essays Vol. XVII: Selected Papers Presented at the 24th Annual Conference Of the Middle American*

Council of Latin American Studies, Kutztown University February 21–22, 2003. 2004.

Articles and other publications

- Argenter J. and R. McKenna, "Preface: On the Margins of Nations: Endangered Languages and Linguistic Rights," Argenter J. and R. McKenna Brown eds. *On the Margins of Nations: Endangered Languages and Linguistic Rights*. (Barcelona: UNESCO Chair of languages and Education). Bath: Foundation for Endangered Languages. 2004.
- Brooks, Christopher. "Post-Colonial Africa," William H. McNeill, ed. *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History*, Berkshire Reference Work. 2005.
- Cummins, Patricia. "Promotion of Professional Masters Degrees for Language Majors," *AATF National Bulletin* 30, No. 2 (2004), 5.
- Godwin-Jones, Robert. "Language in Action: Webquests and Virtual Field Trips," *Language Learning & Technology*, vol. 8, no. 4, September, 2004, pp. 9–14.
- Godwin-Jones, Robert. "Learning Objects: Scorn or SCORM?" *Language Learning & Technology*, vol. 9, no. 1, May, 2004, pp. 7–12.
- Godwin-Jones, Robert. "Messaging, Gaming, Peer-to-Peer Sharing: Language Learning Strategies & Tools for the Millennial Generation," *Language Learning & Technology*, vol. 9, no. 1, January, 2005, pp. 17–22.
- Godwin-Jones, Robert and Kathryn Murphy-Judy. "Effective CALL for Troubled Times," *Changing Language Education through CALL*, Randall Donaldson and Margaret A. Haggstrom, eds. Routledge, 2005.
- Góngora, Mar. "Relaciones homosociales, discurso antibelicista y ansiedades masculinas en la obra de Garcilaso de la Vega," *Caliope* 10:123–140.
- Góngora, Mar. "Conflictos en la sociedad estamental: el discurso antimercantil en el Libro de Alexandre," *Crítica Hispánica* 26: 115–31.

- Góngora, Mar. "Adoctrinar a Giulia Gonzaga: mujeres y conciencia de exilio en la obra de Juan de Valdez," In *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos (PR)* 30: 71–92.
- Góngora, Mar. "Política de asimilación y estatus de inferioridad en el Tratado acerca de los moriscos de Pedro de Valencia." In *Hispanófila* 137: 19–34.
- Linde–Laursen, Anders and Christian Tangkjaer. "Place–Making in the Global Village. Oresund: A Brand New Future?" Friedrich Zimmermann and Susanne Janschitz, eds. *Regional Policies in Europe. Soft Features for Innovative Cross–Border Cooperation*. Graz: Leykam. pp. 9–29.
- Muñoz, Eugenia. "Tres ejes culturales en la poética vallejana del dolor," *Transcendiendo fronteras: lo hispano y su literatura*. Enrique Herrera, ed. Lock Heaven: Asociación de Estudios Hispánicos Press, 2005. pp. 37–47.
- Muñoz, Eugenia. "Una madre sin su hija," "El calvario de mi hija," "En el reino de la no–justicia," <http://www.madresdejuarez.org/3poemsmunoz.htm>.
- Nelson, Lynn D. and Irina Y Kuzes. "Implications of the Federal Reform in Three Regions." *The Dynamics of Russian Politics: Putin's Reform of Federal–Regional Relations*, vol 2. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2005 pp. 427–62.
- Wadud, Amina, "Justice, Gender and Islam," In *Islam 21: A Global Network for Muslim Intellectuals and Activists*, Issue No 36, May 2004 pp. 4–5.
- Wadud, Amina, "Qur'an, Gender and Interpretive Possibilities," In *Hawwa*, Vol 2, Issue 3, 2004 pp. 316–336.
- Weaver–Williams, Lynda. "Forward," William D Campbell, *The Glad River*, Smyth & Helwys Publishing (January, 2005) pp 3–8.
- Wood, Mark. "Another World is Possible: Pedagogy for Democratic Globalization," In Eds. Laura Gray–Rosendale and Steven Rosendale, *Radical Relevance: Toward a Scholarship of the Whole Left*. New York: SUNY Press, 2004 pp 213–237.
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Wu, Weiping and Shahid Yusuf. "Shanghai: Remaking China's Future Global City," Josef Gugler, ed. *World Cities beyond the West: Globalization, Development and Inequality*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004 pp. 27–58.

Wu, Weiping. "Targeted Public Policies in Shanghai's Path to a Knowledge-Based Economy," in *Proceedings of the 33rd Sino-American Conference on Contemporary China- New International Order in East-Asia in the 21st Century*. Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan.

