



2012 VCHC Spring Conference

“VCHC: At the Center of the Universe”

April 20-21, 2012

Randolph Macon College

Ashland, VA





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CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 20, 2012:

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and light refreshments
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Opening session
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Saturday, April 9, 2012:

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Pastries and Coffee
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Opening session
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Faculty and Student meetings
10:10 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.	Presentations
11:45 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Student Elections
12:30 – 1:15 p.m.	Poster Presentations
1:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Presentations
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	Faculty Meeting & Student Roundtable Discussion
3:45– 4:30 p.m.	Closing Session and Award Ceremony



Dear Honors Students and Faculty,

On behalf of the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) Executive Board, I would like to welcome you to the VCHC Spring 2012 Conference at Randolph Macon College, “The Center of the Universe.” We are excited about the range of topics and variety of presentations that our students have submitted for this year’s conference, and the growth in the number of institutions participating has been wonderful! Students participating in this year’s conference have asked questions about politics, economics, scientific discoveries, ethical dilemmas and even pop culture.

This is not only a time for learning. It is a time to give back as well. This year, the student members of the Executive Board have decided to work with the Staples “Do Something” Project to collect school supplies to be sent to students in need both locally and nationally. The school supplies we collect will help children in disadvantaged areas better participate in their educations.

Besides the learning and civic engagement that the conference is sure to provide, this year’s Executive Board has been purposeful in creating opportunities for networking among the students and faculty from all of the institutions represented. While at dinner or touring the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Friday and during the meetings and presentations on Saturday, we encourage everyone to take advantage of this unique chance to connect with and get to know your peers from other colleges and universities from West Virginia and Virginia. Who knows what you might learn?

After sharing in the experiences that we all will enjoy here at “The Center of the Universe,” I would like to invite all students and faculty members to consider running for VCHC’s Executive Board to make future conferences just as exciting and memorable as this one will be. We will be holding elections for a number of positions that will provide you with the rewarding experience of helping to make future conferences possible for our students to attend.

Finally, I would like to thank the students and faculty members who have helped to put this conference together. A lot of behind the scenes work goes into hosting such a wonderful event and I have had the privilege of working with a very dedicated and hardworking group of people. From the VCHC Executive Board to our wonderful hosts here at Randolph-Macon College, this has been a great experience that I know will turn into a fun and successful weekend for all of our participants.

Sincerely,

David Anderson

President, VCHC

VCHC Executive Committee 2010-2011

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Mr. David Anderson
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Secretary-Treasurer

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Immediate Past President

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Student Conference Liaison

Katie Daisey
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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

2010-2011	Ms. Isabel Killough, Norfolk State University
2009-2010	Ms. Liona T. Burnham, Northern Virginia Community College
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. Freddy 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.vchc.net/>

2011-2012 VCHC President: Mr. David Anderson
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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.
6. 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, March 30, 2002, and April 11, 2008)

- 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 be appointed annually by the President to judge the student presentations at the Spring Conference. The number, categories, and amounts of awards shall be determined by the Executive Committee upon recommendation from the Scholarship Committee.

2012 CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, April 20

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

RECEPTION & REGISTRATION

Andrews Hall Lobby

Each registrant will receive their badge, conference materials, and gift. Drinks and cupcakes will be served during registration.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

OPENING SESSION

Andrews Multi-purpose Room

The conference will open with a welcome from the VCHC officers, and the Randolph-Macon Honors faculty. The opening session will be followed by a dinner in the Multi-purpose Room and lobby of Andrews.

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

DINNER

Andrews Multi-purpose Room and Lobby

Dinner will consist of salad, Barbeque chicken or pork, roasted red potato salad, country green beans, macaroni and cheese, and assorted pies and desserts. Dinner is being catered.

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

EVENING ACTIVITY

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

This will be a chance to tour the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, or VMFA. It will be an enjoyable evening viewing of exhibits including “Making History, 20th Century African American Art,” “The Mourners: Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy,” and “The Legend of John Brown”. Printed maps will be provided, as well as Randolph-Macon student guides that can ride with you to direct you to the museum.

Saturday, April 21

8:00 am – 8:30 am

Pastries and Coffee

Copley Lobby

Coffee and an assortment of Pastries will be available in the lobby of Copley before our opening session. However, we encourage you to take advantage of the full breakfast that is offered at the hotel as well.

