

FY24

Annual Report

W&M | GLOBAL
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

July 2023 - June 2024



Top right: Our old home at 427 Scotland Street
Middle left: Our current home in "The Hive" at Swem Library
Bottom right: Our future home in Gates Hall (formerly Brown Hall)

Reviewing our past and securing our future.

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Director's Note

I'm excited to share some FY '24 highlights from the Global Research Institute (GRI) focused on impactful research, the student experience, and a growing sense of community among our students, faculty, and staff. Our commitment to integrating students and faculty from multiple disciplines to conduct rigorous applied research with external partners has never been stronger. With support from the university, we have developed a model that enhances William & Mary's liberal arts education and also produces knowledge that makes a difference in the world beyond the ivory tower. I'm not alone in this belief. [After 20 years of work](#), GRI underwent its first-ever external review. Three scholars who have led research institutes at Cornell, Duke, and Georgetown conducted a rigorous evaluation of our work and concluded that "GRI punches above its weight" and provides unique opportunities for students and faculty. If you are interested in their detailed assessment, see [here](#).

The External Review challenged us to imagine what GRI 2.0 might look like. As we think about the next ten years we've engaged GRI students and faculty, deans and department chairs from across the university, the Provost's Office, and especially our own [GRI Advisory Board](#), which has been invaluable in helping us plan for the future. Three things have become clear about our next steps. First, there is enormous demand among William & Mary students and faculty to develop/apply their expertise to real-world problems and to learn from other disciplines. This has encouraged us to reinvest in GRI programs that bring faculty together from across campus including Research in Progress (RIP) Seminars, Book Workshops, Keynote Lectures, Applied Research Training, Conferences here in Williamsburg, etc... These programs are the "front porch" to GRI-supported research collaboration. Second, we need to provide more sustained and predictable support for research programs that have the potential to find an external market and scale in terms of size and impact. Cutting-edge research that is published in leading peer-reviewed outlets, but that also has utility for external partners, is the type of work most likely to find strong supporters in the marketplace of ideas. Third, as the external review made clear, GRI needs stable core financial support to grow beyond its current size and to catalyze the next field-altering project or research stream. Over the past year, we have taken very important steps toward sustainable funding in the form of the [Accelerate Initiative](#) and our emerging strategic plan for GRI 2.0.

GRI researcher's influence and recognition extend internationally, with partnerships and convening events that bridge research and practice. In collaboration with the Robert M. Gates Global Policy Center, we co-hosted the second annual Gates Forum, addressing [the future of U.S. development assistance](#).

Director's Note

We hosted a major international conference on International Relations in East Asia through our Security & Foreign Policy Initiative. We also established research collaborations in Kenya with the Ministry of Health, in Colombia with the Truth Commission, and in Rome with the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Beyond research partnerships, the media coverage of GRI's research, especially the work of AidData, continues to garner increased coverage in media outlets around the world.

One of the cornerstones of GRI is providing transformative research opportunities for students. We do this through partnerships with the Reves Center for International Studies, the William & Mary Washington Center, and the Public Policy Program. This year, our students conducted fieldwork across diverse regions, from Bosnia to Georgia to Tanzania, and took part in the [Global Scholars Program](#), where 18 students from 10 different majors directly engaged with policymakers at major institutions like the World Bank, USAID, UNDP, and on Capitol Hill. These opportunities are essential in shaping the next generation of global researchers and policymakers. As a result of the success of our first two cohorts of Global Scholars students, who were focused on policymaking and global governance with a focus on Europe, this year we added a second cohort with a focus on U.S.-China relations.

With our new location in the center of campus at Swem Library, GRI has enhanced its interdisciplinary culture. We've hosted talks from leading scholars, and also current and former leaders from the World Bank, the United Nations, the CIA, Amnesty International, and Microsoft, where we discussed AI regulations, human rights, and the debt crisis in emerging economies. We continue to expand the number and diversity of students and faculty who participate in these events. They are designed to foster a sense of community among students, faculty, and alumni, creating a space for an exchange of ideas and discussions on future collaboration. GRI is preparing for an even more exciting future with the construction of a new, state-of-the-art facility, [Robert M. Gates Hall](#), slated to open in 2026. William & Mary is making a big bet on applied collaborative work by housing GRI with the Institute for Integrative Conservation and the Whole of Government Center of Excellence. After 20 years of moving around campus, we will have a space that is purpose-built to foster collaborative multidisciplinary work. We could not be more excited or more grateful.

