

# 2010 VCHC Spring Conference

# "VCHC: A Sea of Possibilities"

April 16-17, 2010 Virginia Wesleyan College Norfolk, VA





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# **CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

#### Friday, April 16, 2010:

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Registration and light refreshments
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Check-in at the hotel

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Opening session at Virginia Aquarium

#### Saturday, April 17, 2010:

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Opening session
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Faculty and Student meetings
9:30a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Presentations
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Elections
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Presentations
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Session and Award Ceremony



Dear Honors Students and Colleagues,

Welcome to the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council Conference for Spring 2010. The VCHC Executive Board, faculty and student representatives, and the Virginia Wesleyan College planning committee are pleased to see all of you at Virginia Wesleyan College. The theme for this year's conference is "VCHC: A Sea of Possibilities."

The range of individual presentations, group/panel presentations, artwork, and poster sessions truly offers a "Sea of Possibilities." The difficulty at this conference will be choosing which interesting group and individual presentations to attend. The topics cover immigration and justice, "Children's Literature in a Digital Age," the origin of punctuation marks on keyboards, "Foraging Speed Variations in Tropical Leaf Cutter Ants," and many more interesting options. I encourage you to choose topics that interest you, as well as support your friends when they present. Luckily, we will be able to enjoy all of the artwork and poster sessions.

We begin the conference at the aquarium on Friday evening and then move over to Virginia Wesleyan College on Saturday for the presentations and the business meetings for faculty and students. At those meetings, we make decisions about the future of VCHC, including nominations for elections. Later in the day, you will have the opportunity to vote for new officers for next year; those officers will shape the Spring 2011 conference.

We also have the opportunity to help some of those who do not see as many possibilities in their lives right now. This year's service project is to collect nonperishable food and donations for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. Please be generous.

I hope you will take the opportunity while eating dinner, hanging out at the hotel, and chatting during breaks between presentations to meet honors students who are studying at other Virginia and West Virginia institutions, and renew friendships from last spring's conference at George Mason University. This year, you also can stay in touch by joining our VCHC Facebook community.

Sincerely,

Liona T. Burnham

President, VCHC

# VCHC Executive Committee 2009-2010

#### President

Ms. Liona T. Burnham Northern Virginia Community College E-Mail: lburnham@nvcc.edu

#### **Faculty Vice President**

Ms. Isabel Killough Norfolk State University E-Mail: ikillough@nsu.edu

#### **Student Vice President**

Charna Wilson

Virginia State University

E-Mail: cwil9684@students.vsu.edu

#### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Ms. Gwendolyn Pharr Norfolk State University E-Mail: gepharr@nsu.edu

#### **Immediate Past President**

Dr. Jarris L. Taylor, Jr. Office of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force E-Mail: jarris.taylor@hampton.edu

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#### **NCHC-SRHC Liaison and Webmaster**

Dr. Geoffrey Orth Longwood University

Email: orthgc@longwood.edu



#### VIRGINIAS COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL HISTORY

The Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC), now almost twenty years old, joins Virginia universities, colleges, and community colleges throughout the commonwealth to support and enhance programs and activities to meet the needs of exceptionally talented and motivated students. Recently, schools from West Virginia have also been included.

#### VIRGINIAS COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL MISSION

The mission of VCHC is to:

- provide a forum for sharing information about honor programs,
- provide students with greater opportunities for intercollegiate honor programs activities,
- collaborate with regional and national organizations which have similar goals,
- encourage articulation between two-and four-year honor programs, and
- increase public and private awareness of and fiscal commitment to honor programs and projects.

#### VCHC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in VCHC is available to institutions or individuals upon payment of annual dues. Annual dues for institutions are \$ 35.00 per calendar year, due in January. Annual dues for individual members are \$ 10.00 per calendar year. Individual membership dues must be paid before the Spring Conference each year. Both institutional and individual membership dues must be paid in order to vote on the business of VCHC.