8:30 am – 9:00 am

OPENING SESSION

Copley 101

Welcome and overview of the conference & artistic presentations.

9:00 am – 10:00 am

FACULTY MEETING

Copley 100

STUDENT MEETING

Copley 101

Business meeting and election preparation

10:10 am – 11:45 am

CONCURRENT PRESENTATION SESSIONS

Haley Hall, Rooms 104 – 110

Group and Individual presentations will be held in scheduled rooms.

11:45 am – 12:30 pm

LUNCH

Copley Lobby and Surrounding Area

For lunch we will be having subs, chips, and dessert from Jersey Mike's. The sandwich choices will be Turkey, Italian, Roast Beef, Ham, and Vegetarian. Speeches will be given for the student elections during this time.

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Copley Lobby

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

CONCURRENT PRESENTATION SESSIONS

Haley Hall, Rooms 104 – 110

Individual presentations will be held in scheduled rooms.

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

FACULTY MEETING

Copley 100

STUDENT ELECTIONS AND HONORS PANEL

Copley 101

A Panel of Alumni, Honors Students, and Honors Faculty will discuss the advantages of being an honors student, and how to get the most out of an honors education.

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

CLOSING SESSION

Copley 101

During this time, announcements will be made, prizes will be awarded to top presenters in each presentation category, and new officers will be announced.

2012 VCHC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ARTISTIC PRESENTATION

8:40 am – 9:00 am

Copley 101

In Pursuit of Freedom

Jeffrey Young, Northern Virginia Community College

I will perform a short cabaret based on material from my life featuring humorous anecdotes, a musical number or two, with a bit of drama thrown in for kicks. I will tell of the long journey I took to get where I am today.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

10:10 am – 11:45 am

Haley 103

Nurturing or Coddling? Do HBCUs Prepare their Students for Post-graduate Life?

Asia Bey & Monica Monk, Norfolk State University

HBCUs are known for a ‘nurturing’ environment that enables students who have weak skills to catch up and students who are strong to begin with to thrive and achieve. But there is a danger that nurturing can become coddling. Is the nurturing that students receive at an HBCU helpful or harmful to their professional and personal development? We will address this question in an informal debate format and let the audience decide.

Over parenting vs. Under parenting

Deidra Bynum & Whitney Wilson, Norfolk State University

One of the most common issues in America’s education system is parental involvement. Many educators argue that parents should be more involved while others oppose so called “helicopter” parents who hover over their children to an excessive degree. How much is not enough and how much is too much? This presentation will focus on the effects of over parenting and under parenting on children in school. It will also focus on how parents can maintain equilibrium, neither neglecting their children’s needs nor being too overbearing.

Student Organizations: The Heart of an Honors College

Emily Miller & Leigha Worden, Longwood University

Classes and conferences are the brains of an Honors College, but the student run organizations are the heart. Our presentation will highlight the successes and failures we have experienced in our newly reformed Honor Student Association here in the living, learning honors community at Longwood University. We will discuss the events and new institutions we have implemented over the past year to strengthen our organization. We will present on the successful campus wide masquerade ball, which led to a reform of the constitution in order to strengthen our organization by increasing accountability and participation.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Copley Hall Lobby

Characterization of B16.F1 and D5.1G4 Melanoma Tumors and Profiling Melanoma-Induced Suppression of Dendritic Cell Function

Yonathan Ararso, Hampden-Sydney College

Tumor-derived factors contribute to the dysfunction of immune responses by suppressing the production of proinflammatory cytokines, chemokines, and costimulatory molecules. In this group of experiments, we attempted to characterize the immunosuppressive agents released by B16-F1 and D5.1G4 melanoma tumors, to identify the effects of these tumor-derived agents on the production of the cytokines IL-6 and MCP-1 and on the production of the costimulatory/coinhibitory molecules MHC I, MHC II, CD40, B7-H3, CD80, B7-H7, CD86, and B7-DC using DC2.4 murine-derived dendritic cell line as a host. Real-time RT-PCR results confirmed a very high expression of the immunosuppressant TGF β 1 at 91.4 folds higher in B16-F1 than in D5.1G4. TGF β 2, VEGF-A, VEGF-B, and VEGF-C, also displayed higher gene expression at 1.2, 4.5, 2.9, and 2.9 fold higher in B16-F1 while VEGF-D displayed a 2.4 fold higher expression in D5.1G4 tumor line. However, ELISA and flow cytometry results indicated that despite its abundant presence TGF β did not significantly alter the production of the cytokines IL-6 and MCP-1 or the production of the costimulatory/coinhibitory molecules MHC I, MHC II, CD40, B7-H3, CD80, B7-H7, CD86, and B7-DC.

