**CROSSROADS**

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**Time to Change Tactics on Terror?**

Are we at a point of inflection in how we fight terrorism? Events over the past few months have raised that question in a compelling way.

The first incident of note was the April 15 bombing at the Boston Marathon. The explosions caused three dead and more than 250 wounded, and there was something especially ghastly about an attack that seemed designed to injure so many in the legs near the finish line of America’s most storied road race. Yet there was also an element of anticlimax — for want of a better word — because the suspects in the case were quickly identified and appeared not to be agents of a distant, shadowy network but rather immigrants for whom things had gone badly wrong. The fact that the Tsarnaev brothers come from the north Caucasus, a region that has long been roiled by extremist violence, but one whose militants have no history of targeting the United States, added to the oddity of the event.

The investigation into the bombing is not finished, but two months later, the Boston attack seems to have little in common with al Qa’ida’s major efforts. Instead, it was much more in line with a spate of incidents around the world in which immigrants or first-generation citizens with little direct contact with organized terror groups carried out violence as an expression of their belief that their experiences demonstrated the truth of al Qa’ida’s core claim that Muslims are being oppressed by the West. Whether we consider Mohammed Merah, who killed French military personnel and children at a Jewish school in France, or Mohammed Bouyeri, a promising young Dutch-Moroccan who stabbed the artist Theo von Gogh in Amsterdam, or perhaps even Nidal Hasan, the Fort Hood shooter, a profile is emerging. It won’t be surprising if the same turns out to be the case with the perpetrators of two attacks in May, in which a British soldier was hacked to death in London and a French soldier was assassinated in Paris.

These incidents, horrible though they are, illustrate President Obama’s argument in his May 23 speech at the National Defense University that such “homegrown” attacks and local strikes in countries experiencing dramatic change (think of Benghazi) are what we have to worry about now. The threat of catastrophic terror attacks such as 9/11 has waned considerably due to the government’s determined efforts against the al Qa’ida core in Pakistan and Afghanistan. No counterterrorism official ever wants to rule out the possibility of a major attack, but the President reflected expert opinion when he said that these smaller scale events were much more likely now.

The changed nature of the threat is one essential part of the equation, but there are also signs that the American public wants to turn a corner. Although the reaction from the President’s critics — especially in Congress — to his argument for shifting from the war-footing
Looking Back: Dartmouth Seniors Reflect on Transformational Dickey Center Experiences  By Alexander A. Lopez ’15

As Dartmouth says goodbye to the Class of 2013, the Dickey Center asked seniors to reflect on the global learning that informed their passions, interests, and career paths. The following three stories represent a sampling of the many amazing undergraduates that the Dickey Center has worked with over the past four years.

Transforming Education and the Environment through Art

Evan Diamond ’13 knew he wanted to attend Dartmouth in the second grade. An avid ski-racer, growing up in Connecticut, Diamond described skiing at Dartmouth as “the dream.”

Diamond’s dream became a reality when he was recruited to the Dartmouth ski team after rigorous preparations undergone at his private boarding school in Vermont.

Competitive skiing enabled Diamond to travel around the world, from Argentina to Chile, and throughout much of Europe. After two years, however, Diamond became injured and was unable to ski his junior season.

While many would have become disheartened by this loss, Diamond used his extra time to evaluate his performance at Dartmouth, his academic and personal interests and ways in which he could combine his interests while also maximizing the resources available to him as an undergraduate.

When Diamond returned to campus he became involved in the Students Teaching in the ARTs (START) program with the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Through START he was able to take his interests into a co-curricular experiential learning-based program where he could teach curricular lessons through art projects for kids.

After this, Diamond realized that his primary interests were working with children and creating art. It was through a mutual friend that Diamond soon discovered the DarDar internship at the Dickey Center. One of three interns, Diamond taught grade 3, 4 and 5 at a local school in Mbagala, the largest impoverished area in Tanzania.

“It was incredible. I had never been to Africa before. It was my first real experience with poverty and disease and seeing education systems that were not at all like the ones I was familiar with. It was intense but it was eight of the most transformative weeks of my life,” says Diamond.