# **VCHC PAST PRESIDENTS**

2008-2009	Dr. Jarris L. Taylor, Hampton University
2007-2008	Ms. Stephanie G. Walker, Norfolk State University
2006-2007	Dr. Joyce Brotton, Northern Virginia Community College
2005-2006	Dr. Mary Louise Schultz, West Virginia University
2004-2005	Dr. Lisa Grimes, College of William and Mary
2003-2004	Dr. Lisa Grimes, College of William and Mary
2002-2003	Dr. Orion Rogers, Radford University
2001-2002	Mr. Robert Watson, Hampton University
2000-2001	Dr. Page Laws, Norfolk State University
1999-2000	Dr. John Lambeth, Washington and Lee University
1998-1999	Dr. Joyce Wszalek, James Madison University
1997-1998	Dr. Richard Wilan, Northern Virginia Community College
1996-1997	Dr. Freddye Davy, Hampton University
1995-1996	Dr. John Berglund, Virginia Commonwealth University
1994-1995	Dr. Louis Henry, Old Dominion University
1993-1994	Mr. Norman Caine, Southside Virginia Community College
1992-1993	Ms. Pegeen Albig
1991-1992	Ms. Pauline Donaldson

## **VCHC CONTACT INFORMATION**

Website: http://www.longwood.edu/VCHC/

2010-2011 VCHC President: Ms. Isabel Killough

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#### CONSTITUTION OF THE VIRGINIAS COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

(As amended March 17, 1990, March 30, 2002, and March 29, 2003)

**Article I:** This organization shall be known as the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council, afterwards referred to as VCHC.

#### Article II: Mission

The mission of VCHC shall be:

- 1. to provide a forum for sharing information about Honors programs;
- 2. to provide students with greater opportunities for intercollegiate Honors programs activities, including the opportunity for students to present their own research publicly in an academic setting;
- 3. to collaborate with regional and national organizations which have similar goals;
- 4. to encourage articulation between two- and four-year Honors programs;
- 5. to increase public and private awareness of and fiscal commitment to Honors programs and projects.
- to work closely with SCHEV to encourage excellence in undergraduate education and to encourage the development of honors programs/colleges in all state institutions of higher learning;
- 7. to work closely with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to encourage excellence in undergraduate education.

#### Article III: Membership

Membership in VCHC shall consist of institutional and individual members who have paid dues.

Section 1: Institutional members: Any post-secondary institution with accreditation or recognized candidacy may hold membership and be eligible to send one voting representative to annual meetings. Foundations and state and federal agencies are eligible for institutional membership.

Institutional memberships from multi-campus institutions shall be assigned in a manner determined by each institution. If each campus has a separate Honors Program, each program may pay dues and have an institutional representative. It will be the responsibility of the institution to certify to the VCHC secretary-treasurer if it desires to be treated as a multi-campus institution.

Section 2: Individual members: Faculty, students, administrators and other interested persons are eligible for membership.

#### Article IV: Voting

Each individual member and each voting representative of a member institution shall be entitled to one vote in all transactions of VCHC, but no individual shall have more than one vote.

- Section 1: Only those institutions whose dues are paid before the annual meeting are entitled to a vote in the business of VCHC.
- Section 2: Only those individual members whose dues are paid before the annual meeting are entitled to vote in the business of VCHC. Failure to pay dues on time does not restrict individuals from participating in the other activities of the annual meeting.

#### Article V: Quorum

Twenty percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting announced 30 days in advance.

#### Article VI: Officers

The officers of VCHC shall be a President, a Faculty Vice-President, a Student Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and members at-large. At the first Executive Committee meeting after the election, officers will be informed of their duties.

