

## \$3.6M Grant Supports START Research

A multidisciplinary center headquartered at the University of Maryland recently received a major federal grant to expand its research on the human causes and consequences of terrorism.

The science and technology directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has awarded \$3.6 million to the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). The funding supports new research on social, behavioral and cultural factors that influence terrorist behavior, violent extremism and counterterrorism efforts in the United States and abroad.

Since its 2005 launch, START has received almost \$58 million in DHS funding.

"They've been a proactive and productive center of excellence that has served the Department of Homeland Security well," says **Matthew Clark**, director of the agency's office of university programs.

With its mission to shape research and education through the lens of public service, the science and scholarship at START parallels the university's role as a modern

land-grant institution, says **Gary LaFree**, professor of criminology and the director of START.

"START provides an integrated system, whereby research findings are directly incorporated into policy recommendations," LaFree says. "In turn, the public and policy needs drive research explorations and career training for students and practitioners."



Gary LaFree, director of START



START's new projects include examining the emergence and operations of domestic terrorists, as well as collecting and coding terrorist data for behavioral models that can be used in the homeland security decision-making process.

"We are quite proud of the work being done at START, the largest center anywhere dedicated to the social and behavioral study of terrorism," says **Patrick O'Shea**, the university's vice president for research and chief research officer. "START's work is making a real difference in how we understand, and react to, this worldwide threat."

### RECENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS

New federal funding for START supports research such as:

- ▶ assessing the impact of Internet communications on a terrorist group's ability to convey ideology and recruit members.

- ▶ studying the emergence, operations and interactions of domestic terrorists by identifying conditions and attacks associated with homegrown terrorism.
- ▶ collecting, coding and using data and improving statistical modeling to better predict violence.

ILLUSTRATION BY SHUTTERSTOCK

## Gelfand Receives Humboldt International Research Prize

A Maryland faculty researcher was recently recognized with a major international award for her work in cross-cultural psychology.

**Michelle Gelfand**, associate professor of psychology, has been named one of the first recipients of the Anneliese Maier Research



Award. She is one of only seven international winners selected for the prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. It includes a monetary award of approximately \$335,000, to be used for conducting cross-institutional research with colleagues and specialists in Germany.

"I'm honored to receive this award, which will stimulate deeper research connections between the University of Maryland and Jacobs University Bremen, among other academic institutions in Germany," says Gelfand.

Gelfand's research examines the conflicts and misunderstanding that frequently arise between people from more restrictive cultures and those from less restricted ones. Her work was published last May in the journal *Science*, and included collaborations with co-investigators in Europe. Gelfand will continue her work with these same researchers through the Maier research award.

### THE FEDERAL CORNER

#### UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF FEDERAL RELATIONS

##### Federal Research Funding Remains Steady, But for How Long?

Federal spending on research and development in fiscal 2012 falls to \$143 billion, down 1.3 percent from last year, according to an analysis of the \$1 trillion omnibus spending bill signed into law in December.

The majority of this decline is in defense-related research and development, while non-defense scientific funding has inched up 0.5 percent, according to the findings by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Against the backdrop of a tough fiscal climate, many argue that—overall—research and development funding fared much better than one might have hoped for.

In a recent *Science* magazine article, reporter and editor Jeffrey Mervis argues that the relative stability of federal research funding over the past few years reflects an understanding that investing in science and technology is vital for our nation's global competitiveness.

This thought is important to remember, particularly for those in Washington for whom the federal deficit is a persistent concern. With calls for \$1 trillion in spending cuts beginning in fiscal 2013, there is apprehension that funding for scientific research and development might soon see substantial cuts across the board.

## Reminder: UMD Expertise Database Supports Research and Scholarship

University researchers are reminded to visit **Expertise@Maryland**, an online database that encourages and supports cross-campus collaboration.

Launched last year by the Division of Research, the database, at <http://expertise.umd.edu>, was designed to help faculty find the right expert, or group of experts, to complement their own research and scholarship.

After logging on to the secure website with a valid UMD directory ID, researchers can identify potential collaborators by viewing profiles drawn from a variety of public sources, as well as material indexed from each other's faculty activity report that is updated annually.

