“The academy is stronger when everyone contributes to the world of ideas.”

Ben Vinson III, Dean
The **World of Knowledge** is no more confined to one region than it is to one mind. Today’s global society is highly interconnected and becoming more so each day.

The George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that students and faculty alike must actively participate in the worldwide circulation of ideas. As such, we are engaged in intellectual vigor that reaches beyond our classrooms and labs and into China, the Indian subcontinent, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Through Luther Rice Research Fellowships, international summer programs, Dean’s Scholars in Globalization seminars, graduate capstone projects, faculty-mentored research and more, we transport students and scholars from the beaches of Normandy and the top of Arctic mountains, to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean and the deserts of Africa. Through our Confucius Institute, the Koobi Fora Field School, the Global Media Institute, and the Archaeological Institute, we instill a unique perspective on how knowledge, history, technology, culture, and language shape national identities and aspirations. And through our collaboration with researchers from across the planet, we are creating new knowledge, engaging in new discoveries, and fostering new channels for communication and understanding.
Columbian College strives to be singularly responsive to the needs of our times through a broad-based education steeped in rigorous scholarship and practical application. Through what it calls the engaged liberal arts, the college both embraces and transcends the classic disciplines associated with the arts and sciences. By introducing a range of interdisciplinary programs, the engaged liberal arts exposes students to the living laboratory of theories and ideas.

With more than 100 undergraduate majors and minors, 60 graduate and doctoral programs and 28 research centers and institutes, Columbian College is the academic heart of GW. We excel in the arenas of political science, math, history and languages and offer graduate and professional programs ranging from art therapy and museum studies to forensic sciences and media and public affairs. We are engaged with the nation’s capital through our internships and professional ties, and through our connections to the world beyond with our research and teaching. And we are a place where experimentation is anchored in practice, and theory is continually tested by examples drawn from the so-called real world.
Through Columbian College’s distinct yet interconnected programs in science, policy, social science and the humanities, education is holistic—rigorous yet grounded, forward-thinking and visionary yet tested in how we live our lives. Look inside our labs and you’ll find psychologists exploring how genetic and environmental factors impact a child’s risk for obesity; chemists developing revolutionary carbon dioxide-free methods of producing iron to diminish global warming; anthropologists unearthing the mysteries behind autism and the patterns of human aging; geographers mapping immigration trends in urban areas; and world-class artists partnering with the nation’s top cultural institutions to engage the creative spirit.

**POLICY**

▷ **immersion in real-world experience**

Situated in Washington’s intersection of power and media, we attract top faculty and students who seek to study decision-making as it happens. Our proximity to government and close ties to people within it enable us to conduct policy-relevant research to a degree matched by few other institutions. And our graduate programs in public policy and public administration are ranked among the best in the country.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

▷ **studying people and their interactions**

Faculty and students in our social sciences study the origins of humans, how we have evolved, the way we interact and live, and how we are moving forward. The knowledge we create through such disciplines as anthropology, political science, economics, psychology, and speech and hearing science shed light on human evolution over millennia and on how to improve the lives of individuals who will live to see the 22nd century.

**SCIENCE**

▷ **seeking answers to the big questions**

How can we meet the energy needs of a planet of seven billion people? The answers to this and other vital questions will come from disciplines ranging from physics to hominid paleobiology. With the advent of our new Science and Engineering Hall, we will have one of the greatest concentrations of discoverers and innovators under one roof in the nation. The building will house the most advanced laboratories and tools and—equally important—put students and faculty in a setting designed to foster innovative, interdisciplinary cooperation.

**HUMANITIES**

▷ **understanding our world and interpreting it**

Policy and the sciences determine what we do; the arts and humanities determine who we are. Research by our scholars reaches around the globe in areas such as languages, comparisons of cultures, and art that ranges from masterpieces of the past to media of the future. Partnering with the Smithsonian Institution, the Phillips Collection, Arena Stage, and many others, we offer opportunities to understand and interpret the human world.
As a scholar of history and someone who spent part of his life living abroad, Dean Ben Vinson III brings to his leadership role at the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences a strong international perspective. A member of the National Humanities Center Board of Trustees, his scholarship focuses on colonial Mexico, especially the African presence in Mexico.