- Section 1: The President shall be elected at the annual meeting from all eligible faculty members. The term of office shall run from the conclusion of that annual meeting through the conclusion of the next annual meeting. The President shall call for and preside over the meetings of VCHC and the Executive Committee, shall appoint members to committees, and shall appoint the following individuals to serve as ex officio (non-voting) members of the VCHC Executive Committee: a liaison to NCHC, SRHC, and other honors organizations; and a webmaven. Other individuals will be appointed as deemed necessary.
- Section 2: The Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the annual meeting. The term of office shall coincide with the term of the President. The Faculty Vice-President shall preside over VCHC in the absence of the President. The Faculty Vice-President shall co-chair the fall meeting of VCHC. The Student Vice-President shall co-chair the spring meeting of VCHC.
- Section 3: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting from all eligible faculty members. The term of office shall be three (3) years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the VCHC, collect dues, maintain financial and membership records, and perform such other duties as may be incidental to the office.
- Section 4: The Executive Committee members at-large shall be elected at the annual meeting. The term of office shall be as described in Article VII, Section 2.

#### Article VII: The Executive Committee

At the first Executive Committee meeting after the election, the Executive Committee members will be informed of their duties.

- Section 1: The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of VCHC and six at-large members. There shall be one faculty member and one student from two-year colleges, four-year private institutions, and four-year public institutions. The past president shall be an ex-officio (voting) member of the Executive Committee for one year.
- Section 2: Student members at large will serve one-year terms; faculty members at large will serve rotating two-year terms.
- Section 3: No single institution shall hold more than one faculty and one student elected position on the Executive Committee.
- Section 4: All persons on the Executive Committee must be individual members of VCHC.
- Section 5: The duties of the Executive Committee shall be:
  - 1. to advise the President of VCHC;
  - 2. to make policy decisions for VCHC except in those cases where that right has been given to the whole membership (constitution, by-laws, dues, and election);
  - 3. to create and supervise the work of all other committees;
  - 4. to conduct such business as is necessary between sessions of VCHC;

- 5. to conduct any other activities which facilitate the mission of VCHC;
- 6. to provide for a nominating process for election of officers;
- 7. to fill vacancies in office until the next annual meeting.

#### Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1: VCHC shall hold an annual conference in the spring at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee. Other meetings may be called by the President by majority agreement of the Executive Committee or if requested in writing by ten percent of the membership.

Section 2: There shall be a fall meeting at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee for faculty involved in Honors programs in Virginia.

#### Article IX: Amendments

Any amendment to the Constitution shall be presented in writing to the membership at the beginning of the annual meeting and shall be voted on at that meeting. Two-thirds of those present and voting must approve any amendment to the Constitution. An amendment shall be effective immediately upon enactment.

#### Article X: Ratification

Ratification of the Constitution shall be by simple majority of those present and voting at the first annual business meeting of VCHC.

#### Article XI: Bylaws

Section 1: Bylaws shall be established as necessary for the transaction of the business of VCHC.

Section 2: Changes in the bylaws shall be approved at the annual meeting of VCHC. A majority of those present and voting is necessary to adopt a change. A change shall be effective immediately upon enactment.

#### BYLAWS OF THE VIRGINIAS COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

(As changed March 17, 1990, and March 30, 2002)

- Article 1: The annual dues for the institutional members are \$35.00.
- Article 2: The annual dues for individual members are \$10.00.
- Article 3: All committees and elected officers shall represent to the greatest extent possible the diverse constituencies of VCHC, including students and faculty.
- Article 4: The standing committees of VCHC shall be (A) the Program Committee and (B) the Bylaws Committee. Other committees may be created by the Executive Committee.
- Article 5: Ad hoc committees may be created by the President. An ad hoc committee shall last twelve months from the date of its creation or until discharged from its duty by the President. The President will provide the appointed committee chair a specific charge for the committee.
- Article 6: The Program Committee shall work with the co-chairs to develop a series of activities for the meetings of VCHC that recognize the diverse nature and interests of its members.
- Article 7: The Bylaws Committee shall review the VCHC Constitution and Bylaws, and recommend changes to the Executive Committee for possible recommendation to the annual meeting.
- Article 8: The ad hoc Nominations Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office to be elected at the annual meeting. This committee shall be appointed annually by the President. The floor will be open for additional nominations.
- Article 9: The ad hoc Scholarship Committee shall solicit and receive applications from interested juniors for the Howard Davis Scholarship. This committee shall be appointed annually by the President.