SERVICE

Many of our faculty provide consulting, editorial and review contributions within their areas of expertise:

- Anton Brinckwirth reviewed an article for the IALLT Journal of Language Learning Technologies.
- Pat Cummins is on the Editorial board for *Global Business Languages* (Purdue University) and for the *Journal of Language for International Business* (American Graduate School for International Management) and a reviewer for *Global Business Languages*.
- Paul Dvorak is a reviewer for *Modern Austrian Literature*, *Monatshefte*, and *The German Quarterly*. He also serves on the Editorial Board for Ariadne Press.
- Robert Godwin-Jones reviews for *Unterrichtspraxis*, *The Comparatist*, *Monatshefte*, and the *Calico Review*.
- Mar Góngora reviews manuscripts for *Renaissance Quarterly*.
- Anders Linde-Laursen reviewed an article for *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*.
- Kathy Murphy-Judy regularly reads for *Calico Review*.
- Christina Turner is the Managing Editor of *Latin American Essays* and reviews for the *Journal of Human Organization*, *American Ethnologist*, *Current Anthropology*, and *Latin American Research Review*. She also

reviews textbooks for Blackwell Publishing, McGraw–Hill, and Burston House, Ltd.

- Amina Wadud reviewed *Muslim Women Activists* by Katherine Bullock for University of Texas Press.
- Weiping Wu reviews for the *China: An International Journal, Journal of Planning Education and Research, China Review, and Growth and Change*. For RoutledgeCurzon Press, reviewed “Globalization and the Chinese City.” She also serves as a consultant with the World Bank.
- The School of World Studies faculty served as grants reviewers, including for the Council for International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright specialist selection committee (Christopher Brooks), the Department of Education (Pat Cummins), the National Endowment for the Humanities (Paul Dvorak), the National Security Education Program Graduate Education Fellowship program (Christina Turner), and the National Science Foundation (Weiping Wu).

Our faculty hold leadership positions in various professional organizations, including:

- McKenna Brown serves on the Board of Directors for the Foundation for Endangered Languages, the Yax Te' Center for Intercultural Education at Cleveland State University, and on the Board of Directors as treasurer for the Guatemala Scholars Network.
- Pat Cummins is on the Executive Committee of the Virginia American Association of University Professors and served as the Chair of the Government and Legislative Relations Committee and Co–chair of Higher Education Advocacy Day at the General Assembly. She also chairs the American Association of Teachers of French Commission on Colleges and Universities.
- Chantal Maréchal is a member of the Executive and Advisory Committees of the International Marie de France Society (as Founding Past President) and the Webmaster for the International Marie de France Society.

- Kathy Murphy–Judy serves on the Executive Board CALICO and is the Director of FLEX, Foreign Language Exchange of Greater Richmond.
- Christina Turner is District X representative for the National Council of American Association University Professors. She is a member–at–large and webmaster of the VCU Chapter of the AAUP and also serves on the Executive Council and as Webmaster for the Mid–Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies.
- Weiping Wu is a member of the Diversity Committee, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Planning Education and Research Member, International Advisory Board, Urban China Research Network. She prepared "Dynamic Cities and Creative Clusters" for the Development Economics Research Group, the World Bank.

World Studies faculty are active in the community, lending their expertise to a variety of endeavors, including:

- McKenna Brown, Kathy Murphy–Judy, María Panbehchi and Michael Panbehchi form part of the Hispanic Pilot Initiative of the Red Cross that assembles organizations with Hispanic outreach for community assessment and planning.
- Christopher Brooks volunteers at Deep Meadow Correctional facility in Goochland/Powhatan for several hours a day every Wednesday to help the inmate population with writing. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Richmond Midnight Basket League (RMBL) which plans activities for “at risk” youth.
- Pat Cummins serves as communion minister to French and Spanish–speaking parishioners who are ill for St. Edwards Church.
- Robert Godwin–Jones works with Henrico and Hanover k–12 school systems for Web development and Blackboard implementation.
- Eugenia Muñoz is active in the Chesterfield County Public Schools, offering many workshops on poetics. She hosted a lecture by Maricela Ortiz and Ramona Morales of “Nuestras hijas de regeso a casa (May Our

Daughters Return Home)" in support of the hundreds of women murdered in Ciudad Juarez, México since 1993.

