what’s new in the world of mercury?

20 YEARS OF GLOBAL WORK
Message from the Director

IN THE FIELD AND ON LOCATION
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MERCURY
A Hazard Without Borders

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
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STUDYING ABROAD- IN THE USA
International Students at W&M
More than 60 years ago, Emery Reves committed his vision of global peace to paper in *The Anatomy of Peace*, a bestselling book first published in 1945 that promoted world federalism and global law. Reves understood, of course, that securing a more peaceful world would require more than new institutions and legal systems: it would also require individuals to see the world through others’ eyes. The very first sentence of Reves’ book makes this clear: “Nothing can distort the true picture of conditions and events in this world more than to regard one’s own country as the center of the universe, and to view all things solely in their relationship to this fixed point.”

In a nutshell, this is what our work at the Wendy & Emery Reves Center for International Studies is about: encouraging students, faculty, staff, and community members to engage and learn from perspectives different from their own. We are grateful to Reves’ widow Wendy for making this work possible through her endowment of the Reves Center in 1987. Twenty years ago this spring, Wendy Reves was at William & Mary to preside over inaugural festivities for the center, and this fall, we are excited to look back on 20 years of work inspired by Emery’s vision of world peace and Wendy’s commitment to international education.

It’s a particular privilege to be working at the Reves Center at a time of celebration, and to highlight our accomplishments, initiatives, and programs, including those featured in this issue of *World Minded*. But our work today builds on a solid foundation laid by many others, and I’d like to pause to recognize their contributions. With his vision for the strongest possible internationally-focused and interdisciplinary academic programs, inaugural director Jim Bill set the Reves Center on a path it continues to follow today. Each of Professor Bill’s associates and successors—Professor Craig Canning, Professor Ann Marie Stock, Ambassador Mitchell Reiss, and Professor Gail McEachron—added new ideas and energy to the mix, expanding the Reves Center’s offerings and drawing in ever more members of the W&M community. The Reves Center’s staff has brought global opportunities to life one program, one initiative, and one student at a time. Today we have a remarkable team in place, and my special thanks go to Cathy Cake, Judy Davis, Debi DeBacco, Guru Ghosh, Emily Hogge, Theresa Johansson, Amy Kuenker, Patricia Marrapese, Cecilia Newton, and Steve Sechrist for their tireless efforts. And faculty and students too numerous to name have participated in Reves Center programs and partnered with our staff to build, sustain, and improve our spectrum of global programs, including education abroad, international student and scholar services, research and curricular innovation, and internationally-focused events and programs. All deserve our gratitude and thanks.

Even as we look back on past achievements, of course, we look forward to our next two decades of work and beyond. Emery Reves’ words are as relevant today as they were more than half a century ago, and our work will continue to focus on helping students see the world through others’ eyes. This is one of the best tools we can give them, as they engage with and learn to lead in the ever-changing global society of which they are part.

It seems a fitting moment to raise a toast, to those who have made the Wendy and Emery Reves Center for International Studies possible, who carry out its work, and who learn through its offerings. To the past 20 years of global work—and the many more to come!
In the Field and On Location

This spring, The Reves Center for International Studies introduced the Faculty Fellows program, designed to support internationally-focused student-faculty research and service learning. Each fellow receives a research stipend for his or her own work, and up to $6000 per year to fund students collaborating on the project. The inaugural Faculty Fellows are Dr. David Aday (Faculty Fellow in International Service Learning) and Dr. Ann Marie Stock (Faculty Fellow in International Student-Faculty Research).

Service, Service Learning, or Engaged Scholarship?

Groups of deeply committed W&M undergraduates spending winter and spring breaks in Central America to organize free clinics for medically unserved local communities—it sounds a lot like international service. And yet, there is more to this story: participating students are also registered in courses that earn academic credit in four different disciplines or programs. Through classes such as Sustainable Intervention and Community Building, the undergraduates learn core concepts of community, social structure, culture, social change, and power, and they develop basic skills in ethnographic research before travelling abroad. In addition, students design research projects to undertake while the clinic is in session. Some will even return in the summer to spend intense weeks or months doing first-hand field research on environmental health issues, on community organization, and on nutrition concerns.

I am involved in the most exciting, productive, and important work of my career—and it’s because students invited me to search with them for solutions to problems that matter. SOMOS (Student Organization for Medical Outreach and Sustainability) has completed four years of work in Paraiso, Dominican Republic, and Students for Healthy Communities (SHC) has completed three years in Cuje, Nicaragua. Students are selected through intense competition, and once chosen, nearly all continue to participate until they graduate.