Disney Princesses: Symbols of Sexual Beings?

Catherine Castelvechi, George Mason University

Disney princesses influence society's children, as seen from their wide marketing. Therefore, one should ask whether these princesses show a positive representation of women. By analyzing the films, as well as researching on commentary, it is found that the Disney princesses show sexualized women, overall, but has gotten mostly better over time, as seen especially in the 1990s era of Disney princesses. From this finding, one can see that though the princesses show more control in their destiny, they still show a deep reliance on the need of a man, which can breed lower self worth in children.

Homosexuality and the Bible: At A Crossroad

Elvira Razzano, George Mason University

This presentation explores how English translations of the Bible affect Christian views of homosexuality. Six Bible verses (three from the Old Testament and three from the New Testament) are analyzed in their five most popular English translations (based on dollar and unit sales) by the presenter with the help of scholarly journal articles from both secular and religious scholars and with the help of documentaries that focus on similar subject matter.

How do Child Labor and Education Affect One Another? Exploring the Connections Between Child Labor and Education in Developing Countries

Chelsea Stephens, George Mason University

The purpose of this research is to examine explanations of the relationship between child labor and education in developing countries. All major viewpoints are discussed, including contrary perspectives of the direction of causation, incongruities, and correlation in order to illuminate the true relationship. This research shows that individual circumstances, such as culture, school quality, or type of work, determine the direction of causation and relative advantages of both child labor and education. Future research in this area should focus on finding broader theories that apply to multiple circumstances for more conclusive results.

How is the debate surrounding Shari'a law affecting Muslim women in Northern Nigeria today?

Alicia Talley, George Mason University

In Northern Nigeria, Shari'a law, the Islamic legal system, is applied to criminal and family law, barring women of equal citizenship rights and allowing domestic violence, rape, and restrictions on freedom of speech and religion. Politics and religion are inseparable in Northern Nigeria, and Islamization has created an oppressive patriarchy that cannot be replaced through legal reforms. Gender equality is not possible in the northern Islamic states of Nigeria due to the implementation of Shari'a law and the interpretation of the Koran.

In the Loop: The Ethical and Legal Issues of Autonomous Robots in Battle

Erik Pusey, George Mason University

Autonomy is the goal for robotic warfare. Before autonomous robots are deployed, various issues need to be addressed such as accountability and legality of robot warfare. At this time, there are no laws restricting or regulating war bots. As the technology advances and more countries utilize war robots, it is necessary to develop a set of ethics and laws that would apply to all organizations worldwide, regardless of their nature, in the usage of robots in battle.

Inclusion in Special Education

Rachel Taylor, George Mason University

In recent years, there has been a progression towards fully including special education students in general education classrooms. Many argue that this has benefits over the alternative of self-inclusive special education settings. However, because there is such a wide range of disabilities, this argument does not always apply. My research looks at the outcomes of varying levels of inclusion in order to determine what degree would best accommodate all special education students.

Justifying 9/11: Al-Qaeda, Violence, and Islamic Holy Texts

Chad Penner, George Mason University

The terrorist organization, Al-Qaeda, attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, using Islamic holy texts, namely the Quran, Hadith, and Shari'ah, as justification for their violent actions. My presentation will explain how Al-Qaeda has reinterpreted these texts in a way that they believe justifies the cry of defensive jihad, the killing of civilians, and the utilization of suicide bombers in their attack of American soil.

