



IAFS Alum Creates the Casey Family Global Grants Endowment, and Challenges You!

Ambassador Mary Ann Casey, chair of the Program in International Affairs Advisory Board, has recently created the Casey Family Global Grants Endowment to ensure that students can experience overseas education. "The Global Grants program is not just a game changer: it is a life-changer," says Casey. "It is a gift that keeps on giving, long after students have returned home." This significant contribution of \$100,000 reinforces and fortifies her legacy as a generous benefactor of the International Affairs Program and a friend to the College of Arts and Sciences. We hope she inspires you to give to the Global Grants fund and help our students turn their dreams of international study into reality.



Ambassador Mary Ann Casey

Ambassador Casey developed an interest in all things international at an early age. Her parents, long-time teachers at CU Denver, had a passion for travel and encouraged their children to develop the same adventurous spirit. With this inspiration, Ambassador Casey chose to study international affairs at CU Boulder, a major she sees as essential to a global perspective. "International Affairs is one of the top majors on campus," shares Casey. "And no wonder! Never has understanding the world beyond our borders been more important to the future of the United States."

Become Involved

Be a part of our Global Grants endowment and share your excitement for international learning! The Global Grants support students as they study abroad and experience the world. Help International Affairs continue to grow our Global Grants endowment by giving today.

[Donate](#)

Please add the following to the Comments box during check-out:
Global Grants Fund #0151296

To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please click here:

[Donate](#)

Contributions to our general gift fund are used for a variety of special projects and student programming, including speaker events; graduation ceremonies; and student awards, such as our leadership and service award.

Stay Connected

Join our group on LinkedIn

[Read more about Ambassador Casey's involvement with CU and Global Grants](#)



Returning to Campus to Educate on Refugees

CU Boulder recently welcomed back to campus an IAFS alum to share her perspective on the refugee crisis worldwide. Kelly Bendelow (IAFS '08), an Associate Field Officer at the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#), offered insights from her seven years of experience stationed in Switzerland, Ecuador, and most recently, Lebanon.



Kelly Bendelow IAFS '08

The talk, *Rethinking Refugees: Comparative Humanitarianism*, was presented on November 15 by the International Affairs Honors Society, Sigma Iota Rho, and the Dennis Small Cultural Center. Bendelow spoke about different approaches to helping refugees, including long-term solutions and the involvement of non-governmental organizations. Because of her field position, she was able to relate stories of people she met who created their own businesses even where resources were scarce, such as one man who created his own recycling business.

Bendelow said the level of discussion and interest among students at the talk was very encouraging. She hopes that “some of the students will find ways to be engaged with refugees in their local communities, as this kind of work isn’t only about fieldwork or working in exciting locations – there is a lot that can be done at home.”

[Read more about Bendelow's work with the UNCHR and visit to CU Boulder](#)

Alum in Russia as Fulbright Scholar: Big Experiences in a Small City

As one of few foreigners in a small city in Siberia, Benjamin Lourie (IAFS '16 and Global Grant recipient) is often asked why he chose Gorno-Altai, a small city of 60,000 near the border with Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China. The truth is that he didn't. Lourie has been teaching at Gorno-Altai State University as a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant \(ETA\)](#) since September 2016, and his location was assigned to him. Benjamin expressed his desire to be off the beaten path so that he could see the “True Russia,” any area outside of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Lourie notes, “Someone should have warned me to be careful what I wish for--I ended up in the smallest city out of roughly 25 Fulbright ETAs in Russia.”

Having been in Gorno-Altai for less than 24 hours, Ben found himself teaching a class of 40 students on an empty stomach and with no morning coffee. His plans to find a coffee shop on the way to school or to stop by the university *stolovaya* (cafeteria) didn't work out, and he would later find out there is only one coffee shop in the city and the *stolovaya* doesn't open before classes. His first lesson was a presentation about his life in the U.S., which he hoped would dispel some stereotypes about Americans. Wearing his signature gray suit, Lourie felt confident in front of the students.



Benjamin Lourie IAFS '16

“There was a good mix of students: those who were very shy about speaking English, and those who were excited to speak English,” explains Lourie. Despite the lack of reliable technology at the university, including no Wi-Fi and a few distracted students, Lourie made it through his first day of teaching. He would go give his presentation several more times throughout the semester, whether visiting one of the local high schools or meeting with a new group of students at the university.

[Read more about Lourie and his year in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar](#)

Program in International Affairs | University of Colorado Boulder
303-492-7295 | iafs@colorado.edu | www.colorado.edu/IAFS
121 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309

Be inspired. Be involved. Be international.

Be Boulder.