#### **CONFERENCE AGENDA**

## Friday, April 16

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

#### **RECEPTION & REGISTRATION**

**Batten Student Center** 

Each registrant will receive their badge, conference materials, portfolio, and gift. Light snacks will be served including mini quiche, spring rolls, fruit, cheese, and drinks. Some activities will be available for your entertainment including two art galleries, one exhibiting senior work and one permanent collection, and our rock climbing wall. A belay instructor will be present to assist participants.

CLIMBING WALL Batten student Center

At 36 feet high, the climbing wall offers new and innovative recreational opportunities for the VWC community. Multiple routes and difficulty levels makes this wall not only unique but challenging regardless of your skill or experience in climbing. Developed and built by NICROS this wall combines west coast style with A.R.T. wall style to create a unique climbing environment.

#### THE BARCLAY SHEAKS GALLERY

**Godwin Hall** 

Since the establishment of the Barclay Sheaks Gallery in 1999, Virginia Wesleyan has taken advantage of a unique opportunity to collect and display a body of work which is not only a stunning visual display, but which also expresses the values of liberal and lifelong learning.

#### **NEIL BRITTON ART GALLERY**

**Hofheimer Library** 

The 1,200 square-foot Neil Britton Art Gallery opened in February 2009. Named in memory of a founding Virginia Wesleyan Art Department faculty member, the gallery is committed to serving both the Hampton Roads and College communities through exhibitions and programs that engage a greater audience in the visual arts. A 12-month program of changing exhibitions includes the work of both professional artists and students. Senior art students are presenting their exhibition, *Aesthetically Speaking: After the Smoke Clears*, April 7-21.

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### **OPENING SESSION**

Virginia Aquarium

The conference will open with dinner at the Virginia Aquarium in the Promenade Room with 40 foot tall windows overlooking Owls Creek. The dinner buffet includes a bleu cheese and apple salad with vinaigrette, black pepper and roasted garlic pot roast, Cranberry and apple cider glazed pork loin, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted potatoes, carrots and pearl onions, rolls, and apple cobbler tarts. The short program following dinner will include keynote speaker, Dr. Kathy Stolley, Batten Associate Professor of Sociology at VWC, and the service project.

# Saturday, April 17

7:00 am - 8:00 am

#### **BREAKFAST**

#### Blocker Hall Lounge - ground floor

Continental buffet breakfast will include egg, cheese and potato casserole, bagels and cream cheese, assorted baked goods, juice, tea, and coffee.

8:00 am - 8:30 am

**OPENING SESSION** 

201 Blocker Hall

Welcome and overview of the conference.

8:30 am - 9:30 am

FACULTY MEETING STUDENT MEETING 215 Blocker Hall

201 Blocker Hall

Business meeting and election preparation

9:30 am - 11:15 am

#### CONCURRENT PRESENTATION SESSIONS

**Blocker Hall** 

Group and individual presentations will be held in various classrooms.

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

POSTER SESSION

**Blocker Hall - Second Floor** 

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**LUNCH** 

**Batten Student Center - Grille** 

Buffet lunch will include salad, penne pasta, alfredo and marina sauce, bread, and cookies.

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**ELECTIONS** 

201 Blocker Hall

Slate of officers will be presented and elections for Faculty and Student officers held. Only

1:30 pm - 3:45 pm

#### **CONCURRENT PRESENTATION SESSIONS**

**Blocker Hall** 

Original works, group, and individual presentations will be held in various classrooms.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**CLOSING SESSION** 

201 Blocker Hall

Announcements and prizes will be awarded to top presenters in each presentation category.

#### 2010 VCHC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

#### **GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

9:30 – 11:00 am 201 Blocker Hall

The Kate and Meaghan Show: Debunked Meaghan Carey & Katelin Fisher, Radford University

Honors contracts are often desinged for the benefit of the Honors student, but provide an opportunity to generate a product that goes beyond the short term goal. The Kate and Meaghan Show: Debunked is a series of videos designed to address popular myths in Human Anatomy and Physiology. These videos are currenlty integrated in the course pedagogy.