Michael J. Tierney
Hylton Professor of Government & International Relations
Director, Global Research Institute

Mission & Vision

Mission: Real-world problems don't respect disciplinary boundaries, and neither do we. W&M's Global Research Institute is a multidisciplinary hub that empowers teams of students and faculty to create insights, inform decisions, and improve lives.

Vision: GRI aims to be a global leader in producing field-altering research to solve the world's most pressing challenges. We provide resources and opportunities to help teams solve economic, environmental, health, national security, social, and technological challenges. Students, faculty, and professional staff develop ideas together, convene partners, create and analyze data, and suggest (or help implement) practical solutions.

As W&M President Katherine Rowe has said, "For problems that need data that has yet to be discovered or methods that have yet to be created, there is no better place for the world to come than the Global Research Institute."

"The Institute exemplifies the best of William & Mary. Creativity, entrepreneurship, and intellectual risk-taking are rewarded. By investing in the power of student-faculty teams, the Institute is helping position W&M as a leader for world-class, applied research."

Former Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates '65, LHD '98



Student Experiences

Summer Fellows

The Summer Fellows Program offers students the life-changing opportunity to live and work abroad. Students come from a variety of disciplines and work with professors and practitioners to learn, create new knowledge, and make a difference in communities around the world.



“My six weeks in Kenya were transformative in ways I never anticipated. The hands-on experience in healthcare and research not only deepened my understanding of maternal and child health, but also magnified the importance of cultural context and community engagement in addressing health inequities and disparities.”

- Brenna K.

This summer, GRI placed eighteen students in hands-on research programs and experiential learning opportunities in eight different countries.

- Sarajevo, Bosnia
- Bogota, Colombia
- Washington, D.C.
- Tbilisi, Georgia
- Stuttgart, Germany
- Narok, Kenya
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Lahore, Pakistan
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Student Experiences

Global Scholars

The year-long Global Scholars Program enables applied experiences beyond the classroom by providing opportunities to explore the world, engage in meaningful research, and connect with mentors globally. Students participate in a fall policy and research course, an immersive D.C.-based winter break seminar, a spring break study abroad trip, and a summer internship, which can occur virtually, in Washington, D.C., or internationally.

Our cohort traveled to Paris & Brussels over spring break and completed internships in a variety of fields.

- Americorps/FEMA
- Amnesty International
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
- Grant & Eisenhofer
- W&M La Plata Human Rights Fellowship
- Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development
- OPANAL
- QinetiQ
- Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Special Competitive Studies Project
- U.S. Government Accountability Office
- United Nations Development Programme
- U.S. Indo-Pacific Command
- WE ACT



Research Labs

What powers GRI is the cutting-edge research done by faculty and student teams. Over 250 students do hands on, applied research at the Institute each year, and the findings from the research streams help W&M secure national preeminence. Below are summaries of some of the major lines of work by research labs affiliated with the Institute.

Africa Research Center

ARC focused on research outputs. Two manuscripts by Dr. Phil Roessler and collaborators have been accepted for publication in the American Journal of Political Science and will be published next fiscal year. Dr. Admasu Shiferau received a \$3,000 W&M Faculty Grant to conduct a qualitative survey on quality standards and firm behavior in Ethiopia, linked to a 2022 IGC grant project. He also supervised a W&M Economics major's summer research and began a new project with W&M alumnus Henry Young ('20) on road infrastructure and structural change. Dr. Roessler worked with three students on different research projects in Spring 2024 and conducted a U.S. Government briefing on "Total War in Sudan."

AidData

AidData secured 13 awards totaling \$5.2M, published 41 long-form and 37 short-form products, and contributed to 43 peer-reviewed journal articles. Over 70 W&M students participated in research projects, contributing to major initiatives like the Belt and Road Reboot report, which analyzed Chinese state-financed projects and received global media coverage. Key accomplishments included hosting high-profile convenings, releasing datasets and policy reports on topics like digital censorship, gender bias in AI, and U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific, and publishing influential findings in journals like Scientific Data. AidData also expanded partnerships, such as a study on EU deforestation regulations with COSA.

