START Continues Career Development Program: Announces Newest Scholarship Recipients

College Park, MD, May 28, 2008 – START announces the second round of awards for the START Career Development Program. For the 2008 – 2009 academic year, START awarded three undergraduate scholarships and three dissertation awards. Casey Dasch, Sabrina Hammouda, and Benjamin Rosenbaum have been selected to receive undergraduate scholarships this year. Susan Fahey, Garriy Shteynberg, and another doctoral student will receive awards at the dissertation level.

These undergraduate and graduate awards are sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security in order to provide high-achieving students interested in homeland security with professional development opportunities as well as with funding for their education. In return, the students will work for at least one year in the homeland security arena following completion of their degrees.

START has selected two students from its Terrorism Studies Minor Program and one student from outside the minor to receive undergraduate scholarships, as profiled below. Casey Dasch, Sabrina Hammouda, and Benjamin Rosenbaum have been awarded:

- $15,000 towards tuition, room, board, and fees for one academic year
- Support for travel to and registration at one professional conference
- Meetings with officials from the public and private sector working in positions related to homeland security
- One-on-one mentoring from a homeland security professional and from the leadership of the START Center
- Active involvement in a research project related to improving understanding of the human causes and consequences of terrorism.
Maryland dissertation award recipients include Susan Fahey and Garriy Shteynberg, who will receive:

- $30,000 towards tuition, fees, and a stipend for one academic year
- One-on-one mentoring from a homeland security professional and from the leadership of the START Center
- Support for travel to and registration at one professional conference
- Meetings with officials from the public and private sector working in positions related to homeland security
- Opportunities to present their original research to leading terrorism scholars.

Scholarship and dissertation award winners were selected through a competitive process, involving written applications and personal interviews. Applicants were evaluated based on their academic achievements, their knowledge of homeland security issues and research, and their level of commitment to a career related to the advancement of homeland security.

The Career Development Program is a three-year START initiative. To date, 5 undergraduates and 4 doctoral students have been selected for this prestigious program. A total of 10 more students will be invited to participate following subsequent competitions in the next 12 months. By the program’s completion in 2010, START will have provided this opportunity to a total of ten undergraduate and nine doctoral students.

Profiles of the 2008 - 2009 Award Recipients

Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

Casey Dasch

“I hope to gain exciting knowledge and insight from having a personal mentor. I am also looking forward to learning more about the Department of Homeland Security from experiences other than the Minor courses. It’s also a great chance to get a job in a field of my personal interest and choice.”
Casey Dasch is currently a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is majoring in mathematics and is enrolled in the new Terrorism Studies minor. Her hometown is Millersville, MD, right outside of Annapolis. She has already had many exciting work opportunities; most involved with the National Security Agency, which she says has made her life very interesting. She can relate a lot of her experiences from working with a government agency to the terrorism studies classes she takes at Maryland. She treasures the opportunities she has had to travel to England, Spain and Morocco.

Sabrina Hammouda

“I am thrilled to use the Career Development Program as a route to transition between completing my bachelor’s degree and entering the homeland security workforce. I think it will help me determine what exact career I want, as well as, if I want to pursue higher education or law school. I hope to learn more about the complexities surrounding homeland security and tactics towards mitigating the threat of terrorism. I look forward to the benefits of mentorship and working closely with the individuals currently working and involved in the homeland security field.”

Sabrina Hammouda is a junior at the University of Maryland pursuing a major in Government and Politics and a minor in Terrorism Studies. She was born in Columbia, Missouri, but grew up in Gaithersburg, Maryland. When she is not involved in schoolwork, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, soccer and exotic cars.

Benjamin Rosenbaum

“I hope to gain the skills needed for a substantive year-long research project. I hope these skills will prepare for a career working in the government. I also hope that the Career Development Program will provide me the opportunity to see what career in the government will be best for me.”

Benjamin Rosenbaum is a Government and Politics major with a focus on international relations. He speaks Hebrew and is beginning to learn Arabic. Ben is originally from Beachwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. While at school, he enjoys competing in intramural sports, especially soccer. While at home, he runs a reflection video company with his family.
Dissertation Award Recipients

Susan Fahey

“I hope to achieve a knowledge level and skill base that will allow me to pursue and obtain a job in the professional research sector. Also, I look forward to having a professional mentor who will help me navigate through the process of finishing my dissertation and seeking a job in professional research.”

Susan Fahey is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Justice from American University and her Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland. Her research interests include the environmental context of terrorism, including the context of failed states, the situational characteristics of airline hijackings and the functioning and desistance of terrorist organizations. Her research interests also include general criminological topics, such as the relationship between race and crime, the connection between one’s own delinquency and that of one’s peers and on the rationality of criminal decision-making.

Garriy Shteynberg

“I am hoping that my dissertation research will receive critical consideration from some of the best scholars in the field of small group dynamics and belief radicalization. I am also hoping to connect with in-the-field experts that study and develop belief de-radicalization programs. Ultimately, I would like to draw a stronger connection between my understanding of belief radicalization and the actual practices and policies that are undertaken to promote and stop the emergence of extreme beliefs.”

Garriy Shteynberg is currently a doctoral student in the Social, Decision and Organizational Psychology program at the University of Maryland. He holds a Master of Science degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Oxford. Garriy emigrated from Kishinev, Moldova (former USSR) to sunny San Antonio, Texas in 1989, an experience that surely nurtured his interest in the social aspects of cognition. To this end, his dissertation explores the experience of intersubjective attention and its effect on belief emergence and radicalization. Lastly and most importantly, Garriy is engaged to marry Catherine Meagan Roberts (who he met at Oxford) in May 2008.

START, the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence based at the University of Maryland. START uses state-of-the-art theories, methods, and data from the social and behavioral sciences to improve understanding of the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological impacts of terrorism. For more information on START, please visit www.start.umd.edu.