## Attitudes and Expectations of Future Teachers LeighAnna Feeser & Carlisle Parker, Longwood University

Much research indicates that there is a high rate of attrition among new teachers—those in the first five years of their teaching career. Factors that may contribute to high teacher turnover include unfulfilled or unrealistic expectations, and poor preparation for the challenges the profession presents. The present study, a survey of students in Longwood University's teacher preparation program, was designed to better understand the factors that motivate students to pursue teaching as a career, as well as future teachers' expectations of the profession.

Foreign Bodies: Classroom Diplomacy among NSU's International Faculty and Students Ella Woodard & Deja Jennings, Norfolk State University

This documentary will feature interviews with immigrants working or studying at NSU. Sample questions will include the following: Why did you choose NSU? What are your goals? Do you plan to stay in the US? Are you concerned with a "brain drain" from your home country to the US?

1:30 - 2:50 pm 201 Blocker Hall

#### Meaning and Metaphor in Art

Matthew Rendall & Sarah Schuster, Northern Virginia Community College

Artist William T. Wiley paints a vivid post apocalyptic picture of a small town near the Chernobyl power plant. This presentation will explore the meaning of the painting and Wiley's outrage over the Chernobyl disaster. The second panelist will explore the psychology of bereavement through Gaela Erwin's painting, which suggests that possibility of new growth and creative exploration of the self through art and metaphor.

#### The Youngest Victims of Immigration Law

Khrystin Armor, Deandra Hennemann, Robert Baker, & Kevin Allen, Norfolk State University This presentation will discuss how children are affected by immigration. It will explain various factors and legal issues that can end up dividing families. The presenters will discuss the ius soli (versus ius sanguinis) concept and its history, child refugess and political sylum seekers (such as the Lost Boys of Sudan), and high profile cases such as Elian Gonzalez (Cuban-American) and Sean Goldman (Brazilian-American).

### ARTS/ORIGINAL WORKS

2:50 – 3:35 pm 201 Blocker Hall

Positurae to Full Stop: The Origins of Punctuation Marks on the Modern Keyboard Regina Spatarella, Marymount University

In this visual presentation combining research and an interactive website, the origins of punctuation marks found on the modern keyboard are investigated through the history of writing. Prehistoric pictographs, Sumerian Cuneiform, Asian glyphs, and the first Latin alphabets all contribute to the modern period, comma, colon, semicolon, and exclamation point.

## Mothers in Life and Death April Guscott, Virginia Wesleyan College

This presentation will feature three persona poems accompanied by brief PowerPoint slides. The first two poems recall the deaths of little girls in a church bombing and are written in the voices of their mothers. The third poem is spoken by a woman who lives after death.

#### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Blocker Hall - Second Floor

Characterizing maturation of the Immune Dendritic Cell Line JAWSII Chad Harte, Hampden-Sydney College

Induction of adaptive immunity is tightly linked to dendritic cell maturation. To develop an in vitro model for studying factors that regulate dendritic cell maturation, we evaluated expression of immunostimulatory genes and proteins by the immature dendritic cell line JAWSII in repsonse to the maturation stimuli lipopolysaccharide and lipoteichoic acid.

Isolation, Identification, and Antimicrobial Susceptibility of Unknown Bacteria from a Dormitory Bathroom

Curtis Read & Justin Odanga Hampden-Sydney College

Unknown bacteria from a dormitory bathroom were isolated, identified, and tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. Both the genus and species of 8 bacteria from a sink and shower drain were determined using sterile technique and diagnostic procedures. Susceptibility of the bacteria to common antimicrobials was tested using the Kirby-Bauer method.

