Looking back over the past two years, it is extraordinary how the issue of Syria developed in the public consciousness from an obscure and distant tragedy to the central foreign policy and domestic political issue of the moment. Since March 2011, when the first shots were fired, to mid-August of this year, roughly 100,000 Syrians died in the fighting and 7 million more fled their homes. By any measure, Syria is taking its place alongside the worst humanitarian crises in a half century.

Yet it was the use of chemical weapons on August 21 by the regime of Bashar al-Assad that transformed awareness of the Syrian crisis. Perhaps upwards of 1,400 people were killed by the attack, and the images of children in their burial shrouds will haunt us for years. Awful as those pictures were, what has really seized public attention is the spectacle of the international community, and the U.S. government in particular, struggling to formulate an appropriate reaction. The event has brought to the fore a wide range of issues in foreign affairs and thrown a harsh light on their tangled complexity.

To name just a few: President Obama had long made clear from the outset that the United States saw no compelling interest that would let it get involved directly in the conflict in Syria. Yet the President’s own determination to prevent the spread and use of weapons of mass destruction, and his August 2012 statement that the “utilization” of chemical weapons would cross a red line and “change my calculus,” apparently made it impossible for the White House to maintain its distance. On the one hand, Obama has read the national mood carefully and recognizes the sense of exhaustion with military deployments in the broader Middle East. On the other, he is mindful of a decades-old – if not perfectly observed – taboo on the use of chemical weapons, one enshrined by decades of treaties and solemn rhetoric. With an eye on Iran and North Korea, two aspirants for official membership in the nuclear club, he must weigh the cost of not backing up his red line. Looking in the other direction toward Congress and public opinion, he must consider the political damage of carrying out a military strike that may redeem that original red line pledge but that few want and that is hard to explain as part of a Syria strategy. U.S. credibility, key international norms and domestic politics are all knotted inextricably. 

As I write, Washington is working on a dauntingly ambitious plan to secure and destroy Syria’s chemical weapons – one that excites few experts because it virtually requires an end to the fighting in Syria as a precondition and demands honesty from one of the world’s most mendacious regimes. The plan was the fruit of a last-minute Russian initiative, which has momentarily deflected attention from Russia’s protection
Dickey Happenings This Fall

Dickey Alumni Open House: October 11, 1-4pm, Haldeman Center
Join the Dickey Center Staff as we welcome Dickey Alumni back from far and wide.

Class of '57 Panel:
"Great Issues Then and Now"
Oct 11, 3pm | 041 Haldeman Center
Panelists:
Denise Anthony, Associate Professor of Sociology
Ambassador Daniel Benjamin, Director of the Dickey Center
Michael Mastanduno, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

- General James Mattis, Retired Commander of U.S. Central Command, Class of 1950 Senior Foreign Affairs Fellow
  Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 4:30pm, Cook Auditorium

- John Prendergast, Human Rights Activist, Co-founder of the Enough Project
  Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 4:30pm, Filene Auditorium, Moore Hall

- Steve Coll, Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, Staff Writer for the New Yorker
  Thursday, October 17, 2013, 4:30pm, Filene Auditorium, Moore Hall

- "War Elephants," an Emmy-nominated film by David Hamlin '82, National Geographic Television
  Monday, October 21, 2013, 4:30pm, Filene Auditorium, Moore Hall

- Marc Lynch, Director, Institute for Middle East Studies, Georgetown University, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs
  Monday, October 28, 2013, 4:30pm, 041 Haldeman, Kreindler Conference Center
As Norman "Sandy" McCulloch steps down as Chairman of the Dickey Board, we honor his dedication to the Center, and his lasting legacy.

A member of the Class of 1950, Norman "Sandy" McCulloch was part of the first class under John Sloan Dickey. Graduation did not separate Sandy for long from his alma mater, and over the course of many years of involvement at Dartmouth, Sandy and John Dickey became good friends. It is fitting that he should be instrumental both in the conception of the Dickey Center for International Understanding as the living legacy of Dartmouth's 12th President, as well as in the creation and evolution of the Center during its first 32 years. The Dickey Center has benefitted greatly from his guidance, his financial support and the unfailing determination that the Center should be recognized as the jewel of Dartmouth.

Sandy is equal parts benefactor and cheerleader, but he is not one to allow the Center to rest on its laurels. Thanks to his support, the Institute of Arctic Studies can build on its very successful graduate program in polar science, interdisciplinary work remains a focus of the Center, and John Dickey's belief in the centrality of the US-Canada relationship endures in the Center's programs. Through his steadfast commitment to the Dickey Center, Sandy McCulloch has honored his friend and College president, and his alma mater, in a manner most exemplary.

And now the word is "so long," because in the Dartmouth fellowship there is no parting.

John Sloan Dickey
The Mosquito Lady: Lauren Culler
A New Research Fellow Joins the Institute of Arctic Studies

“Everyone always has a bug question,” says Lauren Culler, a former IGERT fellow who completed her PhD this summer. She’s among a handful of researchers who study what might sound like an oxymoron: Arctic insects.