- Kathy Murphy–Judy coordinates a regional network of language teachers and gave the keynote address at Freeman HS for language honorary societies. She coordinates among several Hispanic outreach organizations linking higher education, internships and ESL.
- Dan Perdue established and ran a temporary twelve–week school for Spanish–speaking children preparing to enter the American educational system for the first time. He also served as Co–Director for the Virginia portion of a one–year national tour of a group of Tibetan monks in America to promote international peace.
- Tommy South presents lectures across the country, including Texas, Ohio and Virginia, on themes such as, "Preaching Counter to Our Culture," and "Maintaining Objective Faith in a Subjective World."
- Kristi Swenson–Mendez served as Society of Biblical Literature representative on Capitol Hill for Humanities Advocacy Day Spring 2004. She presented at the "Opening Our Doors, Opening Our Hearts Conference" in Duluth, MN.
- Christina Turner provided original photos and commentary for the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco for upcoming exhibit, Sept. 2005. She spoke on the "Importance of Participation in Government by Youth," for SpeakOut!, a Student Government Association event. Turner also co–organized a Virginia Lobby Day (2003), a coordinated effort of the AAUP, Faculty Senates of Virginia, and VCU's Faculty Senate.
- Amina Wadud spoke for a fundraiser for a battered women's shelter, "Root Causes of Domestic Violence: Absence of Tawhid" sponsored by Baitul–Salaam, Atlanta at ICNA Southern Islamic Convention.
- Lynda Weaver–Williams regularly participates in Food Not Bombs service to homeless on Sundays at Monroe Park; she spoke at a rally for the homeless at Monroe Park.

- Mark Wood served as a guest lecturer, respondent, discussant for numerous classes and in various fora. He also is a supporter of Richmond Coalition for a Living Wage, Boys and Girls Clubs of Richmond, and Planned Parenthood.
- Weiping Wu is a member of the International Committee, Richmond Industrial Development Authority.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

One goal for this year was the continued consolidation of operations as a single unit in our new headquarters. Continued renovations to our main building presented occasional challenges, deftly managed by staff members Stephanie Freeman, Wanda Hewlett and Lee Wasiluk, allowing us progress in addressing this year's goals:

- This was the first year of full implementation of our integrated assessment plan revolving around our innovative SWS Passport, the senior seminar class, advising, and WEAVE. Our assessment findings, assessment rubrics, information on the Passport and our annual report are posted prominently on the SWS web page.
- Continued and increased support for faculty involved in high-quality and innovative teaching, productive scholarship, and community and professional service.

As reflected in previous sections of this report, many of our faculty have been very active in furthering the school's mission. As fiscal limitations permit, their efforts have been supported through course reductions, teaching assistants, research leave, equipment upgrades and travel support.

- Increased contributions to and support for interdisciplinary and internationalized curriculum development, including general education courses, major and minor concentrations, and graduate programs.

This year saw the first offerings of several innovative courses supporting interdisciplinary programs at many levels, including:

ANTH 391 Nation Building & Nationalism
ANTH 391 Anthropology through Film
ANTH 391 Historic and Ethnic Textiles
ANTH 391 Mayan Expressive Culture
ANTH 498 Honors in Anthropology
FLET 391 Women & Madness In Francophone Literature
FLET 391 Beyond Boundaries–Dante
FREN 491 Women In French Poetry
FREN 491 La Médecine dans la Littérature Française
FREN 491 Women in French Theater
FRLG 203 Language & Identity in the Arabic World
FRLG 204 Language Groups In the US: Scots
FRLG 591 Health Issues In French Literature
GRMN 491 Women In German Literature
HUMS 391 Advanced Latin Readings
INTL 151 Communications Technology & Global Societies
INTL 210 International Social Justice Studies
INTL 491 The Global Information Economy
INTL 591 Global Economic Change & Geography
INTL 591 Historical & Cultural Landscapes
ITAL 391 Federico Fellini
ITAL 391 The Italians
RELS 391 American Catholicism & Culture
RELS 401 Faith & Life Sciences
RELS 490 Global Religion–Liberty & Diversity
RELS 490 Islam & African Americans
RELS 490 Islamic Mysticism–Sufi
RELS 490 Religion & Social Justice
RELS 491 Peace & Abrahamic Tradition
RELS 491 Religion & The Arts–Van Gogh
RUSS 302 Russian Literature
SPAN 491 Spanish for Medical Professions
SPAN 491 Spanish For Health Services
SPAN 503 Spanish Translation
SPAN 513 Texts and Contexts

Our curricular achievements this year include a new minor in Islamic Studies, a World Studies Honors Program and faculty approval of a

combined draft proposal for a Masters and Ph.D. program in Global and Comparative Studies. We initiated a self-study, headed by Cliff Edwards, to examine our goals and strengths. We also initiated planning on revising the language majors and reconfiguring the 100-level language courses. We developed a draft of a major in Mediterranean Studies. Lee Wasiluk and Daniel Perdue completed the Master Advisors Program in the Office of Academic Advising.

- A ten-percent increase in the number of students pursuing majors, minors, and graduate credits in the School of World Studies.