Small scale expression and purification of a recombinant prokaryotic transcriptional regulator using an E. coli expression system

Melissa Powell, Hampton University

This biochemistry-based presentation will include background information of the topics in the study, the importance of the research presented, the goals of the specific experiments conducted, methods, conclusions drawn, and future directions for the further exploration of the molecular and biochemistry-based subject.

#### INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

9:30 – 11:15 am 16 Blocker Hall

"At the Tip of a Sword": A Study of the Introduction of the Knight into Anglo-Saxon England Gabriella A. Faundez Rojas, Marymount University

The Knight has always been one of the most fascinating subjects for medieval historians. This study will show how his introduction into Anglo-Saxon England during the Norman Conquest was not as revolutionary as previously thought, and how the military structure of the island became the basis for his establishment.

The Crusades: Calamitous Corruption or Candid Caution?
Michael Bors, George Mason University

Between the years of 1095 and 1291 A.D., nine military campaigns into the Near East were launched from Western Europe. This presentation will explore the question of the motivations for these Crusades specifically from the point of view of the Popes who encouraged them.

In the Shadow of the 'Big Three': Alternative Religion in the United States Valecia Wilson, Hampton University

Of the many belief systems that exist in the United States today due to our right to religious freedom, mainstream Christianity, Judaism and Islam are the most recognized. This presentation takes a look at some of the other beliefs that exist in our nation and the public's attitudes toward them.

Kosova: The Quest for Independence Borjana Sako, Marymount University

The aim of this research was to inquire Kosova's legitimacy as a nation state. Observing Kosova's geopolitics, history, culture, and government; it is clear that the nation stands on its own, it is individual, and fits all of the characteristics of a nation state.

9:30 – 11:15 am 17 Blocker Hall

Adopting SWAMI: An Examination of Social Computing in the Workplace Ashlee Edwards, Virginia Wesleyan College

The ways in which people communicate and share information with each other, particularly in the workplace, is constantly changing. Effective communication is a critical component of productivity. Social software (like Facebook, Twitter, etc.) provides quick and efficient ways to communicate. This project investigates the designing and development of social software in the workplace.

Text Talk in Academic Papers:

The Manifestation of IM Shorthand and Its Impact on Scholastics at the College Level Charna Wilson, Virginia State University

With the ever present use of email, chatrooms and text messaging, textual lingo has become a dominant form of communication in today's world; however, the appearance of "text talk" in academic papers, at the college level, is inappropriate and poses a threat to the educational standards students set for themselves.

#### The Critical Period Hypothesis

#### Jessica Randall, Northern Virginia Community College

The presentation will discuss the possibility of becoming fluent in a second language as an adult. Is there really a critical period for development? The critical period hypothesis will explain the uncanny ability of children to easily absorb the grammar of any language.

## The Misrepresentation of Mental Illness in the Press

Esther JacksonGeorge Mason University

Newspapers are predisposed to depict mental illness, violence, and instability as inseparable. By distorting the public's understanding, an unwarranted stigma is cast on individuals suffering in silence. By unpacking this association, the effects and influence of print media on our culture's view of people with mental illness will be shown.

9:30 – 11:15 am 18 Blocker Hall

What's on your plate? - The Food Industry and the Benefits of Organic Foods
Deborah Boone, Hampton University

This presentation involves a brief history and analysis of the western food industry. It will explain the evolution of the industry and the various problems associated with the current farming and food processing techniques. The benefits of organic foods (for health and environmental reasons) will be also be explored and explained.

Crisis in Madagascar: Can NEAP save the Lemurs?

Daniel Boger, George Mason University

Madagascar faces an ecological crisis that endangers many species on the island, especially lemurs that many people identify with Madagascar's unique biodiversity. The Malagasy government attempted to reduce deforestation rates with a National Environmental Action Plan. Its success is still being debated while the plight of the lemur hangs in the balance.

# Honors Garden at Longwood Darnell Royster, Longwood University

The Cormier Honors College Garden presents students with an opportunity to get involved and learn about the key principles of botany and agriculture. Students make connections that links topics such as; politics, health, communication, business, community as well as history to the garden.