We are not fond of the word “service” because it comes with complicated baggage, including a history of good intentions and unfortunate, unintended consequences. We believe in the power of knowledge—and local wisdom. SHC and SOMOS have provided me with unparalleled opportunities to advance and test the kinds of knowledge that I find most compelling, and the power of that knowledge to effect change.

The Reves Center Fellowship in International Service Learning has made it possible for three students to spend four to ten weeks doing research in the Dominican Republic and another three students to conduct library research that provides critical theoretical, historical, and analytical foundations for our work. The Fellowship will also enable my travel to the Dominican Republic and to Nicaragua this year to work with and supervise students as we continue our efforts to promote positive change—not just through “service,” but through engaged scholarship.

~ Dr. David Aday, Professor of Sociology and American Studies

Engaging Students in Research

There’s nothing quite like sharing the research experience with my students—the thrill of discovering a “lost” film, the satisfaction of conducting a successful interview and seeing it on film, and especially the joy of connecting with talented, committed artists. I’m honored to have been named a Reves Faculty Fellow, and look forward to working with students on research projects related to the coordinates of identity, new media, and Cuba.

Thus far, together we have subtitled Cuban documentaries for distribution in the U.S., filmed interviews with Cuban audiovisual artists, created our own original documentaries—one of which even screened as part of the Havana Film Festival of New York!—and produced a web-print research guide that will be available online. The Reves Center, the QEP/Mellon initiative administered through the Charles Center, and the Swem Media Center are key partners in this endeavor.

By highlighting Cuba’s audiovisual landscape during this moment of accelerated change on the island, my students and I are probing the impact of new media on participatory culture. At the same time, W&M students are developing cultural competencies and skills crucial for moving beyond merely consuming culture to actually producing it; as “cultural agents,” they are active participants in shaping the flow of media.

~ Dr. Ann Marie Stock, Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies
The Fall 2009 Environmental Science & Policy Film and Lecture Series

This fall, the Reves Center and the Mercury GIG are presenting the “Global Mercury Pollution” lecture and film series in partnership with the W&M Programs of Environmental Science, Global Studies, International Relations, and Theater. Featured films will include the film work of Hardy Jones, who suffered from mercury poisoning and created bluevoice.org with actor Ted Danson. Other featured speakers include Vera Stejskal on dental mercury and human sensitivity.

The series begins Sunday, September 27, at 2:00 PM at the Williamsburg Regional Library with the film Choropampa, focusing on a devastating mercury spill in the Peruvian Andes in the summer of 2000. Guest speaker Marcello Veiga, an environmental geochemist from the University of British Columbia specializing in mineral process engineering, will be lecturing on mining and mercury in South America at 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 1, in W&M Andrews Hall, room 101.

A one-credit course, “International Pollution” (ENSP 250), is being offered to students alongside the series. The initial events also compliment History Professor Kris Lane’s “Mining the Americas” course being offered this fall in association with the Mercury GIG.

All of these lectures and films are open to the general public. For the complete schedule of events, please visit mercury.wm.edu.

(left) Choropampa, one of the films featured in this fall’s ENSP Film and Lecture Series.

What is the Mercury Global Inquiry Group?

With faculty from biology, sociology, marine science, psychology, theatre, geology, art, film studies, and history who teach undergraduate and graduate students at The College of William & Mary and the Virginia Institute for Marine Science, the Mercury GIG crosses academic borders. At its heart, the project creates an interdisciplinary portal through which to explore environmental hazards that transcend international boundaries and to instill stewardship and appreciation for the environment. The topic of mercury, often associated with chemistry classes, provides an opportunity to reveal the social, cultural, economic, and policy implications of science; science is not just contained within the borders of a laboratory, nor are laboratories separate from society and politics. Included in the group is a scholar from China, and faculty within the group have active contacts with colleagues in Japan and South America. The Mercury Global Inquiry Group creates exciting international research collaborations and extends the curriculum at William & Mary beyond its geographic borders. A focus on mercury pollution provides a way to promote research projects, courses, and public events that emphasize the global nature of mercury hazards and how they touch all disciplines and everyday life.

The Mercury GIG is part of the Global Inquiry Group initiative created in 2006 and co-sponsored by the Reves Center for International Studies and the Charles Center.

1999 W&M Summer Program to Morelia, Mexico, developed by Ann Marie Stock and Teresa Longo, is the first study abroad program designed to integrate undergraduate research.