We are delighted with the degree to which we have exceeded our goals in this area. Our majors have increased by 33% increase in majors, our graduates by 91% and the credits offered by almost 20%.

- Increased visibility of the School through public events such as the 10th World Studies Student Research Conference, 2nd Grace Street Festival, and the Crossing Boundaries lecture series.

Thousands attended our more than a dozen events listed and described in this report, which were featured on the VCU homepage and in local media, including the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Our faculty activities have brought us attention world wide.

- The establishment of a development strategy to support future growth in World Studies, including scholarships.

Our plans to hire a development officer to our ranks have been put on hold. Nevertheless, our faculty continue to serve on community boards and network with potential supporters of our programs. We have initiated regular communication with our alumni, inviting them to events and further involvement with the school's future. Our total scholarship dollars have increased by over \$3,000 this year, including two new freshman merit scholarships (in foreign languages and international studies), a figure we hope to increase considerably.

- The adoption of by-laws and tenure and promotion guidelines for the School of World Studies.

Our tenure and promotion guidelines were approved by the faculty in fall semester and the bylaws in spring semester.

- Continued rehabilitation of office spaces in our main building, Lafayette Hall.

During this year, ten offices and the conference room were renovated, including abatement, new flooring and wall surfaces, and electrical outlets. Nine more offices remain in need of air-conditioning and/or electrical outlets, and twenty-three offices remain on the list for painting and floors. One notable achievement this year was the mural painted in our lobby by School of Arts students enrolled in Janet Gilmore Bryan's mural painting class. She has supervised previous mural projects in the Branch Cabell Library and Virginia Holocaust Museum.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is hard to imagine a more internationally-focused group of faculty than the School of World Studies. All faculty members in the School of World Studies have some international focus in their teaching, research or service, and for most faculty, it is the overriding emphasis of their endeavors. Almost all World Studies faculty speak at least one language other than English, and many speak two or three. Our faculty regularly carry out their teaching, research and service missions overseas.

Our faculty played key roles in the VCU 2020 strategic planning process involving Establishing a Global Presence. Our faculty play central roles in the new exchange agreements with the University of Messina and Cordoba and Fudan University in Shanghai.

World Studies faculty lead Summer Study Programs in many lands, including: Austria (Robert Godwin-Jones), France (Kathy Murphy-Judy), Guatemala (Rosita Cruz); Italy (Cinzia Corulobo); Cuernavaca, Mexico (Eugenia Muñoz); Yucatan, Mexico (Christina Turner) Puerto Rico (Rosita Cruz); Seville, Spain (Esperanza Soria-Nieto); and Granada, Spain (Kristin Swenson).

The interest in our non-degree language programs (Arabic, Chinese, Italian, Latin and Russian) continues to grow. Fall semester we began offering advanced courses in Latin and Russian. An advanced course in Arabic is under development.

Objectives for Next Year

- Continued and increased support for faculty involved in high-quality and innovative teaching, productive scholarship, and community and professional service.
- Increased contributions to and support for interdisciplinary and internationalized curriculum development, including general education courses, major and minor concentrations, and graduate programs.
- Increased opportunities for our faculty to lend their expertise in professional training.
- A ten-percent increase in the number of students pursuing majors, minors, and graduate credits in the School of World Studies.
- Increased visibility of the School through public events such as the World Studies Student Research Conference and the Grace Street Festival.
- The establishment of a development strategy to support future growth in World Studies, including scholarships.
- Continued rehabilitation of office spaces in our main building, Lafayette Hall.

TRANSITIONS

The School of World Studies bids a fond and grateful farewell to our retiring colleagues Chantal Maréchal, Antonio Masullo and Margaret Peischl, whose long years of service leave an indelible imprint on our language programs.

World Studies carried out five successful national searches this year, and we are delighted to welcome the following outstanding new hires to our World Studies mission:

- Darren Aversa, Instructor in Spanish

- Monika Ciesielkiewicz, Instructor in Spanish
- Jérôme Cornette, Assistant Professor in French and Film studies
- Elizabeth Kissling, Instructor in Spanish
- Bernardo Piciché, Assistant Professor in Italian and Mediterranean studies

We are also pleased to welcome to our ranks the talents of Wanda Hewlett, Administrative Assistant, and the following outstanding adjunct instructors:

Stephen Booth
Ruth Bradner
Vera DiTrocchio
Paul Flowers
Jennifer Garvin-Sanchez
Micol Hammick
Maury Hutcheson
Ana Karim
Deborah Lynch
Bernard Means
Anita Nadal
Michael Newton
Julia Pfaff
Lisa Pham
Ernesto Quintero
Claudio Ragazzi
Tom Vest
Laurie Vines
Marsha Wadkins