Foraging Speed Variations in Tropical Leaf Cutter Ants Lindsey Gaines, Thomas Nelson Community College

We examined factors influencing foraging speed of leaf cutter ants in Costa Rica. Mean foraging speed for ants carrying a leaf was 2.65 cm/sec, and 3.65 cm/sec for those without a leaf. Significant differences in the effects of temperature and time of day on foraging speeds are also discussed.

9:30 – 11:15 am 216 Blocker Hall

# Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) Certification Steven Ballard, Hampton University

A review of the criteria for the Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) Certification, the standard in Green Building, started the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). This session will address the levels of certification, areas that are focused on and the benefits for earning.

The Effect of Rapid Development on Northern Virginia's Community Nathan Dorfman, George Mason University

Learn how land developers, business leaders, and politicians have transformed Northern Virginia from rural farmland to the cosmopolitan, technologically-advanced, and highly-educated region it is today.

My experience in the Development and Implementation of a Grant Elizabeth Hallaren, Hampton University

How can an undergraduate be involved in a grant and what are some of the benefits? Through my involvement in the Kids + Health Awareness Project, I have had the opportunity to discover some answers. This presentation will explore the challenges and rewards gained through working on this grant.

Locked Up: Immigrants and the United States Prison System Arielle Ben Gregory, Norfolk State University

When immigrants commit crimes, there is often a loud outcry to deport them immediately - even without due process. Are immigrants an added burden on our strained judicial and penal systems or are they victims of unnecessary and unfair laws? This presentation will discuss the complex issues surrounding immigration and justice.

1:30 – 3:15 pm 16 Blocker Hall

The Manifestation of Prejudice Tia Strozier, Hampton University

It is hypothesized that prejudice is not just an arbitrary element that stratifies society but also a socially-constructed weapon used to encourage exclusivity among different races. Further, it is suggested that such variables as race, class, gender, and geographic location facilitate prejudice while simultaneously influencing people's attitudes towards prejudice. The purpose of this research study is to analyze the impact of each variable on prejudice and understand how perceptions of prejudice influence behavior patterns.

When Jobs Become Ethnic Frankie Copeland, Norfolk State University

Why are the Vietnamese and Koreans in the US so closely associated with nail shops? Why are Asians (think Apu on The Simpsons) associated with convenience stores? Why is it that so many African immigrants own hair braiding salons? This paper will journey into the lives of immigrants who make a living practicing niche trades. The objective will be to learn about their experiences, struggles and career determinants.

# The Americans with Disabilities Act: Liberty and Justice for some, not all Samuel Yager, George Mason University

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a ground-breaking piece of legislation that helped integrate and protect the disabled in the United States. However, this document may in fact be discriminating against those individuals who are neither fully disabled, legally, nor fully capable, according to society's perceptions.

Harold Williams: A Living Legacy Sherry Harrod, Hampton University

Harold B Williams is an 88 year old native of Montgomery, Alabama. His story highlights the life a man who has spent much of his life helping in the fight for civil rights for African Americans. He is living piece of history and one of last few people alive with a personal account of the civil rights movement.

1:30 – 3:15 pm 17 Blocker Hall

Children's Literature in a Digitalized World Maura Bradley, Virginia Wesleyan College

This presentation examines how digital media has affected the form and content of children's literature, but more specifically, picture books. The digital age is blurring the line between childhood naiveté and adulthood, and with this muddled distinction comes complex picture books that challenge readers and challenge scholars' notions of children's literature.

Texmex Culture: Fusion or Fiction? Errica Bertsch, Norfolk State University

Is there a fusion of Texan and Mexican culture that both groups would acknowledge as an authentic hybrid? This presentation explores Texmex cuisine, celebrations, music, art, language (the Spanglish controversy) and poetry. Los Lobos, Selena, Freddie Fender and the Texas Tornados are among the entertainers who will be considered.