American Bosnian Collaboration

The ABC Project engaged eight students in impactful intercultural and environmental research initiatives. W&M students collaborated with University of Sarajevo peers to collect data on the effects of experiential learning on Bosnian youth's intercultural communicative competence (ICC). Fall mentoring sessions culminated in two GRI summer fellows presenting research at student showcases and publishing a white paper in February 2024. Spring 2024 saw new students designing research on the impact of children's literature on ICC, securing IRB approval, and raising over \$4,400 through fundraising efforts. Dr. Pickering's contributions included publishing *People Power: Activism in Hard Times in Central and Eastern Europe* and submitting grant proposals to expand ABC Project efforts to more diverse Bosnian communities.

Research Labs

Digital Inclusion & Governance

DIGLab secured significant funding, including \$228,012 from BRAC WEE-DiFine for smartphone RCT follow-up surveys in Malawi, \$78,408 from IPA for follow-up qualitative work, and \$170,000 from ARII to study generative AI impacts. The team also partnered with AidData on USAID Digital Strategy evaluations. DIGLab presented at multiple international conferences, including APSA 2023, UNCTAD EWeek on bridging the digital divide, and AidData's Gender and Development Symposium 2024. Recent working papers include reports on digital payments, financial inclusion in Tanzania, and women's property rights in Malawi. Summer fellows contributed to field studies, qualitative analyses, and new initiatives like climate-focused digital tools.

Ignite Global Health

The Ignite Lab has advanced impactful research, including a pilot study on lactation rooms in flower farms, an immunization project in Narok, Kenya, examining vaccine uptake, and community-level tuberculosis data collection to improve pediatric case finding. Ongoing work includes a PLOS ONE submission on vaccine drop-outs and plans to study maternal outcomes in 2025. A completed study in Naivasha, Kenya, explored social networks' influence on breastfeeding. Fourteen students actively participated in lab research, with four traveling to Kenya in Summer 2024 for maternal and child health studies. Additionally, the lab supported student-led projects, such as an op-ed on healthcare cost drivers.

International Justice Lab

This year, the International Justice Lab celebrated its fifth anniversary! Over the past five years, IJL has achieved remarkable milestones, including providing paid research opportunities to 24 undergraduates, co-publishing in *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Washington Post*, featuring in U.S. and global media like NPR and CNN and reports by ICTJ, NATO, and the UN, presenting research to U.S. Senate staff, think tanks like Brookings, and organizations like the Auschwitz Institute, and hosting 40 IJL Nexus Series events at William & Mary with speakers including an ICTY prosecutor, a State Department official, and Pulitzer Center journalists.

Research Labs

NukeLab

NukeLab was awarded a \$237,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to support research on nuclear-free zones. In addition, Dr. Jeffrey Kaplow and Dr. Ryan Musto co-directed the Troy A. Cullen Emerging Technology Fellows Program in the summer. This program was supported by a Charles Center grant, and their efforts produced a draft book chapter now being prepared for publication. Dr. Kaplow and Dr. Marcus Holmes also secured an Interdisciplinary Research Innovation Fund Pilot Grant from the Provost's office for a project called "International Diplomacy Through the Headset: A Comparative Study in Trust-Building with Technology-Mediated Interaction." NukeLab students are contributing to the project. NukeLab contributions led to the publication of "The Changing Face of Nuclear Proliferation" in *International Studies Quarterly*.

Project on International Peace & Security

A total of ten students participate in PIPS during the school year—five research fellows and five research interns. Their briefings were delivered to members of the Center for Global Development, the Stimson Center, the Washington Post, the Atlantic Council, the FBI, the Anti-Defamation League, the US Indo-Pacific Command, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA), the US Indo-Pacific Command J5 (USINDOPACOM), the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OSD-P), the Office of the National Cyber Director, and more. Their papers included information on maritime fishing militias and private security in China's territorial strategy, U.S.-Indo-Pacific alliances and regional entrapment fears, China's nickel resource strategy in Indonesia, countering white supremacy in gaming with tailored messaging, and the risks of China's debt-for-nature swaps in Africa.

