THAT’S A WRAP
Message from the director

THE NEW GIGS IN TOWN
Faculty across disciplines explore global issues

OPENING DOORS AND EXPANDING HORIZONS
Learning about—and in—the Middle East

MAKING MEMORY
Students and Faculty research the power of the past

VANTAGE POINTS
International students share their first impressions of W&M
With students and faculty in the midst of final exam and grading frenzy, some of us at the Reves Center are finally finding time to take a deep breath and look back at the semester’s accomplishments: a speaker series and one-credit course on “The World in America”; our first annual Kraemer scholar of Islamic Law and Governance; the first Critchfield Conference on Middle Eastern Studies; three new exploratory Global Inquiry Groups; a new scholarship program for students of Arabic; and a Global Film and Migration film festival co-sponsored with the Charles Center—all of which you’ll read about in the pages that follow.

But even as programs and initiatives like these wind down, others kick into gear. More than 250 students are getting ready to head overseas for summer study. We’re working with 131 new international students who will be on campus this fall. Our first Reves Faculty Fellows, one in International Student-Faculty Research (Ann Marie Stock) and another in International Service Learning (David Aday), are gearing up for summer projects with their students. We recently hosted a delegation from St. Andrews University in Scotland, here to talk about their teaching and research, as well as the joint degree program we are working to create. No rest for the weary...but never a dull moment!

What does this all add up to? For those involved, life- and career-changing experiences, new insights and ideas, broader perspectives and opportunities. For us at Reves, an ongoing commitment to “internationalize” the university—by promoting global competence among students, faculty, and staff; integrating global perspectives into all levels of the College’s work; supporting student and faculty engagement in global knowledge networks. I’m thrilled to see internationalization high on our list of priorities as we wrap up a year of strategic planning.

Twenty years ago this spring, Wendy Reves, who was dedicated to world peace and who knew well the power of international and cross-cultural education, endowed the Reves Center. In the work we do every day at the Reves Center, and in our efforts to help transform W&M into a truly global university, we celebrate her vision and honor her memory.

“Welcome to W&M... now go away.”

William & Mary, it turns out, is among the best at sending its students away. According to IIE’s 2008 Open Doors Report, 638 W&M students studied overseas in 2006-07, making W&M the top public doctoral-granting institution in the U.S. for undergraduate participation in study abroad. With a rate of 46.1% of its graduating class, William & Mary came out ahead of George Washington University (44.8%), the University of Virginia (40.8%), and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (38.9%).

For the full report, see http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org/.
**The New GIGs in Town**

This spring, the Reves Center was proud to help support three new eGIGs (exploratory Global Inquiry Groups). Read on to learn about their semester’s work!

**Movement and Immobility in Globalization Studies**

Through faculty presentations, invited speakers, and campus-wide events, this eGIG has studied broadly defined notions of movement (the flow across borders of people, commodities and cultural products) and immobility (rootedness in place and/or being confined by borders) as mechanisms for viewing globalization through a multi-disciplinary lens. Participants have delved into the social, political, economic, and cultural aspects of movement and immobility through topics such as global climate change and civil conflict; migration and capital flows; identity formation, citizenship, and national belonging; changes in international and regional governance; and human rights and ‘border issues.’ eGIG members also participated in panel discussions with filmmakers during the Global Film and Migration Series, organized talks on themes from immigration issues to the effectiveness of UN Peacekeeping missions, and held a workshop entitled “Civic Engagement and Experiential Learning on the US-Mexico Border: Reflections on Social Justice and Collaborative Research/Teaching Models.” As they continue their work, the eGIG’s faculty aim to promote further discussion on globalization and explore new collaborative ventures in faculty and faculty-student research.

**Participants:** co-chairs Arnab K. Basu (Economics) and Jennifer Bickham Mendez (Sociology); Timothy Barnard (American Studies), Cindy Hahamovitch (History), Eric Han (History), Rob Hicks (Economics; Environmental Science and Policy), Tobias Hofmann (Government), Ann Marie Stock (Hispanic Studies), Silvia Tandeciarz (Hispanic Studies), and Susan Webster (Art History).

**Using Algae for Biofuel Production and Environmental Remediation**

Faculty in the natural, physical, and social sciences have been working together this semester to examine pressing global environmental problems and the best ways to address them. Led by professors Elizabeth Canuel and Robert Hinkle, this group is studying the potential of algae to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and cut increased levels of phosphorus and nitrogen pollutants in Virginia’s and the world’s waterways. Specific topics included current supplies, demands, and shortcomings of fossil fuels and the need to develop renewable sources of energy, the social and policy aspects of nutrient and carbon trading, and the ecological consequences of dead zones in the world’s oceans. Building on their work to date, eGIG participants will pursue grant funding to help expand their multi-disciplinary research into algae as a renewable source of energy.