2000 The Reves Center is able to provide $90,000 in scholarship assistance to students studying abroad (a 100% increase over the previous year).

2003 International student and scholar services are centralized under Reves Center administration.
The 2010 International Mercury EXPO

Mark your calendars! The 2010 International Mercury EXPO – a four-day showcase of art, theater, discussion panels, student events, and field trips – will be coming to the W&M campus next Earth Day weekend (April 22-25). Educators and their classes are encouraged to come on Thursday and Friday for programming and educational materials specifically designed to supplement the EXPO programs. The weekend officially kicks off Friday night with the opening of the Eugene Smith photography exhibit, "Unbearable Beauty," at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. Professor Elizabeth Mead has been coordinating this arresting collection of pictures from the 1970s documenting, among other images, the massive mercury contamination of Minamata, Japan.

Throughout the weekend, EXPO attendees – mercury experts, scientists, artists, musicians, students, and others – will participate in interactive workshops, engage in debate with topical panels, enjoy theater performances, and travel out of Williamsburg for half-day wildlife tours. Planned student initiatives include a keynote entertainment speaker and a Rock Band “heavy metal” video game contest.

For more information on the EXPO, including details on the Call for Proposals, please visit mercury.wm.edu.

The Mercury GIG Goes to China (Again!)

In the summer of 2008, a group of students led by Professors Sharon Zuber and Mike Newman traveled to Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China, to meet GIG member Professor Xiong Li as part of a ecotoxicology class cultural exchange resulting in a 15 minute documentary from undergraduate student Liz Budrionis.

This past June, Biology Professor Dan Cristol, 2010 International Mercury EXPO Director Adam Stackhouse, and four undergraduate students of the College – Andrew Bouland, Christine Dang, Ashley Pierce, and Adam Pflugrath – traveled to Guizhou, China to attend the 9th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant. During this five-day event, they attended panels, keynote speeches, and dozens of presentation sessions on mercury addressing a wide spectrum of research, including fishing industries, bird populations, hospital safety, pregnancy diets, and coal mining. For what many would consider an extremely specific environmental and health concern, the presence and impact of mercury was unmistakable: the students quickly found themselves taking lecture notes, questioning and interviewing scientists, and comparing poster research as they jumped head-long into the array of mercury problems (and potential solutions) facing the world today.

In addition to the in-house conference events, students ventured out on several day trips, including visits to the village of Qingyan, the Huangguoshu and Doupotang waterfalls, and the Yellow Crane Tower of Wuhan. Professor Dan Cristol also presented his research on mercury levels in wildlife of the South River in Virginia to students and faculty at Central China Normal University and Guizhou Normal College, continuing the dialogue initiated during the 2008 visit. Following the scheduled events of the trip, the students finished their adventure in Beijing, exploring the Forbidden City, Tianamen Square, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall of China.

For further information on the China trip, including photos and the travel blog maintained by the students, please visit mercury.wm.edu.
From Page to Pavement

“What caught me most by surprise was not the many sights and sounds of the night market or the rush of cars on the adjacent Wangfujin street, but the fact that the market itself was the perfect metaphor for life in China today. The market is literally no more than 20 feet wide, yet within those 20 feet contained people of all income levels. Everything from the wealthy nearest to the markets to the poor digging food and empty plastic bottles out of the trash cans, the sight truly was enlightening, to say the least... I had read [about the economic disparity] in textbooks numerous times, but I had never before seen it with my own eyes... [there is] a humongous gap between the haves and the have-nots in this country. And when you’re a have-not in Beijing, you just have to do anything to survive.”

Isshin Teshima ‘n was one of 298 W&M students studying in other parts of the world this summer. Read more about his experience in Beijing at www.wm.edu/revescenter.

Beyond the Classroom

where theory and practice collide

Despite long days, intense responsibilities, and the pressures of international diplomacy, Kira Allmann “absolutely loved” her summer internship. As one of four summer interns at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, this Government and Linguistics major had a unique opportunity apply her studies outside of the classroom.

One of my favorite memories from my internship was the first time I used the NATO operator to place an international call. I’d been asked to find out when Angela Merkel was visiting the White House and I figured that this information must be online somewhere. However, after some searching, I found that the dates were not printed in the news, accessible on the White House website, or searchable on Google. In a time crunch, I asked a number of my colleagues, one of whom finally said, “Why don’t you just call the embassy in Berlin?” My jaw dropped at this suggestion. CALL the embassy in Berlin? How was I supposed to do that? As it turned out, I just had to pick up the phone and press “Zero.”