Media Literacy Workshop to Promote Awareness of Eating Disorders, Body Dissatisfaction in Women

Jacqueline Togno & Jacob Settle, Virginia Wesleyan College

For our activity, we are proposing a “media literacy” workshop for both men and women where the participants will be exposed to what media experts do to portray this “perfect body” image and perpetuate the thin ideal. The program will cause people to think critically about different forms of the media, increasing awareness of media use, and analyzing the content and intentions of the media producers. Participants will be able to learn that all media images are constructed and more importantly, that what they see is not necessarily reality, for all media creations represent a particular point of view.

Production and Use of Ethanol: What are the Environmental Effects?

Kathryn Radom, George Mason University

Ethanol is a biofuel that can be produced from any fast-growing plant. The government has been advocating an even higher ethanol blend in gasoline than is currently used. However, understanding the environmental effects of traditional corn-based ethanol compared to those of newly emerging biomass sources like switchgrass is important before deciding to implement a higher percentage ethanol blend. Based on production and use factors such as air pollution, water pollution, Indirect Land Use Change, and energy efficiency, corn based ethanol has been shown to have many negative environmental impacts that could be prevented by using other biomass sources like switchgrass.

Race and Gender in the Jazz Age

Jill Carter, George Mason University

In the 1920s and 1930s, Blues and mainstream music, made up of ragtime and Broadway, represented two distinct social groups. The Blues represented African-American values and views and Mainstream represented those of White society. The two social groups had different views of women, and their music represented those differences. Mainstream music portrayed women through the eyes of men, while the Blues portrayed them through the eyes of the women themselves.

Sex Trafficking in Nepal: An Analysis of Intervention Methods

Megan Marcus, George Mason University

For this project on sex trafficking in Nepal, I researched the causes and effects of trafficking and the various intervention methods currently in use. The methods fell into one of three categories: Non-governmental organizations, government programs, and political actions. I analyzed these intervention techniques based on what is working and what needs to be fixed. I concluded with a proposal for how to stop sex trafficking once and for all in Nepal.

Teleophthalmology: The Future for Rural India

Kelsey Ryan, George Mason University

India suffers from a lack of health care infrastructure and as a result, many people living in rural areas do not have access to necessary health care services. One technique that can be used to provide healthcare, particularly in the field of ophthalmology, is telemedicine. Telemedicine is the use of communication technologies, such as email, text messages, and video conferencing to connect patients in rural areas to remote physicians. However, there are a number of challenges inhibiting the growth and wide spread use of this technology, which include lack of awareness, poor infrastructure, low literacy rates, and inadequate technology.

The Effect of Facebook on Cyber-Bullying Among Teenagers

Symone Reid, George Mason University

Does the nature of interaction on Facebook contribute to the emotional harm in cyber-bullying in teenagers in the United States? This presentation will focus on three main factors involved in cyber-bullying and the effects that each factor has on teenagers' lives.

The Non-Autistic Siblings of Autistic Children

Cassie Malato, George Mason University

My presentation will address the possible implications of having an Autistic sibling on their non-Autistic siblings. Specifically, it will address the affects that may be exhibited in three specific domains: psychological development, quality of life and the sibling relationship between the Autistic child and their non-Autistic siblings. This information will be useful to determine which affects are present in many families and how understanding them can lead to the betterment of the lives of the non-Autistic children and their families.

The Possibility of Life Elsewhere

Katelyn Fariss, George Mason University

This presentation will explore many factors that sustain intelligent life in order to conclude that life on Earth is rare, and would be unlikely to find elsewhere in the universe. These requirements create a complex system with characteristics that are dependent on each other in order to sustain life. The possibilities of worlds like our own seem endless because the size of the universe is vast, and life could exist far out of our realm of discovery. However, the many factors that life requires to exist on Earth combine to make it unlikely that scientists could find life elsewhere.

The Rise of Russian Nationalism - Socio-cultural, Political, and Economic Perspectives of Russian Nationalism

Anthony Hopkins, George Mason University

Recent riots and violence against immigrants and ethnic groups in Russia are a product of the burgeoning Russian nationalist movement. Groups such as Pamyat, the DPNI (Russia's opposition to illegal immigration), and others have seen an increase in political influence over the past twenty years. The origins of the movement can be viewed in regards to prevailing socio-cultural, economic, and political factors. A claim can be made that current Russian nationalism is either a reaction to or progression from the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in 1989.