**Participants:** co-chairs Elizabeth Canuel (Marine Science) and Robert Hinkle (Chemistry); Walter Adey (Smithsonian Institution; VIMS), Tina Bunai (Applied Sciences), Randy Chambers ( Biology; Keck Environmental Laboratory), Jay Diedzic (W&M Research Institute; BlackRock Energy Corporation), Emmett Duffy (Marine Sciences), Sarah Stafford (Economics; Public Policy), John Swaddle (Biology; ENSP), Gene Tracy (Physics), and Mike Unger (Marine Sciences).

**The African Diaspora**

Exploring ways to put multi-disciplinary perspectives of the African Diaspora at the center of study and faculty work at the College has been the focus of a third eGIG this spring. With the goal of adding a third concentration to William & Mary’s Africana Studies program (alongside African Studies and African-American Studies), this eGIG brought together faculty from different disciplines to investigate the Diaspora’s artistic, literary, musical, religious, economic, cultural, political, and historical aspects, and to examine how, over the past five centuries, it has cross-fertilized regions from North America to the Indian Ocean. Participants discussed a variety of texts, on topics from issues of racial, ethnic, and religious identity to African cuisine. They also reviewed films on the topic, and are developing a three-credit film seminar that will focus on the cinematographic production of the African Diaspora. The eGIG hopes to continue work over the summer, and to have the African Diaspora concentration in place by Fall 2009.

**Participants:** co-chairs Magali Compan (French) and Hermine Pinson (English); Berhanu Abegaz (Economics), Bill Fischer (Anthropology), Grey Gundaker (American Studies; Anthropology), Iyabo Osiapem (English; Linguistics), Frederick Smith (Anthropology), and Robert Vinson (History).
**Open Doors and Expanding Learning**

**Been there, doing that...**

Middle Eastern Studies alumni share their experiences and expertise at first Critchfield Conference

Just a year after her graduation from William & Mary in 2006, Aisa Martinez was able to bring her studies of the Middle East to life; on a Fulbright scholarship in Oman, she put her knowledge to work—conducting research on the role of the Omani Women’s Association, and working to preserve traditional material culture with the Centre for Omani Dress. This March, Aisa had the chance to return to her alma mater and share her experiences with current students who hope to follow in her footsteps.

Aisa was one of ten alumni panelists who returned to the College for the first Critchfield Conference on Middle Eastern Studies, held on March 27-28. Co-sponsored by the Reves Center for International Studies and the Middle Eastern Studies Program, the Critchfield Conference aimed to stimulate academic discussion, while also providing a forum for students to meet with recent graduates and get an idea of the array of opportunities available in the field of Middle Eastern Studies. In the three-panel series “Middle Eastern Studies: Transregional Issues and Multi-contextual Applications,” panelists discussed topics ranging from research to the arts, and international development to reporting based upon their collective experience in Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, UAE, and Oman.

In addition to the alumni panel series, the weekend also featured a keynote lecture by guest scholar Dr. Engseng Ho of Duke University. Dr. Ho gave a talk entitled “Indian Ocean Islam: World Religion and the Shaping of Transregional Space,” based upon his research on the graves and genealogies of the Hadrami area and culture in Yemen, and the diaspora through Arabia, India, and Southeast Asia. Dr. Ho also attended the panel series, and helped bridge the various topics with his knowledge and comments.

The conference was made possible through the James H. Critchfield Memorial Endowment, established in 2006 by Mrs. Lois Critchfield in memory of her husband. “This first conference really exceeded my expectations,” remarked Mrs. Critchfield, “I was very impressed with the caliber of the returning alumni and what they have accomplished in the ‘real world.’ Their continuing interest in the Middle East program at the College shows that they have left W&M only in body, and not in spirit.”

**Grant Supports Middle Eastern Studies**

Students of Arabic at William & Mary now have a greater opportunity to improve their language fluency and knowledge of the Middle East, thanks to a recent grant by the Department of State. The College is one of five Virginia universities awarded the grant, which aims to encourage the study of Arabic and support understanding of Middle Eastern culture. The Reves Center will disperse the $140,000 grant between spring 2009 and June of 2011, in the form of scholarships for students who plan to study for a semester or more in the region.