“Hello? NATO operator, how may I help you?”

“Hi. This is Kira Allmann calling from the U.S. Mission to NATO. Could you connect me to the U.S. Embassy in Berlin?”

“Absolutely. One moment please.”

Then it was ringing—I was calling Berlin, and I was hopelessly nervous. Eventually I was connected to the Public Affairs Officer, who gladly gave me the dates of Merkel’s visit and chatted with me about my internship. He offered to answer any questions for me about life in the State Department and wished me the best of luck during my summer.

When I hung up, I was in complete shock. This internship was really cool -- how often does one get to call the Berlin embassy with any kind of authority? It was my first brush with the world of the NATO workplace and the network of resources available, and it taught me to reach out, to be willing to ask questions, and to think quickly about where the fastest and most accurate answers to those questions might be located. It was just one phone call (not a particularly important one at that) but it was the moment I said to myself: I’m really here.

This internship exceeded my expectations. It truly took my W&M education beyond the classroom—I found that I could apply my research and study skills toward being a productive member of the NATO staff. I also cultivated an ability to work quickly under pressure and time constraints; being at NATO required me to absorb a lot of information quickly and produce assessments, briefings, or resources that could be used by colleagues.

The new NATO Ambassador Ivo Daalder, an academic himself, offered insight into how academia and diplomacy coincide and can actually serve one another. The Brussels post constitutes the ultimate collision of theory and practice, and his term embodies that. Ambassador Daalder proved in countless meetings and exchanges with staff members that having great knowledge never means that you have ALL the knowledge. Even an ambassador asks questions—and must ask questions—to learn from his peers and advisers. This is a life lesson that we learn as students, but risk forgetting later on.

The W&M internship at the U.S. Mission to NATO was developed by alumna Barbara Pate Glacec ’70 and her husband Bob, in conjunction with the Reves and Career Centers. W&M sends 3-5 rising seniors to intern at the U.S. Mission each summer.
FATEHMA ALSHAY has been working as a Legal Researcher in the Kuwaiti parliament, and is on leave to earn her LL.M. degree at William & Mary. She believes the skills she is developing at the Law School will be instrumental in her work shaping national law in Kuwait.

“...I enjoy interacting with people from different countries and learning about their cultures as well as sharing my culture with them. From a professional perspective, studying law internationally can certainly provide me with better job opportunities in my home country. In order to compete with the American students, especially in the legal field, I have to be very proficient in English; this is a challenge, but will prepare me well for my future career. After completing my studies at W&M, I plan to either work for a law firm in the U.S. which caters to Japanese clients, or return to Japan to apply my new skills in developing strategies in the field of international business. In the LL.M. program, I am learning how to discuss cases and hypothetical issues on a daily basis. My critical thinking process, from a legal perspective, will be highly developed by the end of the program.”

AYAKO KAWASE came from Japan to study the American Legal System at William & Mary. In the future, Ayako hopes to find ways to integrate the skills and knowledge she acquires here to create cross cultural business and legal connections between Japan and the U.S.

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LIN LI completed her studies in W&M’s LL.M. program in 2004, and was admitted to New York State Bar in 2005. She worked for the Fengling Law Firm in New York as an associate attorney, where she specialized in representing illegal aliens in removal proceedings.

“In China I was taught about civil law for my undergraduate studies, and I learned primarily about regulations, the meaning behind regulations, and how to apply them. Compared with the law in the Western world, Chinese law seemed less alive and less interesting. It seemed to me that in the west, judges and lawyers worked together to create new law, which makes the law continuously evolving. It was worth coming to W&M to complete my knowledge of how the law works. My studies at W&M have helped me in the practice of the law as well. The ways I prepare my briefs and prepare for trial are just expansions of the ways I prepared for classes at school. I was encouraged to talk and share my thoughts, which is comparable to the preliminary step of speaking in the court. Memos for practice cases in the class also utilized techniques required by the legal profession, such as spotting the issues, outlining the points, and researching precedents. I am very thankful for the education I received at the Law School, and attribute my good law practice to it.”

In 2008, 678 W&M students study abroad and 279 international students attend William & Mary. W&M ranks as the top public doctoral-granting institution for undergraduate study abroad participation (with 46.1%).

In 2009, the Reves Center announced creation of the Faculty Fellows program.

“Providing our students with an international experience is part of the Reves Center’s efforts to combine classroom theory with real-world experience.”

- Guru Ghosh
Director of Global Education
The Wendy and Emery Reves Center for International Studies

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