He has authored and coauthored several books and is currently researching the colonial Latin American caste system. Dean Vinson has been awarded fellowships from the Fulbright Commission, National Humanities Center, Social Science Research Council, and the Ford, Rockefeller and Mellon foundations.
undergraduate majors

- Africana Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Arabic Studies
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Art History and Fine Arts
- Biological Anthropology
- Biology
- Biophysics
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Classical Studies
- Communication
- Criminal Justice
- Dance
- Dramatic Literature
- Economics
- English
- English and Creative Writing
- Environmental Studies
- Fine Arts
- French
- Geography
- Geological Sciences
- German
- History
- Human Services and Social Justice

advanced degree and graduate certificate programs

- American Studies
- Anatomical and Translational Sciences
- Anthropology
- Applied Mathematics
- Art History
- Art Therapy
- Art Therapy Practice
- Biochemistry and Systems Biology
- Biostatistics
- Biological Sciences
- Budget and Public Finance
- Chemistry
- Classical Acting
- Counseling
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Criminology
- Dance
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Economics
- English
- Environmental Resource Policy
- Exhibit Design
- Financial Mathematics
- Fine Arts
- Forensic Psychology
- Forensic Investigation
- Forensic Sciences
- Geography
- Geographical Information Systems
- High Technology Crime Investigation
- History
- Hominid Paleobiology
- Interior Architecture and Design
- Japanese
- Journalism and Mass Communication
- Judaic Studies
- Mathematics
- Music
- Organizational Sciences
- Peace Studies
- Philosophy
- Philosophy (Public Affairs)
- Physics
- Political Communication

research centers & institutes

Humanities
- GW Capitol Archaeological Institute
- Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project
- First Federal Congress Project
- Institute for Immigrants in America
- GW Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute

Social Sciences
- Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies
- Documentary Center
- Center for Economic Research
- Institute for Ethnographic Research
- Midge Smith Center for Evaluation Effectiveness
- Center for the Advanced Study of Hominid Paleobiology
- Center for Innovative Media
- Latino Health Research Center
- Institute for Middle East Studies
- GW Mind-Brain Institute
- The Institute for Public Diplomacy & Global Communication
- Regulatory Studies Center
- The GW Solar Institute
- Center for Urban and Environmental Research

Sciences
- GW Center for Biomimetics and Bioinspired Engineering
- GW Institute for Massively Parallel Applications and Computing Technology
- Institute for Materials Science
- Institute for Mathematical Sciences
- Institute for Nanotechnology
- GW Institute for Nuclear Studies
- W. M. Keck Institute for Proteomics Technology and Applications
- Center for Quantum Computing, Information, Logic & Topology
- Institute for Reliability and Risk Analysis
The 21st century will be one of intensive global interaction involving rapid technological change and dynamic growth. These same interactions will merge peoples of different religions, cultures, histories, and economic and political systems. Whether nations and peoples integrate seamlessly, or clash instead, will depend on the leadership of the next generation.

With its internationally-recognized faculty, diverse student body, and active relationships with institutions like the National Institutes of Health, the International Monetary Fund, and the Smithsonian Institution, the Columbian College is at the forefront of advancing policy and enhancing culture through research and discovery.
Confucius Institute Opens Doors to Engagement

Columbian College is home to the GW Confucius Institute, which was established in 2013 to promote the study of Chinese language and culture, support Chinese teaching through instructional training and certification, and encourage increased research in the area of China studies. Named for the famed Chinese philosopher (551-479 B.C.), the Confucius Institute is one of 430 worldwide and the first in Washington, D.C. GW President Steven Knapp serves on the Council of the Confucius Institute Headquarters, the governing body of institutes worldwide.

The GW Confucius Institute is currently engaged in expanding the teaching of Chinese language and culture classes beyond university students to the professional and government communities of Washington, D.C. It is also providing a platform to facilitate research activities on China and Asian studies through its partnership with China’s Nanjing University. The institute’s collaborative endeavors also serve to strengthen GW’s relationship with China.
UNEARTHING NEW DINOSAURS in CHINA

Teaming up with Xu Ching of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Columbian College biologist James Clark and his then doctoral student Jonah Choiniere identified the remains of a new species of small theropod, or meat-eating dinosaur, dating from the Late Jurassic Period. This is the fifth new theropod discovered by the international cohort, whose research was funded by the National Science Foundation Division of Earth Sciences and the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation.

The young theropod's skull, mandible and partial skeleton were discovered in a remote region of Xinjiang. It is believed to have lived more than 161 million years ago and was about a year old when it died. Less than one meter in length, the dinosaur's small and numerous teeth suggest that it would have eaten prey like lizards and small relatives of today's mammals and crocodilians.

THE IMPACT of a WARMING CLIMATE

Measuring the long-term effects of climate change on the active and near-surface permafrost layers of the Arctic has taken Assistant Professor of Geography Nikolay Shiklomanov and a group of students to Alaska every August since 2010.

Through a five-year, $1.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the field research is part of the global Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring project. The data collected on the temperature, moisture content, and thaw depth of the active layer in permafrost regions will further understanding of the impact of large scale global environmental changes.
As an associate professor of psychology and organizational sciences, David Costanza teaches students how organizations develop and deliver their human resource systems. He took his lessons farther last year—almost 10,000 miles farther—when he led students through Singapore, Vietnam, and China to examine how culture impacts the structures of multinational organizations.

