Fifteen years ago, Washington University launched a bold new experiment to foster international collaboration in education and research. In 2005, the McDonnell Academy set out to attract exceptional students from fifteen leading universities in Asia and prepare them to become future leaders. The first cohort of eighteen Scholars arrived on campus in 2006. We have come a long way since then: supporting more than 200 Scholars from 34 partner institutions and growing our network of friends and collaborators across the world. The Academy's Ambassadors have helped to nurture international cooperation with partners on critical global issues that no single university or country can address alone. This would not have been possible without the generous support of John F. McDonnell and the JSM Charitable Trust, the farsighted vision of Chancellor Emeritus Mark Wrighton, the founding director James Wertsch, and the hard work of many faculty.

As we reflect on the remarkable progress of the last 15 years, we also look to the future and to a new era of building momentum. We strive to be recognized as the leading program for international graduate students in the U.S. Chancellor Andrew D. Martin dedicated one of his first blogs to “reaffirming the intrinsic value of our international community”. In the last year, we began work to update and refine the university's global strategy, in alignment with Washington University's mission and future ambitions. In the international space, we will seek to enhance efforts in three areas:

1. **Talent & Diversity**: Enrich the talent and diversity of WashU by recruiting premier students from across the globe.
2. **Education**: Give every student an international perspective through their educational experience.
3. **Research**: Advance research that has impact and recognition internationally.

The McDonnell Academy contributes on each of these three dimensions in important ways. The original vision of the McDonnell Academy continues as we evolve to best achieve that vision. New developments for this year are identified in this report with a star (☆), and I am proud to share highlights from the past year.

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**Alumni create a global community**

McDonnell Academy alumni come from varied degree programs and partner institutions, connecting a global community of Scholars to the university and each other. It is incredibly exciting to see the various directions they have taken and to think about where their paths may lead.

**Alumni: Where are they now?**

- AT&T
- BAYER
- BOSTON COLLEGE
- BRISTOL-MYERS
- CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- CHINESE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
- DELL TECHNOLOGIES
- DISCOVER FINANCIAL
- DUPONT
- ELI LILLY
- EMERSON
- FACEBOOK
- FUDAN UNIVERSITY
- FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
- GOODWIN PROCTOR
- GOOGLE
- HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
- INTEL CORPORATION
- MICROSOFT
- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAILAND
- NATIONAL CHIAO TUNG UNIVERSITY
- NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY
- NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
- PEACE CORPS INDONESIA
- Pepsico
- THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
- UNIVERUTAD ALBERTO HURTADO
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
- UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
- UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
- UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN
- UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
- UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO
- WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

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**Inaugural winner of alumni award**

Dr. Chen Li received the inaugural **Mark S. Wrighton Award for McDonnell Academy Alumni**. This award is generously sponsored by Richard J. Mahoney, retired chairman and CEO of Monsanto Company, distinguished executive-in-residence at Olin Business School, and an emeritus trustee of Washington University. The award was established in 2019 in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Mark S. Wrighton.

**Dr. Chen Li**

LLM’12, JD’15, JD’16
EDUCATION

What are the defining attributes of a McDonnell Academy Scholar?

We specified the three pillars of the McDonnell Scholars program. These factors represent the defining attributes of every McDonnell Academy Scholar, beyond being an expert in one’s discipline. These pillars focus our programming and help the Scholars track their progress.

LEADERSHIP

Develop a network of relationships involving individuals with different cultures and disciplines

GLOBAL MINDSET

Understand and learn from perspectives arising from different cultures and value systems

COMMUNITY

Increase capacity as formal and informal leaders in diverse contexts

Leadership fellows program has first recipients

The most effective way to develop as a leader is by taking on challenging assignments. A new initiative provides an opportunity for up to two Scholars each year to develop their leadership abilities by working on a meaningful passion project. The Wrighton Leadership Fellows Program provides Scholars with advice, mentoring, and a small amount of funding to complete the project. The program is in recognition of Chancellor Emeritus Mark Wrighton. The first two recipients are Jae Lee, a U.S. Scholar in the School of Medicine, and Girish Sharma, an IITB alumnus in the McKelvey School of Engineering.

Jae Lee's project seeks to develop a sustainability plan for the non-profit 501(c)3 global health organization Empower Through Health (ETH), for which he is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Board of Directors. ETH provides healthcare to a catchment area of 70,000 people in rural Uganda, conducts clinical and public health research, and provides educational opportunities in public and global health for Ugandan and international students.

Girish Sharma

According to the WHO's global air pollution database (2018), 14 out of the 15 most polluted cities in the world are in India. Girish’s project aims to provide guidelines for tackling air pollution to the government of India.