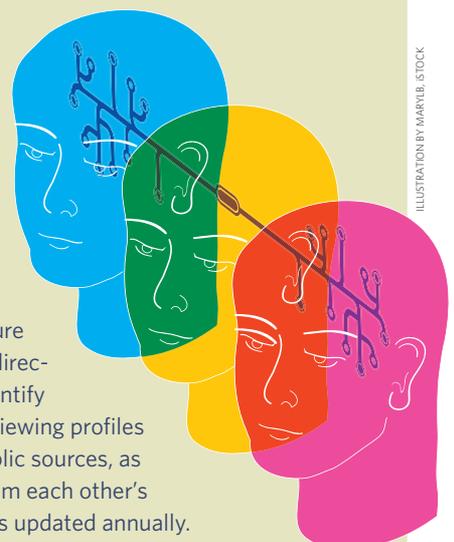


ILLUSTRATION BY MARIE B. STOCK

Look to the Federal Corner for information on higher education and the federal government. If you have a specific topic you'd like to see discussed, contact Rae Grad, director of federal relations, at [rgrad@umd.edu](mailto:rgrad@umd.edu).

We introduce you to new faculty and research scientists in the Maryland research community.



**Brian Butler** is an associate professor in the iSchool and the Robert H. Smith School of Business. He examines the dynamics of online communities and other technology-supported groups.



**Erica Glasper** is an assistant professor of psychology. She investigates structural plasticity in the human brain, how it changes by experiences and hormones.



**Andrew Elby** is an associate professor of teaching, learning, policy and leadership. He explores how students and instructors view the nature of knowledge and learning in the physical sciences.



**Waverly Ding** is an assistant professor of organization and management. She focuses on high-tech entrepreneurship and strategy, particularly in the U.S. biotech industry.



**Alireza Khaligh** is an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering. His research involves power electronics, renewable energy systems, energy harvesting and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

## UMD Team Using Remote Sensing Data to Improve Conditions in the Congo Basin

Maryland researchers are using remote sensing technology and other tools in a longstanding effort to improve economic and environmental conditions in Central Africa.

**Matthew Hansen**, professor of geography, is helping lead a multi-institutional team that relies on NASA satellite imagery and other geospatial data to track deforestation and land-use changes in the Congo Basin. This 1.1 million-square-mile landscape is the world's second-largest tropical forest, and Maryland scientists and others are collecting and analyzing information used for climate modeling, land use planning, natural resource management and agricultural best practices.

"This is a large and diverse area that can benefit immensely from outside assistance and partnerships," says Hansen, whose familiarity with the region—and the environmental and social challenges for its 60 million inhabitants—stems from several years spent there as a Peace Corps volunteer.

The U.S. Agency for International Development funds the project, known as the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE).

Maryland geographers working with Hansen—including department chair **Christopher Justice** and research associate professor **Peter Potapov**—recently applied for a third round of CARPE funding that will train graduate students in the U.S. and in the Democratic Republic of Congo to analyze the geospatial data and provide other technical support.



Matthew Hansen



## FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS



**JUDITH HALLETT**, a professor of classics, was named co-editor of a new online journal that promotes interaction and communication between North American and European researchers interested in gender studies in antiquity. *EuGeStA* joins specialists from the U.S., France and Germany in different areas of antiquity (Middle East, Egypt, Greece and Rome).



**MARK FELDSTEIN**, the Richard Eaton professor of broadcast journalism, received the 2011 Media History Book Award from the American Journalism Historians Association. Feldstein was recognized for his book, "Poisoning the Press," which chronicles the battle between President Richard Nixon and syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.



Aerospace engineering faculty members (from left) **NORMAN WERELEY** and **JAMES HUBBARD** were recently named fellows of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. "Election to AIAA Fellow grade is among the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an aerospace professional, chosen by peers in recognition of outstanding career accomplishments," says Mark Lewis, chair of aerospace engineering.



## Government, University Officials Help Launch SESYNC

High-ranking officials from government and academia—including Gov. **Martin O'Malley** (below), university President **Wallace Loh**, U.S. Sen. **Barbara Mikulski** and state Senate President **Mike Miller**—helped launch a major environmental think tank in Annapolis, Md.



The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), dedicated on Jan. 30, will foster collaboration amongst natural and social scientists, economists and policymakers intent on balancing the needs of people and the environment.

"Some challenges are so large that we can only tackle them by working together," O'Malley said at the event.

SESYNC is funded in part by a \$27.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Senior leadership in the interdisciplinary center features several UMD faculty, including Executive Director **Margaret Palmer**.



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The Division of Research publishes **RESEARCH@MARYLAND** several times per semester. Its goal is to better inform and connect the research community at the University of Maryland. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please email them to Anne Geronimo, Division of Research, at [geronimo@umd.edu](mailto:geronimo@umd.edu).

*Produced by University Publications for the Division of Research  
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