The students were participants in the Dean’s Scholars in Globalization Program, a highly competitive, yearlong learning experience—both virtual and on-site—that combines course work with the opportunity to perform research with students at universities outside of the United States. Information sharing is the cornerstone of the program and the level of collaboration between students and faculty is intense. In addition to traveling to the host country, participants communicate via teleconferences, web chats, blogs, and webcams to study significant issues in a global context.
MAKING AN IMPACT through SERVICE and PHILANTHROPY

Inspired by his peace studies classes, political studies major and native South Korean Mac Kibum Lee traveled through Africa where he volunteered for maternal-and-child health projects in Ethiopia and Malawi. The impact of his journey and his class studies resulted in Lee making a significant gift to the Peace Studies Program, which is part of GW’s Department of Religion.

“Seeing children living in mud houses, eating dirt,” Lee said, “is a reminder of all the opportunities we have to change somebody’s life for the better.”

ART CHANGES LIVES in SOUTH AFRICA

Columbian College’s South Africa Project is changing lives through the transformative power of art. Professor of Theatre Leslie Jacobson and Assistant Professor of Art Therapy Heidi Bardot traveled with a group of students to Winterveldt, South Africa—a rural township of 700,000 with daunting demographics, including 50 percent unemployment, high HIV/AIDS infection rate and serious problems with teen pregnancy, tuberculosis, family violence, and rape.

At the town’s Bokamoso Youth Center, they worked with the center’s staff to teach life skills—including respect for oneself and others, problem solving, and anger management—through theater, music, dance, and writing.

And for the past several years, Bokamoso youth have come to GW to present performances based on their daily struggles and life experiences.
ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES

To help ease the transition to Columbian College, international students can take advantage of the Summer Academic English program prior to beginning their fall semester of classes. Participants are exposed to the on-campus environment while getting to know GW, Washington, D.C., and the nuances of life in America.

All students take a course in academic writing and can choose from classes in a range of fields, such as economics, psychology and mathematics. They also have access to university libraries, facilities, advisors, and faculty and participate in tours of museums, monuments and other venues. Upon completion of the program, participants are awarded seven academic credits toward graduation.

SUMMER ABROAD

Columbian College offers a variety of unique short-term international travel experiences, which move studies beyond the lecture hall and into the global classroom.

Students study topics ranging from modernism and the arts in Paris, development and change in contemporary China, and decision-making and organizational structure in Denmark. Courses last from one week to two months.

CUSTOMIZED PROGRAMS

Through its Office of Global Initiatives, Columbian College offers students and non-students customized, non-degree programs that are tailored to meet international needs and interests.

Past programs have included a summer training program for representatives from China’s National Bureau of Statistics, executive education training for students from Sciences Po University in France, a world affairs program for Hong Kong’s Civil Service Bureau, and a forensic sciences program focused on high tech crime investigation. To learn more about customizing an outreach program to fit your needs, send an email to ccasglobal@gwu.edu.
other GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

CAPITOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
... links ancient history to current issues through international tours, excavations, and lectures that take scholars from Cyprus to Jordan and around the world.

DEAN’S SCHOLARS IN SHAKESPEARE
... exposes students to seminars, guest artists and lecturers, film festivals, and performances in Washington, D.C., London and Stratford-upon-Avon.

LUTHER RICE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
... promotes global, faculty-mentored research among undergraduate students. Fellows examine housing policies in Jerusalem, gender wage gaps in Ecuador, the impact of dance in conflict-plagued Northern Ireland and more.

THE SOUTH AFRICA PROJECT
... transports faculty and students to a rural township in South Africa to teach life skills to struggling youth through theater, music, dance and writing.

INTERNATIONAL DANCE MFA
... through virtual studios and online performance portfolios, dancers from across the globe can enroll in this hybrid online, on-campus graduate program.

KOOBI FORA FIELD SCHOOL
... partners hominid paleobiology students with the National Museums of Kenya to search for hominids in the most remote parts of Africa.
George Washington University boasts a worldwide alumni network of nearly 250,000, many of whom are Columbian College of Arts and Sciences graduates. The international alumni network comprises more than 8,400 alumni living in 150 countries, including China, India, Japan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The GW Alumni Association provides opportunities to connect and engage with fellow graduates, current students and the university through international chapter events, summer send-offs for new students and special receptions with senior university leadership and faculty.

Prominent Columbian College alumni include “Big Bang” physicist Ralph Alpher, internationally-acclaimed actress Kerry Washington, and U.S. Senator and former Virginia Governor Mark Warner.
WHERE WE ARE ... IN THE HEART OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

WANT to LEARN MORE?

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