Official leadership course enhances proficiencies

The ability to reach across boundaries to work on projects, and share information, is a critical component of organizational success. We have expanded and revised the content of the first semester seminar. With those changes, the McDonnell Academy Global Leadership Seminar is an official course, focused on how to be more successful in communicating with diverse audiences.

Endowed lectures impact learning

The Academy’s public programming brings leading experts to campus to enrich the conversation at WashU and the St. Louis community on issues of global importance.

SENG TEE LEE
ENDOWED LECTURE
Kishore Mahbubani
Distinguished Fellow
Asian Research Institute
National University of Singapore

CABOT-ZHANG ENDOWED LECTURE
William C. Kirby
Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration & T.M. Chang Professor of China Studies
Harvard University

AFRICA INITIATIVE CO-SPONSORED LECTURE
Stuart Symington
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria

Academy creates a community of future global leaders

McDonnell Scholar Cohort Trips

The McDonnell Academy cohort trips, one to New York City and one to Washington DC are highly impactful and provide a unique opportunity for Scholars to meet leaders from different fields such as government, business and journalism.

McDonnell Scholar GLV Sessions

McDonnell Scholars give Global Leadership Visions (GLV) presentations during their second year in the program. These 7-minute public presentations on issues of global concern enhance their communication skills.

New dual doctorate program strengthens partnership

A new collaboration between the McKelvey School of Engineering and Xi’an Jiaotong University, a McDonnell Academy partner, enables up to six doctoral students per year to pursue a dual PhD degree program on research projects in the areas of life sciences, energy, and informatics. Students will meet the requirements for PhD degrees at both institutions, building upon the strong foundation of collaboration between the two universities. Guy Genin, the Harold and Kathleen Faught Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and Ambassador to XJTU, was installed with an honorary professorship recognizing him as an official ambassador of the university during the signing of the new dual degree program at Xi’an.
Reimagining the McDonnell Academy International Symposium

On October 8-10, 2020 the McDonnell Academy will host the 8th International Symposium at Washington University in St. Louis. The event will focus on “Forces Reshaping the World,” including social, environmental, political, and technological changes. We re-envisioned the McDonnell Academy’s signature event as a research-focused conference with faculty-driven workshops at its core. Through an open call, we solicited workshop proposals and offered support in the form of travel and seed grants to help incubate innovative research involving McDonnell Academy partner institutions as well as other international collaborators.

The response to the call was overwhelming. We received 40 workshop proposals from 25 partner institutions and 30 departments from every WashU school. We selected 30 workshops that represent varied disciplines and geographic areas. In addition, three plenaries will bring together scholars from across multiple disciplines for discussion on the broader topics. The Symposium will also feature a 3MT® competition engaging graduate students. In addition, we are planning a special program to engage alumni with the McDonnell Academy 15th Anniversary celebration.

For more about the Symposium: https://global.wustl.edu/international-symposium/

Seed grants for social policy projects awarded

The McDonnell International Scholars Academy and the newly created Social Policy Institute partnered to provide support for three international policy-focused proposals. Each project received $10,000 in seed grants.

The selected projects will develop research that fosters international collaboration on policy issues and includes faculty from both Washington University and an international university. Each of the three research projects supports the overarching missions of both the McDonnell International Scholars Academy and the Social Policy Institute.

1. Researchers will study the intersections of poverty, child neglect and maltreatment, and implement a Child Abuse Screening Tool in Israel.

2. Researchers will investigate the dynamics of wealth accumulation and asset poverty among older adults in the U.S. and China.

3. Researchers will conduct a survey in South Africa to study how the attitudes and behaviors of crime victims are associated with the process of democratization in the country.

Read more about the projects: https://socialpolicyinstitute.wustl.edu/spi-mcdonnell-award-10000-seed-grants/

Partnerships advance collaborative research

The McDonnell Academy’s network of strategic partners serves as a platform for joint research on issues that are important both in the U.S. and across the globe. One area of sustained, long-term collaboration is on asset building policies and programs that are emerging in many countries. Michael Sherraden, George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and founding director of the Center for Social Development, has been leading these efforts. Several partner institutions such as the National University of Singapore (NUS), Peking University, and National Taiwan University are actively engaged. As Ambassador to NUS and director of the Next Age Institute, Sherraden has built a successful partnership to study, design and test social innovations. He is one example of WashU faculty improving the human condition through international collaboration. In the last year several new publications illustrate the impact of collaborative efforts.

- A new book, People and Climate Change (2019) by Oxford University Press, focuses on the human and social dimensions of climate change. The papers were first presented at a 2016 International Symposium at the Brown School, in collaboration with NUS and the University of Tennessee–Knoxville.
- An article in the China Journal of Social Work (Feb. 2020) on the “Re-emergence of social work in modern China” highlights the long-standing and productive partnership on academic collaboration and policy innovation among Peking University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Washington University.

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