After Elise Shea ’19 attended a teach-in at her dorm about the worldwide refugee crisis, she started wondering how Vassar could make personal connections with people who had been forcibly displaced.

That soon sparked an idea from the International Studies major: why not use modern technology to connect forcibly displaced individuals as paid tutors for Vassar students enrolled in Arabic and Spanish language courses? Vital assistance from several professors, fellow students, and Vassar alums helped Shea integrate this vision into the College’s curriculum.

Now, as a Vassar senior, Shea is Founder and Director of Conversations Unbound, an organization working to expand that model, to enable college students from across the country to practice their language skills online with tutors who have been forcibly displaced. For her idea, she was one of 10 college students to receive an OZY magazine Genius Award.

**The ripple effect of one student’s idea now extends across the nation and around the world.**

Gifts to The Vassar Fund are essential to continuing this kind of global impact. A Vassar liberal arts education produces students like Elise Shea, who has taken the critical thinking skills she has learned at the College, and found a creative new way to address a real-world problem.

The Vassar experience cannot be sustained without financial support. That’s where you can make a difference.

Please make a gift to The Vassar Fund today.