In addition to teaching class, Diamond began a project that addressed environmentalism. According
to Diamond, manufacturing companies dumped large amounts of their waste in these villages. He worked to create the Arts and Nature Club, which would meet after the regularly scheduled daily school lessons. At the club, Diamond would lead workshops that encouraged the kids to consider their environment, and how to take ownership of their neighborhoods.

The first lesson, entitled “What is Nature,” slowly evolved to an ever-larger project in which the kids made decorative art out of the trash and repurposed the waste into many useful things.

Each day he would take the kids out to the dump and they would all pick out items like fabric or plastic in order to make some kind of art that reflected the lessons of the class. They had the opportunity to work with local artists and Diamond even found funding for the children to receive safety gear.

While he is back now, Diamond credits this experience with his decision to pursue teaching after college. Soon after graduating, he will begin a two-year post as a sixth-grade science teacher in Boston through Teach for America.

“After having gone to Tanzania I knew that I wanted to be an educator. I would prefer a classroom and interacting with students to an office, any day,” says Diamond.

He plans to incorporate art into his daily science lessons with his students in Boston: “Anytime you incorporate art it just makes it that much more beautiful.”

Along with his DarDar internship, Diamond also pursued an International Studies minor and a Global Health Certificate through the Dickey Center.

“Everyone’s Dartmouth experience is so different. You have a lot of control of what you want it to be. I went here for two years as an athlete. Dartmouth and the Dickey Center give you the opportunity to push beyond single ways of identifying yourself. Being a DarDar intern was my transformational Dartmouth experience. If it weren’t for my experience with the program, I wouldn’t have found my true passions. I encourage anyone whose looking to do something that might be uncomfortable or unexpected to just go for it. It could really shape what you end up doing.”

Expanding Networks and Dialogue Through Print Publication

In the fall of her freshman year, Los Angeles native Grace Afsari-Mamagani ’13 joined the Dartmouth community. Coming from an immigrant household, that transition was an interesting one, as many of her classmates were from more traditional American homes.

Afsari-Mamagani soon joined The Dartmouth, the college’s official student-run newspaper as well as the Dickey Center sponsored organization, the World Outlook Journal.

As a government major who also studied English, Afsari-Mamagani battled with the practicality of how to make her disparate interests intertwine. A main area of her research interests at Dartmouth included technology and how it relates transatlantic fiction. She formed these interests into a thesis around technology, literature, and identities.

“I’ve always had an interest in multiculturalism and technology and how these things intersect. My Dartmouth experience has had somewhat of a narrative arc in that the things I pursued looked at the larger issues of how identities interact on global scales.”

Her junior year, Afsari-Mamagani became the editor for the World Outlook Journal.

“Our goal was: How do we make this about what’s important to people? How do we get people involved, interacting, and engaged?” she asked her staff.

The principal way she worked to do this was through the official publication and bringing the World Outlook Journal to social media through a blog, Twitter, and Facebook. The resulting online presence opened communication with students and new constituents and allowed the group to reach new audiences.

“We wanted to provide a forum for discussion and the Dickey Center makes that possible,” she says.

The World Outlook Journal has hosted numerous talks led by students and professors as well as hosted visiting speakers from Foreign Affairs and other notable journals.

“It’s really cool to see the staff get excited,” she says. “That’s when we know we have a good idea. Our goal is to form a community and a discussion despite all the impediments that daily life now brings.”

Along with her involvement in the World Outlook Journal, Afsari-Mamagani participated in the fall
Looking Back, cont.

uAcademy for Conscious Change at Dartmouth, program, which focused on creating sustainable social ventures both domestically and abroad.

“I worked with a team that linked Dartmouth’s community to the Upper Valley where there is a great disparity. These are people who have stories to tell us and in order to be successful in our mutual goals, we have to begin to rethink what volunteering is, take a step back and listen.”

What’s next for Afsari-Mamagani? She is bringing her interest in world issues, print publication, and the discussion on identities to New York University, where she will pursue a Masters in American Literature.