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

10:10 – 11:45 am

Haley 104

Polyimide Foam Density Study and Proposed Applications

Corin Sandford, Randolph-Macon College

The relatively recent introduction of polyimide foam FPF44 into the scientific and commercial community has prompted the desire for new, enhanced technologies based on the material. Polyimide foam is a polymer that has been structurally expanded using a foaming agent. A new polyimide foam's (FPF44) definitive properties of high flame resistance and glass transition point and its ability to extinguish itself are valuable new factors in the field of foam applications. Structural FPF44 is the compressed, thermo-formed and relatively stiff version of flexible, functional FPF44 developed for thermal and acoustic insulation. At certain densities, the structural foam was expected to have mechanical properties more suitable for load bearing applications than current heavier, more expensive, and denser materials. The ability of the foam to retain these properties on a heat ramp up to 300 °C was assessed as a positive outcome. It was found that structural FPF44 yields excellent flat-wise tensile strength, compression modulus and T_g, even as temperature increases. The results led to the conclusion that FPF44 can indeed be used for molding to create aircraft epoxies using the vacuum bag method and as a fire barrier in volume-specific settings.

Pre-professionalism and the Demise of Liberal Arts: What Would Dubois Say about Higher Education in 2012?

Quintin Pooler, Norfolk State University

Narrowly focused majors, and outright vocational institutions are prevalent in today's educational system. This type of study can be directly correlated with Booker T. Washington's philosophy of how African Americans would overcome racism by obtaining targeted job skills and accommodating to white expectations. However, W.E.B Du Bois believed in the political route that also called for action. This presentation dives into the mind of W.E.B Du Bois and speculates about his possible reaction to the emphasis on the STEM disciplines and other highly specialized fields in modern day American institutions of higher learning.

False Memory Creation through the Prism of Gender Stereotypes

Arianna Stelling, Lynchburg College

This study examines the effects of gender stereotypes on the creation of false-memories. Participants viewed a short one-scene video featuring a man and a woman on a date displaying a combination of both gender typical and atypical behaviors. Following the video, participants completed a quiz to determine whether they created false memories and completed an attitudinal scale to gauge their views on gender stereotypes. The hypothesis that participants would create stereotype-consistent false memories and that memories would be altered to be stereotype-consistent with the behavior of the man than with the behavior of the woman was supported.

Antibiotic Resistance

Amanda Medley, Virginia Western Community College

My research was to determine how quickly bacteria would become resistant to antibiotics.

The Effects of Population Density on Gasoline Consumption

Frank Muraca, George Mason University

In my paper, I examine the relationship between population density and gasoline consumption for transportation uses. My analysis aggregates data from other studies to examine outcomes based on different urban and rural environments. Specifically, I look at factors that raise or lower costs of owning and using automobiles.

We Only Have One Universe: Why even businesses must strive for sustainability

Allison Dazey, Virginia Wesleyan College

In recent years, the push to attain Sustainability has been rapidly gaining strength, but what does it even mean to be sustainable? I will discuss the ethics behind what individuals and business owners owe to the environment, others and future generations. I will also discuss how environmental ethics can be reconciled with the ideas of a free-market economy that many believe is not intended to take ethics into account.

A Multi-Agent System For Parking Coordination And Management

Brandon Gannicott, Lynchburg College

Multi-agent systems are well-suited to solving an ever-widening range of problems. One such problem is locating available parking on university campuses or in municipalities. This research provides a novel approach to address the problem. Currently, commuters must find and claim an empty space ad-hoc, often wasting time and fuel in the search. The system described in this paper leverages the power of agent-oriented knowledge building to solve this problem efficiently and intelligently. Commuters report their parking behavior via their GPS-enabled smartphones, and as the database grows, commuters can request directions to parking spaces near destinations of their choice.

Center of Two Struggles: Mine Wars in West Virginia, the Battle of Blair Mountain, and the Ongoing Fight for Historical Preservation

Megan Willmes, Northern Virginia Community College

More than 90 years ago, the narrow valleys of West Virginia rang with gunshots. Infuriated by long-term harassment of coal company mine guards, and the indifference of the federal and state government to their plight, the miners' union organized a strike that would last two years and, at times, erupt in violence. Their struggle culminated in the striking miners' march on Blair Mountain. Today, Blair is threatened with "mountaintop removal", a process that would demolish the battlefield. Local residents, environmentalists, and the United Mine Workers of America have joined together in an effort to save Blair Mountain.