Teaching, Research, and International Policy

The TRIP project expanded its funded partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, hosted a workshop to increase the uptake of TRIP data at the International Studies Association Meeting in San Francisco, conducted multiple surveys of foreign policy experts, mentored dozens of students, and placed its first-ever Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Shauna Gillooly, into a tenure track position at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Santiago de Chile in Santiago, Chile. TRIP conducted three Snap Polls of international relations scholars in the U.S., documented the improved reputation of W&M's IR Program among scholars, policymakers, and think tank researchers, published two essays in *Foreign Policy* and one peer-reviewed article in *Perspectives on Politics*. Twenty-two students contributed to research in the TRIP lab as paid RAs over the course of the year.

Research Initiatives

The Security & Foreign Policy Initiative

SFPI addresses the dual objectives of meeting student demand for courses and research in international security and U.S. foreign policy while enriching the theoretical diversity in these fields at William & Mary. Through a post-doctoral fellowship program and a series of convenings, SFPI brings together scholars, students, and policy practitioners to study pressing global issues. The initiative receives generous support from the Charles Koch Foundation and Paul C. Jost and Laura Holmes Jost. The 2024 Spring Conference theme was “Cooperation, Competition, and Conflict in the Asia-Pacific.” The two-day conference covered a range of topics, including the long shadow of the Cold War in East Asia, the delicate balancing of US alliances in the region, the role of grand strategy in US-China relations, geoeconomic competition, and the influence of AI on security and economic dynamics in Asia. Participants included preeminent historians, political scientists, legal scholars, policy scholars, and U.S. government policymakers. The conference keynote speakers were Thomas J. Christensen of Columbia University and Ali Wyne of the International Crisis Group (photo right).



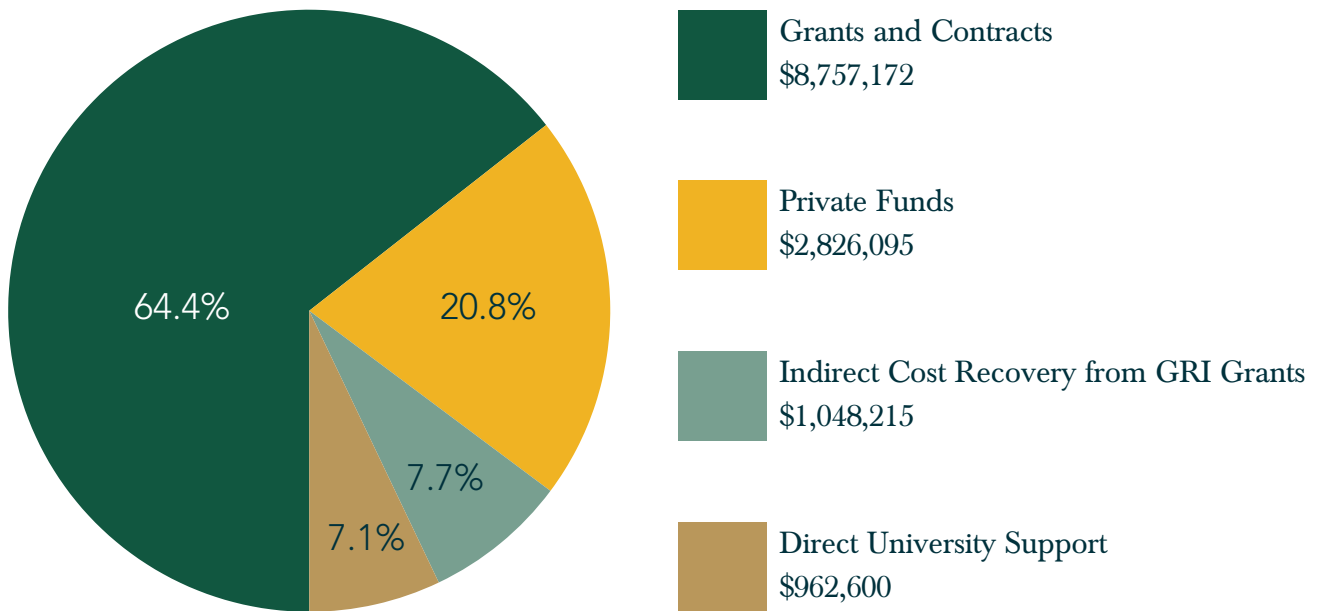
The Gates Forum

In honor of Chancellor Robert M. Gates, William & Mary, in collaboration with the Gates Global Policy Center (GGPC), hosts the Gates Forum—a series of high-level discussions and workshops centered on pressing national issues and grounded in academic research. Each year, 15-20 senior leaders from government and industry convene in Williamsburg, Virginia, to participate in the Gates Forum, chaired by Chancellor Gates. This two-day event leverages the practical expertise of participants and the latest academic research to thoroughly analyze key challenges, evaluate potential policy responses, and outline a nonpartisan roadmap for advancing U.S. policy. In December 2023, the second Gates Forum addressed the topic of U.S. economic assistance, bringing together experts to examine and strengthen U.S. policy in this critical area (photo left).