Building Sustainable Social Ventures in Liberia

Dartmouth attracts students from around the world who work towards creating sustainable change. One of those students is Mahmud Johnson ’13, who is pursuing a yearlong post-graduate Lombard Fellowship sponsored by the Dickey Center.

Johnson’s Lombard Fellowship is a culmination of a lifetime of dedication to social activism. In 2008, when Johnson graduated from high school in his home in Monrovia, Liberia, he worked for a year for Population Services International, one of the largest social marketing firms in the world. Johnson has worked in numerous high-ranking positions on humanitarian issues, including the President’s office in Liberia. After his co-workers noticed his drive and charisma, they encouraged him to apply to schools in the United States.

“Financial aid and acceptance of international students was a major factor for me, so naturally I found Dartmouth,” he says.

Johnson was a member of the Dickey Center’s inaugural class of Great Issues Scholars, a first year program designed to give students a network of globally minded students who are actively working towards change in their interest areas.

“I really enjoyed discussing international issues with students who I may not have otherwise met,” he says.

After his freshman year, Johnson was selected to receive a Davis Projects for Peace Grant, a program administered through the Dickey Center and funded by the Davis Foundation.

For Johnson’s Peace Project he focused on outreach programs to young men and women who have dropped out of school in Liberia and who are refugees or former child soldiers. This experience led Johnson to the TuckBridge Program and the Paganucci Fellowship in his junior year of study at Dartmouth.

During his Paganucci fellowship, Johnson worked with Tuck alumna Gretchen Wallace, founder and CEO of Global Grassroots, a New Hampshire based non-profit that focuses on creating sustainable social ventures for women in post-conflict regions of Africa.

“Global Grassroots really focuses on mindfulness and using many tools to realize and channel into yourself and the situation at hand,” he says.

Through Johnson’s work with Global Grassroots, he traveled twice to Liberia to develop an online training curriculum with and for change makers in-country.

He returned to Liberia to create local partnerships, training opportunities, and to inspire fellow grassroots change agents in their work of addressing some of the world’s troubles. ■
Certificate in Global Health

This year 14 students were awarded the Dickey Center Certificate in Global Health. The Global Health Certificate recognizes students who have completed required courses as well as a capstone global health experience where they apply and test their knowledge through independent research, and internship or paper.

Celebrations

Senior Send Off
Graduating Seniors and their families joined Dickey staff for our annual Senior Send-Off the Friday before graduation. This year’s senior class included 20 International Studies Minors, 40 Dickey International Interns, 12 Global Health Certificate recipients, 10 Global Health Research Fellows, 6 Arctic Studies Researchers (Stefansson Fellows), 41 Dickey student organization leaders, 17 War & Peace Fellows, 41 Great Issues Scholars, and 3 Dickey Center student staffers. We will miss them all!

Great Issues Scholars Program
Great Issues Scholars from the Class of 2016 gathered at the Dickey Center on May 21st to receive their certificates and pins—a recognition of their completion of the program. Dickey Center staff and the program’s peer mentors hosted a closing dinner to celebrate the occasion. This year’s Great Issues Scholars program spanned 9 months, offering over 25 major events focused around 6 global themes, with 50 first-year participants and 24 sophomore mentors engaged throughout.
Reflections: The War & Peace Fellows Program

By Utkarsh Agarwal ’13

I was admitted into the War & Peace Fellows Program in 2010 as a sophomore, and returned as a fellow for my junior and senior years. In my four years at Dartmouth, the W&P Fellows Program has been one of the most insightful and exciting opportunities. I got to interact and learn from my peers just as much as I learned from the guest speakers. As an engineering major at Dartmouth, the W&P Fellows Program allowed me to pursue my passion for international affairs without the burden of readings or homework.

Throughout the year, W&P Fellows get unfettered access to a long list of accomplished people including ex-ambassadors, war veterans, CIA analysts, activists, and journalists who visit campus to give public talks. Fellows get the opportunity to speak to these guests in a candid, off-the-record, dinner setting. The W&P Fellows Program is also self-driven in the sense that any Fellow can request to bring a guest speaker to campus.