Phantom Menace: The Specter Known as the Federal Reserve Bank

Jare'l Barnes, Norfolk State University

This presentation will thoroughly analyze the historical, political, and socio-economic impact of the Federal Reserve Bank system on the American people. At the completion of this analysis, the Federal Reserve Bank will be proven largely responsible for the current global recession that started in 2008.

African Americans vs Unemployment: Struggle in the Job Market

Teairah Massey, Virginia Union University

This is a presentation on African American struggle in the job Bureau of Labor Statistics market. It lists statistics from the Bureau of Labor, and compares the unemployment rate of African Americans with other races, especially Whites. Reasons to this disparity in the job market are elaborated on throughout the rest of the slides. Racial Discrimination seems to be a huge issue and is made evident through more statistics, when age and education of African Americans and Whites are compared.

Money Matters: The Relationship between Feminism and Popular Ad Culture from 1967-1977

Sarah Turner, Lynchburg College

Feminist rhetoric made its way into popular advertising culture during the height of the movement in the late 1960's and into the decade of the 70's. Its influence though was mitigated by its ability to impact images of women in the media only when and if the feminists were able to influence the bottom line of a company's balance sheet. The inherent conflict between capitalism and feminism was reflected in the movement's ability to influence how women were depicted in the actual advertisements. This study examines advertisements in Good Housekeeping and in Mademoiselle to study this question.

The End of the World as We Know It?: Will China Replace the U.S. as the Economic Hegemon?

Amy Handlan, George Mason University

Even though the economy affects us all, very few individuals understand the consequences of economic changes. Over the past few years there has been increasing media coverage of the growing United States' debt, of China's increasing ownership of that debt, and the U.S.-China trade deficit. I want to get behind the politicians' flashy claims that Chinese economic supremacy is a threat and uncover the different predictions scholars are sharing in the debate about U.S.-China economic relations. This presentation looks at three different outcomes, U.S. hegemony, shared hegemony, and Chinese hegemony, and looks at the causes and consequences of each scenario.

Why Music Should Not Be Cut In Public Schools

Karra Parikh, Virginia Western Community College

My presentation is about why music should not be cut in public schools. I will explain how music is important to the young mind and the positive effects that music has on the brain. I will cite statistics about music and the brain. I will also explain the "Mozart effect." Also, I plan to discuss a study done on music and a fetuses breathing patterns. I will also show a short clip of the brain reacting when music is being played. I will conclude by explaining the highlights of why music should not be cut.

Home is Where the Smart Heart Is: The Effects of Home-Schooling among African Americans in the Hampton Roads Area

Denzell Cross, Norfolk State University

Homeschooling is often one of the most underestimated venues and methodologies for education. However, in a nation whose disparities in education are as prevalent and distinct as today's, it has become necessary to explore this alternate form of schooling as a possible solution. This presentation will be an analysis of the effects and uses of homeschooling in Hampton Roads as an effective means to narrow the achievement gap for some African American students.

Is Preschool for More Black Children the Best Way to Narrow the Achievement Gap?

Qadira Jones, Norfolk State University

The achievement gap between blacks and white has become a major issue in American education. Preschool may be the intervention that best narrows the gap. Studies propose that the effects of attending preschool vary among races and black children benefit the most. This study focuses on the effects of preschool on black children versus other ethnicities. The ideas behind these conclusions are discussed on the road to determining the best way to narrow the racial achievement gap.

Afrocentric Education: Then and Now

Cheyenne Taylor, Norfolk State University

African American History is an essential part of our world history, yet schools in America have ignored the teaching of it to a point where it seems to have "faded out." Nevertheless, Afrocentrism has remained a strong center of African pride and culture in the black community. In this presentation, the history of Afrocentricity under other names (e.g. Négritude, Pan-Africanism) will be addressed, as will its current role in public schools in the Hampton Roads area. The ideas of Molefi Asante will be a particular focus.