To be eligible to apply for support, undergraduates must have taken at least one year of Arabic, and must continue their language study while overseas.

This May, four students were awarded Department of State Scholarships for Arabic and Middle East Studies.

- Maryam Hassan (‘11): double major in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies; will spend next academic year at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.
- Kristin Kiel (‘11): double major in Government and Middle Eastern Studies; will spend fall semester at the University of Jordan.
- Sarah Owermohle (‘11): double major in Government and Middle Eastern Studies; will spend fall semester studying in Amman, Jordan.
- Hanif Yazdi (‘09): history major; will spend fall semester at the University of Damascus.

**Student**

Cliff Martin ’08 was one of the many alumni panelists at this year’s Critchfield Conference. See how this Middle Eastern Studies major has remained involved with the region since leaving W&M:

“After graduation, I interned with the National Council on US-Arab Relations. Through their offices, I worked with the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in Washington, DC, conducting preliminary research for a potential peace education project in Lebanon as part of AED’s Peace & Tolerance Initiative. My research took me all around Washington, interviewing peace education specialists, attending Capitol Hill briefings on the successful programs, and meeting with the officials at the Lebanese Embassy. The internship culminated with a large presentation to an audience of my co-workers, peers, former professors, and representatives from each of the groups I met with—including the Deputy Chief of Mission from Lebanon! It was a thrilling experience, and if the pilot is successful, I may be asked to go to Lebanon to help launch the project.

Then in the fall, I returned to the region to take courses at the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies in Sana’a. The institution is Yemeni, not Western, and is devoted solely to welcoming foreign students to study in Yemen. That was the inaugural semester, so it’s still at the very beginning stages, but the professors were brilliant—hailing from Exeter and Institut d’études Politiques de Paris. I returned home just before Christmas, but loved every minute of being immersed in Yemen. I hope future plans allow me to teach, advise, or consult on the Middle East in some capacity.”

— Cliff Martin ’08
Re-texting the Qur’an

“If God is just, if Islam is just, then why do some laws made in the name of Islam lead to injustice?”

This is the driving question behind the work of Islamic scholar and activist, Zainah Anwar, who in mid-March spoke at William & Mary as the first annual Kraemer Distinguished Scholar of Islamic Law and Governance. As a founding member and former Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, a Malaysian non-governmental organization that seeks to advance women’s rights within the Islamic framework, and current Project Director for Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, Anwar works at the forefront of the fight against gender inequality within the Islamic world.

To justify her call for women’s rights, Anwar looks straight to the source—using passages from the Qur’an to illustrate that the oppression of women is not mandated in scripture, but rather has its origins in the patriarchal tradition of Islamic society. “The verses of creation talk about the pairs of creation. The male and female must both be necessary; one does not come from another and one is not part of another. Superiority is not attributed to either men or women,” said Anwar. “The belief of some Islamists is that because men and women are not the same, they cannot be equal, but men and women complement each other and therefore have separate and distinct roles to play.” Anwar’s goal with Musawah, which means “equality” in Arabic, is to demonstrate that equality and justice are “core Islamic principles...located in the Qur’an itself,” and gradually, through scholarship, education, and reform, embed these principles into modern Islamic culture.

The Reves Center was pleased to partner with the Program in Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Justice at the W&M Law School in order to bring Ms. Anwar to campus. Her visit and lectures were made possible through the generosity of the Kraemer Family Endowment. As Rich Kraemer, Jr. (’94) put it, the goal of the annual program is to provide students with “intellectual and practical knowledge,” as the United States increases its interactions with the Muslim world, and to understand “the context in which these relationships are being built and maintained.”

The Challenge of Islam

If we really want to understand what it means to be a Muslim in the U.S. today, we need to hit the road.

That’s according to Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Professor of Islamic Studies at American University and Distinguished Chair for Middle East/Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy, who has been traveling America for the past eight months with a group of students, exploring the perceptions of and towards Muslim-Americans in post-9/11 society.

Ahmed, who was this year’s annual McSwain-Walker lecturer, spoke to a full house at the Commonwealth Auditorium on March 25. His lecture, entitled “American Identity and the Challenge of Islam,” addressed the misunderstanding between the Muslim and Western worlds. He characterized Muslim-Americans as trying to navigate an identity between the two cultures, but remarked that they are often hindered by stereotyping and distrust. This issue is the driving force behind Ahmed’s current project, “Journey into America,” in which he and his research team have been conducting interviews nationwide—visiting mosques, churches, and schools, and initiating dialogue and discussion in order to explore the merging identity and socio-cultural perceptions of Muslims in America.