The highlight of the program is the annual Washington, D.C., trip. Students plan most of the logistics of this trip which takes place in April. Typically, Fellows visit the Pentagon and the State Department where we meet with senior officials. This year, the Fellows also got a peek into the budget allocation process with a terrific meeting with Tim Rieser ’78 of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The trip also includes a dinner with young CIA analysts – a career option increasingly popular with W&P alums.

For anyone with an interest in issues of war & peace – personal or academic – I highly recommend the Fellows Program. It has given me the opportunity to meet fantastic people and ask questions of them, an opportunity that I wouldn’t otherwise have gotten. I wouldn’t be exaggerating when I say that the experience of being a W&P Fellow and what I have learned as a result of it, has shaped my world view.
All eyes were focused on the twenty-year-old Dartmouth student in the front of the room. Bridget Golob ’14 looked back at the sea of unfamiliar faces and began presenting in their native language: Spanish. Her mentor, Dr. Raul Acosta, E.R. Chief at Hospital Nacional Cayetano Heredia, looked on quietly from the back. He had done much to prepare Bridget for this day, connecting her to resources throughout the city of Lima, Peru, and offering advice. But today, his primary contribution was driving Bridget into one of the city’s slums, Villa Maria del Triunfo, to present her work on emergency disaster preparedness to community members.

Weeks earlier, Bridget had arrived in Lima eager to begin the off-term experience she had been offered through the Dickey Center’s Global Health Initiative (GHI) Fellowship program and The Dartmouth Center for Healthcare Delivery (TDC), one of many on and off campus opportunities offered through the Dickey Center.

Jessica Friedman, the GHI Program Manager, explains, “A major goal of the program is to help students draw on knowledge gleaned from their Dartmouth courses and apply it to real-life settings.” As a double major in geography and romance languages, and with previous experiences abroad, Bridget had prepared herself for eight weeks in Peru. She arrived tasked with learning about the needs of the local community, emergencies, and disaster preparation.

During the first two weeks, she realized that the hospital lacked the infrastructure to handle a natural disaster or a large-scale medical emergency. There were few connections between critical response organizations. Many of the local leaders didn’t know each other. “The mayor of the district didn’t know the director of the hospital,” she observed. An organized response seemed unlikely in the case of a large-scale disaster.

Dr. Acosta, a champion of disaster preparedness development, connected Bridget to groups including the district Mayor’s Office, Civil Defense, Rotary International, the Peruvian Ministry of Health, and a local school network.

Bridget recognized her energy would be best spent building a system that could last long after her departure. She was careful to focus attention not on herself, but on the message. After speaking to various leaders, she outlined the steps needed to implement a unified contingency plan and began taking action to introduce leaders and build connections between organizations involved in an emergency response.

Another mentor, Dr. Rob Gougelet, Director of the New England Natural Disaster Preparedness Center, told Bridget, “You will recognize at some point that they won’t even need you anymore, they will know what connections they need to be making and they will just use those." He attributed much of Bridget’s success to her attitude: “She was very capable, very self-sufficient, [with] a lot of self-initiative and dedication to the work we were doing.” Ultimately, Bridget’s work on disaster preparedness will have far reaching effects. For Lima, the threat of a large-scale emergency is a great motivation for establishing relationships among social service organizations, but those same connections will be useful in creating other social programs as the city continues to develop and grow.

For Bridget, this experience brought a unique international perspective to her education. It was an opportunity to affirm her passion for global health and gain hands-on experience affecting change. She will continue her work in global health as the Global Health Initiative Intern at the Dickey Center next year.

At the end her presentation in Lima, everyone seemed to have a question, Bridget recalls. “They were so interested, kids, adults, everyone, and they all wanted to learn more. . . . There’s potential there, and it was so inspiring. If there’s three million people, they have a voice if they speak together.”