I Know Why the Caged Mind Doubts

Cherita Moore, Norfolk State University

The eloquent poems and pronouncements of Maya Angelou depict with stern earnestness the importance of education. She laments the decline in the authenticity and quality of education, and the decrease in the number of individuals venturing on into higher learning. Dr. Angelou said it best when she stated that higher education liberates each person individually. In taking her advice we can first address the problems with education, critically think of ways to improve conditions, and then facilitate the best plan of action.

Deluge: A Comparison of "The Epic of Gilgamesh" with the Genesis flood account

Lindsey Narmour, Virginia Western Community College

The Epic of Gilgamesh has resonated with readers, as portions and ideas from the Epic of Gilgamesh have been recycled and transmuted into variegated venues. This epic contains intense human loss and triumph...and also an interesting parallel with Genesis.

SPACE

Melissa Snyder, Virginia Wesleyan College

I examined the structure of space in Mark Z. Danielewski's House of Leaves. House of Leaves is not a novel based on new ideas and scare tactics, but rather a twisted reflection of classic theorist Gaston Bachelard's The Poetics of Space. My research shows that it is necessary to acknowledge the ideas of Bachelard to fully understand how House of Leaves is not the simple structure of the traditional ghost story, but rather an elaborate manuscript with an ever-transforming blueprint.

Paper or Pixel: The Future of Books

Saif Rizvi, Northern Virginia Community College

Books are a ubiquitous medium through which people have communicated for hundreds of years. With the emerging popularity of e-readers and e-books, where does that leave the printed book? This presentation takes a look at the future of books as a medium and their rapid digitization. It traces the history of the book, outlining its effects on society, and gives an objective comparison of the two forms of the medium: paper and pixel.

The Effects of Fitness and Nutrition on Children's Learning

Amber Shipmon, Norfolk State University

New research has shown that exercise and proper nutrition can affect the brain in numerous ways from the womb until old age. This presentation will discuss the latest ideas on reforming school breakfast and lunch programs plus improving physical education classes to help children learn better. It will look at what local school systems are doing to implement research on this topic.

The Ethics of Endangered Species

Elizabeth Childress, Lynchburg College

This thesis is an evaluation of the ethical theories used to support endangered species preservation. I evaluate anthropocentric arguments, environmental arguments, and arguments that posit that species have rights. I posit that none of these attempts provide a coherent rationale for species preservation, and I examine why they are insufficient. This is an incredibly important issue, especially when we consider how much time and how many resources are dedicated to the cause of species preservation.

Temporary Brittle Bone Disease: Relationship between Clinical Findings and Judicial Outcome

Making Medical Care Universal and Critical Thoughts of Temporary Brittle Bone Disease

Najhi Terrell, Virginia Union University

Making medical care universal is a broad concept that is structured in many ways. There are four methods used by clinical research based on reviews from "Medline and PsychINFO." The principles include a descriptive analysis to provide care for patients with specific needs and understand their responsibilities and roles to seek services from other providers for geographic coverage. Enhancing quality of medical care through evaluating standardized protocols, collaboration, and equality of professionals are essential. Implementing leadership with diverse cultures advances opportunities in medicine. The four mechanisms for this systematic review organize flexibility and form in medicine.

Should Blacks Become Raceless to Improve Achievement?

Yeabsira Zewde, Norfolk State University

The African American youth in school face two challenges. According to how they act and how they carry themselves, they are labeled with different stereotypes. Those who seem not to care about their education would be perceived as the "normal" African American youth. And those who care about their education and carry themselves as scholars would be "acting white". Should blacks become raceless to improve achievement? Is there really such a thing as "oppositional culture"?

Three Strikes and One Conflict: Oil Companies, the Nigerian State and Delta Militants in the Niger Delta

Karys Blakemore, George Mason University

In this presentation, I will discuss the relationships between three conflicting parties within the Niger Delta oil conflict: the MOCs (Multinational Oil Companies), the Nigerian state and the Delta militants. I will first explore each of the three parties' individual roles in the oil conflict. I will then analyze the interactions between the parties and discuss the more deadly consequences of their positive and negative relationships. These consequences include sexual violence, environmental degradation, corruption and poverty, and have all negatively impacted local Niger Delta peoples.