Culler’s research specialty is mosquitoes. And where mosquitoes breed, bad things can happen. A swarm of mosquitoes has been known to take down a caribou, an important subsistence food for many Arctic communities. And health experts fear that as global temperature rises, mosquitoes and other critters will migrate farther north, bringing with them diseases that previously couldn’t survive the Arctic’s cold temperatures, like Lyme disease and West Nile virus.

She’s particularly interested in the role insects, and the things that eat them, play in a predator-prey dance that has implications for understanding the effects of climate change on an ecosystem. “I’m really interested in how temperature, in the context of global climate change, influences how insects interact,” she explains.

Culler has collected most of her data in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland. While everyone else is running away from mosquitoes, Culler is hurrying to Greenland in May and June, when the mosquito larvae are abundant, so she can catch, count, measure, kill and weigh (How much does a mosquito weigh? A milligram), and ship back to her lab at Dartmouth hundreds of individually-wrapped male and female mosquitoes.

Bottom line: as the temperature rises, we can look forward to not only more mosquito bites, but potentially the spread of the diseases they carry.

When Culler was a kid and first became interested in insects, “My parents thought I was totally odd,” she says. Her mother teaches ballet and her father is a retired service technician for a utility company. They were not bug enthusiasts. But they now understand that her childhood interest in collecting potato beetles out of her dad’s garden was not a passing fancy. She grew up and earned a PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology from Dartmouth, and she’s completed five research expeditions to Greenland. Her parents still scratch their heads, but “they’re used to it now,” Culler says.

Not surprisingly, Culler has become known locally and abroad as the “Mosquito Lady.” She gave a talk in Greenland on the effects of global warming on the mosquito population, and distributed a poster, translated into Kalaallisut, the local language, as well as English and Danish, that diagrams the life cycle of the mosquito. It became the talk of the town.

In fact, she talks about insects to just about anyone: high school students in Hanover, the Federation of Fly Fishers, the Entomological Society of America, Greenlandic Radio, the US Arctic Research Commission, and the Landscape Contractors Association, to name a few. They even know about her in Nunavut, the northernmost territory of Canada, where a

Individual wrapped mosquitoes cont. pg 8
A Runaway Success for The Greenland Field Seminar

Snow pits, zooplankton, and a marathon

Another Greenland Field Seminar successfully concluded this summer with an expedition to Ilulissat Icefjord — a UNESCO World Heritage Site where significant glacial calving events take place — and a literal run to the finish line in a 10k marathon held in the capital of Nuuk.

A total of 12 students and four faculty took part in the 2013 Greenland Field Seminar. In addition to studying glaciology in Ilulissat, the IGERTs collected zooplankton near the edge of the ice sheet outside Kangerlussuaq, dug snow pits on the two-mile deep Greenland Ice Sheet at Summit Station, and learned from traditional hunters and fishers in Nuuk about how the exploitation of Greenland’s natural resources might affect their lives.

Science outreach has become an important theme during the field seminar. This is the third year the IGERT fellows have worked with high school students and teachers from the US, Greenland, and Demark as part of the National Science Foundation’s Joint Science Education Project (JSEP). It’s a remarkable opportunity for the IGERT Fellows to educate and inspire the next generation of polar scientists.

“The ladies of Cohort 4 were eager to share our polar knowledge with the JSEP students, so we set up four different activities that revolved around snow and ice,” wrote Alden Adolph on the popular IGERT blog (http://dartmouthigert.wordpress.com).

The Institute of Arctic Studies is committed to continuing our work with the successful JSEP programs and expanding into other outreach activities in general. That work is now in the capable hands of the new Institute of Arctic Studies post-doctoral fellow, Lauren Culler, who was in Greenland this summer during the field seminar, and has been an IGERT fellow for the past four years (see page 4).

The IGERTs were also lucky to be in Nuuk for the 10k city marathon. They registered only hours after landing in the capital and ran as a cohort under clear blue skies past icebergs floating in the fjord. Ivalu Mathiassen, a University of Greenland student who spent Spring term at Dartmouth as part of the Institute of Arctic Studies Greenland Exchange, ran with them as an honorary IGERT!

Over the years the field seminar has matured into an important research opportunity for students working in Greenland. We have set deep roots there, and we will continue to support research and outreach activities as well as friendships in the beautiful country of Kalaallit Nunaat.
“Despite the occasional moments of frustration and self-doubt, this experience has cemented my desire to become a teacher after graduating and eventually pursuing an Ed.D. I am resilient, resourceful, and responsive and thanks to this experience I look towards the future with much excitement.” – Abigail Macias ’14, World Partners in Education, Ghana

“I learned to rely on myself and to respect my capability. I grew to appreciate the everyday chaos of life and the unyielding sense of both being entirely surrounded and totally alone at the same time.” – Eliana Piper, Voice For Girls, India

**LASTING IMPACTS from Interns**

“Despite my Septicemia and being bedridden for three days, the team was very supportive and helpful. Upon finally returning to the Outpatient Department, the entire staff recognized my return and rushed to help me. I was overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of everyone.”