# The Origin of Perfect Pitch Laura Mitchell, George Mason University

Studied by scientists and prized by musicians, perfect pitch is the skill of identifying and generating pitches without a reference note. Though a genetic predisposition is necessary for its development in an individual, what role do environmental factors play? Can perfect pitch be acquired and if so, until what age?

Saving Cinderella: Cinderella and the Stepmother in Grimms' "Cinderella" and their Influence on the Socialization of Young Girls

Stephanie Tran, George Mason University

What does the popular fairy tale "Cinderella" teach young girls? The characters of the Stepmother and Cinderella as they are featured in the 1857 Grimms version of "Cinderella" are examined to determine their influence on young girls and the girls' subsequent roles in society.

1:30 – 3:15 pm 18 Blocker Hall

The Immunopathogenesis of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever: Novel Treatment Possibilities Neusa Facenda, Marymount University

Dengue fever is a vector-born viral disease which affects two-fifths of the world's population. This presentation will explore the complex immune responses to a secondary infection, which leads to dengue hemorrhagic fever. After analyzing the human body immune response to dengue virus infection, a pathway for treatment will be presented.

The Unspoken Disease: Depression and Black Men Sharise M. Darby, Hampton University

This presentation will examine the causes and effects of mental health, specifically issues with depression and suicide, on Black men of all ages. In addition to addressing issues surrounding mental health education in the Black community the presentation will also outline ways to combat depression amongst Black men.

Variations in Microbial Abundance on a Leaf Cutter Ant Trail Michael Cagle, Thomas Nelson Community College

Leaf cutters harvest leaves to feed their fungal food source and protect the fungus through the secretion of antimicrobial chemicals. We examined the possible use of these antimicrobials by foragers to reduce microbial abundance along a foraging trail. Results show that microbial abundance actually increased closer to the ant nest.

Determining the Most Viable Theories of the Peopling of the Americas Aliya Jamil, George Mason University

The popular Clovis Theory of how the first Native Americans arrived in North America lacks a sufficient amount of supporting evidence. More scientifically viable theories should be taught alongside of the Clovis Theory in order to provide students with as many perspectives on the issue as possible.

## Trichotillomania Lori Mier, Virginia Western Community College

Lori Mier's personal battle with trichotillomania has led her to research and speak out about this unfamiliar, yet common disorder. Trichotillomania is defined as repetitive or compulsive hair pulling. There are many theories on the etiology of Trichotillomania as well as many treatment options, but no cure.

1:30 – 3:15 pm 216 Blocker Hall

The 21 Indispensible Qualities of a Leader Amber Tucker, Hampton University

This session will present in an insightful manner "The 21 Indispensible Qualities of a Leader" suggested by John C. Maxwell. The audience will have the opportunity to learn about the 21 qualities of a leader and how they can incorporate these qualities into their lifestyle of leadership.

# Changing Lenses: Jewish Immigrants' Influence in Hollywood Catherine Hinton, Norfolk State University

From the Warner Brothers' 1927 film The Jazz Singer, to WWII Jewish refugees' contributions, to Spielberg's Schindler's List, to today's Adam Sandler comedies, Jews have become synonymous with Hollywood. This presentation will look at the influence of these filmmakers including their decisions to keep high or low profiles.

To be hairy or not to be hairy: That is the question Audra Scull, Thomas Nelson Community College

We usually think of evolution as taking place over long stretches of geological time. However it can take place very quickly, especially if humans act as the agent of change. In Honors Biology 101 we did just that: caused evolution to take place over the course of just one semester.

The Power of Positive Thinking
Jason Moore & Rasheed Merrell, Hampton University

"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're probably right." This is a quote that says I can do it because I believe I can. This is the power of positive thinking. This session will deal with positive thinking, a mental attitude conductive to growth, expansion and your success.

## **ROLL CALL**

George Mason University Northern Virginia Community College

Hampden-Sydney College Radford University

Hampton University Randolph-Macon College

Longwood University Thomas Nelson Community College

Marymount College Virginia State University
Norfolk State University Virginia Wesleyan College

Virginia Western Community College

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