This profile was written as part of “Writing 10: Writing in the Workplace” taught by Sara Chaney at the Institute for Writing and Rhetoric.
Winter and Spring Events
Watch lectures online *

Oh the Places You Will Go
Martin Centron, Director, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1/7/2013

Interpreting the Results of Israel’s Elections
Steven Simon, Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, former Presidential Advisor on Middle Eastern and North African Affairs, 1/23/2013

Fighting Terror: New Challenges and Evolving Strategies in the Second Obama Term
Daniel Benjamin, Director of the Dickey Center and former Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department, 2/6/2013

The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water
Maude Barlow, Canadian Human Rights Activist and National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, 2/13/2013

The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor
Jake Tapper ’91, CNN Anchor and Chief Washington Correspondent, 2/19/2013

Drones and the War on Terror
Daniel Byman, Professor in the Security Studies Program, Georgetown University and Research Director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institute, 2/28/2013

In the Arctic for Inuit Nationbuilding: Can Greenland Escape the Resource Curse?
Tove Pederson, Director of Greenland Self-Government, Chairman of the Board of the University of Greenland, 3/19/2013

Stories from the Field
Steve McCurry, Contemporary Photographer, 3/27/2013

* Smart Power in U.S. Diplomacy
Maria Otero, Former Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, 4/10/2013
http://youtu.be/wMY1Mpu4

Muslim Nationalism and the New Turks
Jenny White, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Boston University, 04/15/2013

* Should America Come Home? Debating The Future of US Foreign Policy
http://youtu.be/WJZ4I8aKx4o

* From the Arctic to the Ocean: Exploring Hot Topics in Cold, Dark, Deep and Dangerous Places!
Paul Rose, VP, Royal Geographical Society, BBC Television, Explorer and Field Science Expert, 5/6/2013
http://youtu.be/rRW2ShxJ66o

* Bretton Woods Then and Now
Benn Steil, Senior Fellow and Director of International Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations 5/15/2013
http://youtu.be/cECouzfqznM

* Science: It's a Girl Thing
IGERT Graduate student panel with Annabel Martin, Associate Professor of Spanish, 5/15/2013
http://tinyurl.com/co6r8e2

Fighting Terror: New Challenges and Evolving Strategies in the Second Obama Term
Ambassador Benjamin is the former Principal Advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Counterterrorism and Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
4:00-5:00pm, 041 Haldeman Center
OPEN TO ALL

Daniel Benjamin
Dickey Center Director
This spring students and faculty alike were wowed by our Class of 1950 Senior Foreign Affairs Fellow Maria Otero, former Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights in the first Obama Administration.

Thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1950, Maria Otero spent a busy week at Dartmouth, April 10-15, 2013. Beginning with a public presentation on smart power and U.S. diplomacy, and concluding with a day at the Tuck School of Business where she spoke on strategies for leading change, Otero impressed with her broad range of experience, her articulateness, and a realism that does not diminish her idealism. She met with students in the Dickey’s Great Issues Scholars and War & Peace Fellows Program, gave a Careers in International Affairs presentation on microfinance opportunities, and attended two classes. Faculty in the newly instituted Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth (GRID) and in the interdisciplinary research group on slavery also benefited from meeting with her, as did individual faculty in several disciplines. World Outlook Journal, our undergraduate publication of international affairs has an interview with Under Secretary Otero in its latest issue, and Valley Voices, a campus radio show interviewed her during her visit.

Throughout her stay, Maria Otero drew on her expertise derived both from a significant career as President and CEO of Accion International, a global development organization working primarily with women, and her State Department experience, where her portfolio included issues of democracy, human rights, refugees, trafficking in persons, rule of law, counter-narcotics, crisis prevention and response, global criminal justice and countering violent extremism. A previous Dartmouth honorary degree recipient, Otero enjoyed her extended stay in Hanover, where she was impressed with the great questions and warm reception she received.

Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society Paul Rose (fourth from the left) spoke to a crowd in Filene Auditorium about the challenges of daily life traversing the Greenland Ice Sheet in support of scientific research, diving shark-infested waters, and creating award-winning television programs for the BBC. Over a lifetime of work from the Arctic and Antarctic to inland lakes, he’s observed first hand the devastating effects of climate change. Currently he is leading an effort to clean up the debris-filled oceans. He captivated students in Ross Virginia's ENVS 15 class and at a reception hosted by the Dickey student group Dartmouth Council on Climate Change (DC3).
The first cohort of Post-Doctoral Fellows in International Security and US Foreign Policy are departing Dartmouth after a productive year advancing research on critical security issues. While here, they have collaborated with Dartmouth faculty, shared their research expertise with students in the classroom and met with a number of Dickey Center student groups. Their offices won’t be vacant for long as we will soon be welcoming the second year cohort.

Like their predecessors, our new fellows address a variety of significant international security and foreign policy issues, all of which have current policy relevance: financial crises and national security; the politics of oil and the US role in the Middle East; the impact of religious factionalism on violence and power-sharing; military decision making and resolve in military interventions; and regime change and foreign policy. Our six new fellows will be paired with Dartmouth faculty mentors, give guest lectures in classes, meet with undergraduate students, and lead a seminar on their current work. Additionally, they will participate in Dickey Center conferences and engage with policy makers on their research.

- **Jeffrey A. Friedman** Dr. Friedman’s research focuses on the analytic foundations of military doctrine and decision making. His dissertation examined why military decision makers often struggle to realize their strategic mistakes, including analyses of U.S. policy in Iraq, Vietnam, and the American Indian Wars.

- **Joshua Kertzer** Dr. Kertzer’s research focuses on the intersection of international security, foreign policy, political psychology, and quantitative and experimental methods. He is currently working on a number of projects, including a book investigating resolve in military interventions, a set of articles exploring the structure of the American public’s foreign policy attitudes, and a manuscript challenging the conventional wisdom of why some civil wars last longer than others.

- **Victor McFarland** Dr. McFarland’s research examines the international politics of oil and the history of U.S. relations with the Middle East. At Dartmouth he is revising his dissertation on the oil crisis of the 1970s. His project explores the connections between the oil crisis, domestic American energy policy, and the U.S. relationship with the Arab world. The oil crisis had significant implications for the American political economy, and it also helped redefine the American role in the Middle East, paving the way for deeper U.S. involvement in the region after the 1970s.

- **Lindsey O’Rourke** Dr. O’Rourke’s research focuses on the causes and consequences of covert regime change; broader research interests include International Relations theory, U.S. foreign policy, military strategy and the Cold War. O’Rourke is developing her doctoral dissertation, *Secrecy and Security: U.S.-Orchestrated Regime Change during the Cold War*, into a book manuscript.

- **Maria Sperandei** Dr. Sperandei’s research interests sit at the intersection of political economy, international security, and political psychology. She is especially interested in how perceptions, ideas, and emotions about core financial and military values are revised during crises, and how this process shapes political behavior.

- **Laura Thaut** Dr. Thaut’s research addresses questions of religious change, civil conflict, and political mobilization. Additionally, her research on immigration and faith-based humanitarianism has been published in edited volumes and peer-reviewed journals. Thaut is completing a book manuscript on religion, violence, and power-sharing. Her work examines the role of informal and local government power-sharing agreements in shaping whether religious identity finds fertile ground as the rationale for communal violence.
A dozen teenagers from Greenland, Denmark and the United States are twirling across the rolling tundra on the edge of the Greenland Ice Sheet laughing, looking as though they're just fooling around. But Dartmouth graduate students Julia Bradley-Cook and Ruth Heindel are leading them in a “carbon cycle dance” as a way to understand photosynthesis and other biological processes important to global warming.

Julia and Ruth are PhD students in an interdisciplinary program in polar environmental change. And they are practicing one of the primary goals of the program—making science understandable, even fun.

"While dancing we talk about the added complexities of permafrost, a warming climate, and human consumption of fossil fuels," Ruth explains. "We also want to give the students a feeling for the work that we do each day in the field."

For the past four years, IGERT students have been talking about science, engineering and polar research to all sorts of unlikely audiences: flyfishers at Yellowstone National Park, the U.S. Coast Guard in Alaska, Hanover middle school students, a community gathering in Greenland, as well as eager 4-year-olds at the Dartmouth Daycare Center who disappear into bulky down parkas, thermal gloves and mukluk boots the IGERTs have brought for an educational show and tell.