William & Mary students had the chance to participate in this ongoing discussion through a small, group dinner with Ahmed after the lecture, and in select classes the following day. What June McSwain (’53), benefactor of the annual lecture series, most remembers about her years at W&M is the close connections between students and professors, a result of W&M’s small class sizes and student-faculty ratio. Accordingly, McSwain-Walker lecturers always meet with students in small-group settings in order to interact more directly with the visiting scholar.


Research

Instead of returning to campus after summer vacation, senior Madeeha Hameed ’09 embarked upon a different course of study this past fall, with America as her classroom.

With a recommendation from religious studies Professor Tamara Sonn, Madeeha was chosen by anthropologist and Islamic scholar Akbar Ahmed to serve as one of four student research assistants on his latest project, “Journey Into America.” Supported by a number of grants, including one from the Reves Center, Madeeha spent the semester traveling with Ahmed across the country, studying the emerging identity and perceptions of Muslim Americans in post-9/11 society.

The only Muslim woman on the team, Madeeha played a critical role as they interviewed both Muslim and non-Muslim students, political and religious leaders, and community members in over 70 cities nationwide. The project, which will yield a documentary about the team’s encounters across America, intends to further understanding between the Western and Muslim worlds.

To read more about Madeeha’s experience, see the project’s blog at http://journeyintoamerica.wordpress.com.
In questions of memory, time is of the essence

You've never seen nicer weather for a week in Madrid than the seven days of sun we saw over spring break. The weeks before had been hopelessly cold and rainy, but the tide turned just in time for our investigation into how Spain is recovering the memory of its civil war and the subsequent dictatorship that lasted nearly forty years. Francisco Franco's regime effectively silenced any narrative other than that of the victors, yet today in Spain, there are hundreds of people desperate to share their stories—and we came to listen.

The research team, consisting of Shannon More '10, Casey Lesser '11, Mary Schrack '10, Alex Wright '10, Professor Francie Cate-Arries, and myself, conducted interviews with a veteran of the civil war, the son of an executed Republican general, and several men and women exiled to France and Mexico after the war began. We also met with the presidents of GEFREMA (the Group for the Study of the Madrid Front), the Center for Republican Studies, and the State Society of Cultural Commemoration.

Each story we heard was emotional and made the words sitting back home in our textbooks seem even more rich. For me, the most heart-wrenching moments were with Marcos Burgos, a 70-year-old man who only three years ago found out his father was a Republican general executed against a wall in Almudena Cemetery. He's now beginning an urgent search for any and all information about his father, a man who has too long been absent from his life. We met Marcos and his wife at the cemetery and saw the small photo and flowers they had placed by the very wall where Marcos' father and so many others were executed before being buried in various mass graves.

Now, we're back in Williamsburg with our suitcases already collecting dust, but our work is far from over. My four fellow classmates and I are working with Professor Cate-Arries to create a website that provides information on all the contacts we met, so that future investigators can use our research as a springboard.

It's been my good fortune to have had this research opportunity drop into my lap. What began as a mere curiosity, which led me to register for Professor Cate-Arries' course “Memory Works: Spain's Civil War” in fall of 2008, has quickly matured into an earnest effort to help recuperate historical memories—not because these efforts are hopeless, but because, as in all questions of memory, time is of the essence.

The team's trip to Spain was funded in part by a QEP/Mellon grant, with additional support from the Reves Center. To see the team's blog, see http://madrid.wmblogs.net/profiles-testimony.

—Nathan Hoback '10

Not just in books, but an everyday lived existence

The perfect study abroad program found me when a favorite professor mentioned an opportunity that the Reves Center had just created in Argentina: an immersion in La Plata, with a focus on human rights. This program was exactly what I had been looking for—it offered a home-stay, classes in an Argentine public university, and an internship at the Comisión Nacional por la Memoria (the National Commission for Memory) dealing with the memory of the

1970s dictatorship. Though I knew that these combined elements would offer an incredible learning experience, I had no idea at the time how this program would define the rest of my college experience, and essentially the course of my future.

When I arrived in La Plata, the realization hit: what I’d learned in books and Hispanic Studies classes at W&M is actually and truly an everyday lived existence in Argentina. My internship at the Comisión’s museum (in which I translated exhibit guides) introduced me to issues of human rights and memory through art. The exhibits demonstrated the connection between history and current social conditions with pieces that dealt with the Spanish civil war, impoverished Argentine villas, and the repression and “the disappeared” of the last military dictatorship. Issues of human rights continue to surround us, as the gallery demonstrated, and many wounds remain to be healed through both dialogue and action. This experience made me vitally aware that a society that does not know its own past proceeds at the expense of many and only with great difficulty.