Financial Overview

Operating revenue supports the infrastructure needed to facilitate applied research at scale. GRI works diligently to minimize transaction costs paid by researchers (e.g. operations, human resources, facilities, communications) so that the research teams can focus on what they do best. All the personnel, policies, and processes that help researchers to do excellent work is “research infrastructure,” and world-class research is not cheap. Investments in core GRI staff and programs are necessary to support these expanding research activities.

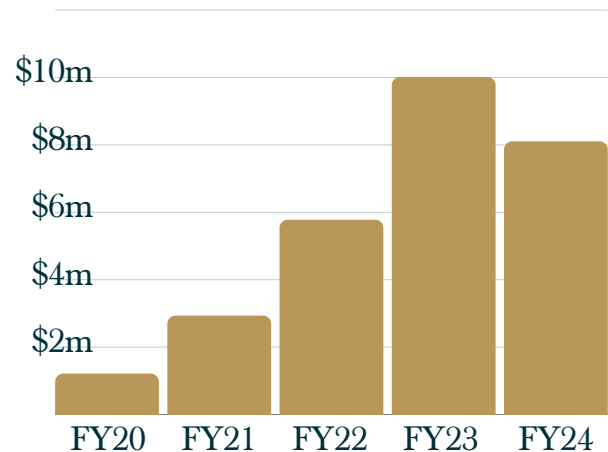
FY24 Operating Revenue



FY24 Expenses

	Total
Salaries	\$6,866,082
Direct Expenditures	\$3,323,670
	\$10,189,752

Grants Won FY20 to FY24



Looking to the Future

The GRI Accelerate Initiative & Gates Hall

As we look back on the past year, we recognize the importance of securing our future. GRI has been committed to excellence for more than 20 years, and that's why we're launching the Accelerate Initiative: an effort to raise \$10 million before the summer of 2026. We recognize the impact of our work in Williamsburg and on our global community, so it's important that we can continue making our big ideas a reality. Funding will allow us to expand our current research projects, increase the number of mentored research opportunities available to students, develop stronger public-private partnerships, and more. With \$3 million already pledged—anchored by leadership gifts from Tom McInerney P '07 and Jennifer and Scott Mackesy '91—the initiative will provide long-term operational support and seed funding for transformative research projects. Additionally, it will help prepare for our move to Gates Hall, a state-of-the-art research hub set to open in 2026. The initiative builds on our history of engaging students in real-world research that shapes policy and fosters global connections. By funding internships, fellowships, and operational needs, the Accelerate Initiative ensures students and faculty can continue addressing challenges such as conservation, global health, and economic development. Director Mike Tierney believes this investment will sustain GRI's innovative research and public-private partnerships, empowering future generations to make a difference in the world.

“Funding from the Accelerate Initiative is designed to provide seed capital for investments in field-altering research, increased opportunities for teaching through research, and support for the unsexy, but vital, functions of a modern research university that enable students and faculty to focus on the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. We need to put a foundation in place that sustains GRI at William & Mary for all time coming.”

Director Michael Tierney '87



Thank you!

GRI is grateful for the support we received in FY24. From our alumni and friends to our corporate funding partners, your continued support allows us to make our big ideas a reality. Thank you for believing in the mission of the Global Research Institute at William & Mary.

External Funding Partners (FY24)

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Cloudera Foundation
- Fathom Consulting
- Ford Foundation
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom
- Gates Global Policy Center
- Government of Switzerland
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- Jeffress Memorial Trust
- National Pork Board
- Open Philanthropy
- Schmidt Special Competitive Studies Project, LLC
- Smith Richardson Foundation
- Stanton Foundation
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of State
- United Nations Development Programme

Private Donors (FY24)

\$100,000+:	3
10,000 - \$99,000:	12
\$1,000 - \$9,999:	29
\$1 - \$999:	247