– Joseph Singh ’14

**CLASS OF 1954 INTERNATIONAL INTERN**

Adam Kraus ’14
Sacred Valley Health
Ollantaytambo, Peru

Elliot Sanborn ’14
ADEMI Bank
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**CLASS OF 1957 INTERNATIONAL INTERNS**

Meredith Sweeney ’14 and Felicia Jia ’16, Seeds of Peace
Otisfield, Maine & Jerusalem, Israel

Victoria Trump-Redd ’14
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

**CLASS OF 1960 INTERNATIONAL INTERN**

Karl Schutz ’14
Homer Hulbert Memorial Society
Seoul, South Korea

**CLASS OF 1966 INTERNATIONAL INTERNS**

Joseph Singh ’14
Institute for Near East Gulf Military Analysis, Washington, DC, USA

Eric Yang ’14
Ministry of Health
Kigali, Rwanda

**LOUIS J. SETTI INTERNATIONAL INTERN**

Esteban Castano ’14
Sop Moei Arts
Chiang Mai, Thailand

**BHAVSAR INTERNATIONAL INTERN**

Eliana Piper ’14
Voice For Girls
Hyderabad, India

“It was striking, considering how much I have read about extreme poverty through one medium or another, to realize how weak in terms of impact a page of statistics makes in comparison to a single in-person and relatable encounter.” – Elliot Sanborn ’14, ADEMI Bank, Dominican Republic
“My experience in Jordan tied many of my academic and personal interests together—anthropology, environmental studies, and the Middle East—and it was exciting to experience these interactions for two months. I now know what it looks like when culture and environment intersect, and it is this intersection that I plan to study in the future.” – Katie Williamson ’15, Masar, Jordan

“This internship helped me to grow in many different ways that will ultimately make me think more holistically about health and the issues surrounding health and culture.” – Adam Kraus ’14, Sacred Valley Health, Peru

“Living and learning with students from the Balkans allowed me the unique opportunity of understanding on a personal level what it is like to live in a developing country in the shadow of a long and vicious war. I will carry this knowledge with me as I embark upon my Marine Corps career, and I believe my experience in Kosovo will help me as I strive to be a thoughtful and humanistic officer and leader.” – Jack Boger ’13, American University in Kosovo

“I was disillusioned by the knowledge that inefficiency and corruption are all around but inspired by what an effective and motivated grassroots organization can achieve.” – Kaila Pedersen ’14, Bosnia Initiatives for Local Development, Bosnia
of its indefensible Syrian client. Here too, seemingly insoluble conflicts and contradictions abound. President Obama seemed on the verge of taking action that aimed at preventing further mass atrocities and, in doing so, would have been upholding the “responsibility to protect,” an international norm that has been accepted by governments. But to do so, he would have had to act without the approval of the United Nations Security Council, where the Russians have blocked all serious sanctions of Damascus. Many and perhaps most international lawyers would argue that Security Council approval is a prerequisite for action. Yet it seems grotesque that international law affords less protection to Syrian civilians than to the Assad regime.

Even if these issues are resolved, the problems of Syria will stretch far into the future. My concern before leaving the State Department in December of last year was that Syria would become a failed state and terrorist enclave, as extremists pour in from abroad, motivated by sectarian hatred and the ambition to establish a radical Islamist state not on the periphery of the Muslim world in Afghanistan but in its heart. The challenge of a major terrorist safe haven bordering Israel and Turkey – and a short way from Europe – will be considerable. Additionally, stability in Lebanon could be imperiled as sectarian strife continues to overflow Syria’s boundaries. Syria’s western border with Iraq could well be washed away in the not-too-distant future as Sunni Arabs on both sides unite against the Shia and Alawite leaders in Baghdad and Damascus. Analysts are only beginning to imagine the consequences.

At the Dickey Center, we are already examining these and other aspects of the Syrian tragedy. At a conference in London that the Center co-convened with the International Institute for Strategic Studies earlier in September, scholars from the U.S., Europe, Egypt and the Persian Gulf discussed “The Muslim Brotherhood and the Arab Spring,” and looked at the landscape of Islamist rebellion in Syria. We will soon be welcoming General James Mattis, the recently retired head of U.S. Central Command, which encompasses all U.S. military forces from Afghanistan to Egypt, and Syria will be a central topic in his many engagements with Dartmouth students and faculty. Later in the fall, the Dickey Center will host Mark Lynch, an outstanding scholar of the region, for a public event devoted to Syria. Undoubtedly, this will only be the start of our work on this multidimensional crisis of ever-increasing magnitude.

The local newspaper wrote a detailed article about her mosquito research. She also has a website devoted to stoneflies that caters to the fly fishing community as well as scientists.

In September she began working for the Institute of Arctic Studies where she’ll be facilitating more outreach and research opportunities in Greenland and elsewhere for Dartmouth students and faculty. “Through IGERT I developed skills for communicating with diverse audiences,” she says. “I’m looking forward to using that toolkit more.” She’s also teaching a polar science and policy class during Spring term (BIOL 148).

But Culler continues to answer requests to identify random garden pests: “I still get really excited about looking at strange new insects.” — Lee McDavid, Arctic Program Manager