The ability to combine the Hispanic Studies perspectives with the social realities that I saw in La Plata helped me arrive at a certain deeper understanding; I now feel prepared to work effectively and more sensitively in South America, and am convinced that my path at W&M has led me to these skills. After graduation, I hope to return to Argentina to work in community organizing, and put to use what I have learned from my relationships, travels, and studies.

—Flavia Polo '09

Teaching History and Memory

This summer, Associate Professor of History Fred Cornely will direct the Reves Center’s summer study abroad program in Prague, teaching a course on the memory of communism. Asked about his field of expertise, history and memory, he notes that this is a field “that draws historians, sociologists, anthropologists, in a truly interdisciplinary enterprise whose scope has broadened out both chronologically and geographically. One of the issues it explores is how and why modern nation-states come to define themselves in terms of certain historical narratives and how these narratives come to be enshrined as popular memory. The ways in which Russia’s October Revolution of 1917, for example, came to be accepted by at least parts of its population as the founding event of their new state is the subject of my own work in this field. Teaching this field to students is fruitful for a number of reasons, mostly because while students are very receptive to arguments about the constructed and contingent nature of other states’ narratives and popular memories, they are often quite blind to their own nation’s. They generally consider Soviet Russia’s foundation event to be qualitatively different from, say, America’s foundation event. To a large extent, we are all products of the stories nation-states successfully tell about themselves. As one famous scholar in this field put it, ‘Memory makes us, we make memory.’

—Fred Cornely

Nathan Hoback (fourth from left) and research team with Marcos Burgos at the site of his father’s execution.

Flavia Polo (right) with friends in Plaza Moreno.
As the year draws to a close, it’s a time for students to reflect, between finals and celebration, on their early days at William & Mary. We asked these international students to think back on when they first arrived, and tell us what surprised them most about the College.

“As an international student, my concern in coming to William and Mary was its diversity. With over 60% of its population derived from Virginia, I ‘naturally’ thought, “white, southern, and well, rural.” I was wrong. Within my own dorm I have friends originating from Ghana, Bolivia, Sudan, Afghanistan, as well as some who have studied in Tanzania, England, and Germany; all of them would be classified as “Virginian” on paper. Additionally, various cultural groups for all races and regions constantly host events which showcase and celebrate the different cultures present within our student body. This is my William and Mary: not so white, not so southern, not so rural, not so predictable.”

Elysia Alim, ’12
Chinese and Marketing
Indonesia

“I was really surprised at the level of student involvement in both international and local communities. There are numerous student-run service trips here at the college where students raise and donate money as well as their time to make a difference in our world. William & Mary students value the educational opportunities they are given and are eager reach out to those less fortunate than themselves. The commitment to community service is what I love most about the College.”

Christiana Kallon ’11
Sociology and Elementary Education
Sierra Leone

“Actually, the speed limit surprised me a lot—wherever I went, I saw not more than 25mph! When I studied in Dallas, it was a bit higher. I was also amazed how all the buildings here have the same brick structure. I love the style, like on the new business school building!”

Praveen Rajakumar
MBA ’09
India

“I had met several Americans in China before, but my time here has confirmed their openness and friendliness. The professors are also very friendly. They don’t hold themselves in a high place and look down at you. They talk to you like you are equal.”

Dian Yang
Math/Science undecided, ’12
China

“Well, I didn’t realize Williamsburg would be so hot! But seriously, I was really impressed with the amount of events the College organizes for students—not just the faculty and staff, but also the student organizations. It really helps to make you feel part of the community.”

Benjamin Sykes
Law ’09
England

William and Mary’s ‘08 –’09 international community of 314 students hailed from the countries shaded above.
Our mission at the Reves Center is to develop, enrich, and promote international dimensions of learning, teaching, research, and civic engagement at the College of William & Mary. We do so through our education abroad programs, support for international students and scholars, on-campus events and programming, and advancement of internationally-focused research and learning.

How can I get involved?

>> Do you know of other internationally-related initiatives at William & Mary? Do you have an idea and/or submission for our next edition? The Reves Center would like to hear from you! Email alkuenker@wm.edu.

>> Help us integrate international perspectives and experiences into all aspects of a William & Mary education, and prepare our students to be citizens of the world. To give support or learn more, please contact Lisa Starbuck by phone, at 757-221-2428, or email, lastar@wm.edu. Thank you!