"IGERT fellows learn to engage people in different ways in order to improve their communication skills and to help increase the public’s understanding of science," explains Ross Virginia, professor of environmental science and IGERT director.

Public outreach is just one component of the Dartmouth IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship), a program funded by the National Science Foundation and run by the Dickey Center’s Institute of Arctic Studies. Interdisciplinary courses, seminars with international scholars, professional development workshops, and a summer field experience in Greenland are all part of the program.

Communications training in public speaking, photography, video production, and blogging has resulted in dozens of informal talks, a collection of YouTube student profiles, an interview on Greenlandic Radio, a webcast from Antarctica, a photo of the Greenlandic tundra in an Adirondack roadside park, and a bevy of enthusiastic followers of the IGERT blog.

Nancy Serrell is Dartmouth’s director of science and technology outreach. She hosts the popular Science Cafés at Salt Hill Pub, where the IGERTs have explained climate change. "The Pub audiences really enjoy their spirited interactions. The IGERTs are knowledgeable as individuals but clearly work as a team."

For the past two years students in the spring IGERT course have created short science videos for students in Greenland. “Greenlandic students want to understand why scientists come from around the world to study their ice sheet and the rapidly changing Arctic environment,” explains Virginia, “so the IGERTs created videos to explain climate change and introduce themselves as young people doing science. We hope they will inspire more Greenlandic students to study science.”

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the nation has been on since 9/11 was immediate and harshly negative, the aftermath of the Marathon attack appeared to confirm that Americans are not as worried about terrorism, a point that polling data also demonstrates. Television news reporters did their best to remain breathless (and those who lived through the Boston lock-down on April 16 will never forget it), but there was none of the near-hysteria about possible follow-on or copycat attacks that has marked earlier incidents. Americans seem to have taken the attack in stride and achieved a great measure of resilience than they had in the past.

Another noteworthy sign is the vigorous debate over government surveillance that has begun in wake of a string of news stories about signals intelligence gathering and the Justice Department’s investigations into leaks of sensitive information. Whether or not any of this leads to legislative or other moves, the climate has changed.

The need for a “wartime” counterterrorism approach is diminishing, and the potential benefits of a revised approach are considerable. Reshaping the nation’s approach to counterterrorism could, if done wisely, diminish “blowback” effects such as increased recruitment and heightened anti-Americanism, particularly in Muslim majority countries where U.S. counterterrorism policies are often deeply unpopular. A new tack could also reduce political tensions with some key foreign political partners. Such an effort could have a genuinely strategic effect by both strengthening partners so that they can deal with domestic and regional threats and by undercutting recruitment in the years ahead. The notion that “we can’t shoot our way out of this” has been axiomatic in government counterterrorism circles for many years. With his May speech, the President has opened a door to a greater emphasis on non-military approaches. Over the long run, that could well reduce the need to shoot at all.

To make a new approach work, however, there needs to be some real innovation backed by real resources. Unquestionably, there are still terrorist groups out there that, if left unchecked, could harm American citizens and interests. So there will need to be more investment in capacity building to give other nations the training and materiel to deal with threats in their regions. The U.S. government does plenty of such training, but there is room to improve methods so that the transfer of methods, tactics and the like stick, as is often not the case. There also needs to be a great deal more exploration into the psychology of radicalization and techniques for preventing it happening in at risk communities.

Research institutions — including Dartmouth — have a role to play here. Whether it involves psychologists and sociologists studying immigrant experiences, or experts on development and management working on more effective capacity building, there is need for deeper academic work on these real world problems. We at the Dickey Center will look to support such research and the public discussion on how the nation’s counterterrorism policies should evolve. Terrorism isn’t going away so long as technologies of destruction constantly become more widely available. But American universities’ ability to produce breakthroughs in these areas will have a real impact on our success in transitioning away from a “war” paradigm to something that is both less costly, more effective and more sustainable.