Hip-Hop and Occupy Wall Street: Sustaining a Movement

Keil Eggers, George Mason University

As inequality has entered the mainstream discourse due to the Occupy Wall Street protests, cultural groups of all kinds have started to enter the conversation. Blacks, and specifically Black youth, have participated less in the movement than other groups. Hip-hop, and its role in politicizing this population, provide an interesting lens with which to view its participation. Can hip-hop contribute to the Occupy Movement?

Occupy Everywhere! Was Marx Correct about the Dangers of Unregulated Capitalism?

Alexander Parker, Norfolk State University

The Occupy Movement has given voice to a new generation of protestors worldwide, and their indignation about the economic and social inequalities present in their societies is beginning to be heard. Among the many viewpoints concerning the movement, one is especially intriguing: Karl Marx's predictions about the inevitable accumulation of wealth at the top in a capitalist system may be coming true. This presentation will explore the Occupy Movement in relation to the ideas of Karl Marx and address whether some of them might have been on target.

Auto-didacticism and the Black Intellectual Tradition

Ashley Myrick, Norfolk State University

An autodidact is a "self-taught person," and there have been many renowned African-American autodidacts throughout history. Prominent people such as Malcolm X, August Wilson, and Frederick Douglass, were very successful despite their lack of formal education. There is a stereotype that if one doesn't have an education, then one is incapable of being successful. Without credentials a person's ideas can be discredited or ignored, but it is very possible to be self-taught and flourish.

The Impact of U.S.-Israeli Relations on Palestinian Women between 1948-1982

Sara Bannach, George Mason University

This presentation will examine how the United States' foreign policy on Israel ultimately affected Palestinian women during the critical time period of 1948-1982.

Contras: Reagan's Terrorists

Joseph Olsen, Lynchburg College

As an adamant opponent of Communism, Ronald Reagan worked tirelessly to eliminate that ideology from the world stage. One country which prompted his concern was Nicaragua, where the Sandinistas had gained control following a revolution against the Somoza dictatorship. Not wishing to engage American troops directly in what threatened to be an unpopular war; Reagan focused his strategy on supporting the Contras in an attempt to overthrow the Sandinista government. As a result, the CIA was assigned to provide support through arming, training, funding, and intelligence gathering as well as providing propaganda. This research argues that Reagan's policy in Nicaragua led America into the realm of state-sponsored terrorism.

Eritrea: An Emerging Nation

Wubet Yohannes, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale

Controlled by successive foreign powers, including the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, and Italy for over 1100 years, Eritrea finally became a sovereign nation in 1993. Now, less than 25 years old, Eritrea's transitional government proudly struggles toward democracy despite a complex border relationship with Ethiopia.

They Fought for Our Rights

Anita Scales, Norfolk State University

All students, but especially African Americans, should reflect on the past and remember the individuals that laid the foundation for more equitable educational systems worldwide. Members of both the Prince Edward County Student Strike and the Norfolk 17 have been recognized as heroes for their acts of bravery and courage. This presentation compares the two groups of pioneers both then and now.

The Selected Few: Nazi Doctors and the Psychology of Evil

Andrew Weisberg, George Mason University

“The Selected Few” is an analysis of Nazi doctors who served in concentration camps. Looking at the doctors from historical, governmental and sociological perspectives, this research project seeks to answer the question of why seemingly upstanding physicians committed atrocities during World War II in the name of the Third Reich. Through the exploration of the doctors’ motivations and specific examples, this presentation will attempt to provide a greater understanding of the doctors themselves in order to impart a general assessment of whether such human cruelty could occur again under the right set of circumstances.

W.E.B. Dubois vs. Booker T Washington: Precursors to MLK vs. Malcolm X?

Bettina Scales, Norfolk State University

Two great leaders of the black community in the late 19th and 20th century were W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. However, they sharply disagreed on strategies for black social and economic progress. Their opposing philosophies can be found in the very similar socio-economical debate between Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X during the Civil Rights period. Their dilemma can be used to answer today’s queries concerning class and racial injustice and the role of black leadership in the community.

Religious Dogma and its Impact on Democratic Structures

Elizabeth Odderstol, George Mason University

This research paper compares the impact of religious dogma on the governments of the United States, Iran, and Turkey and how each views the separation of church and state. This comparison is then used to discuss whether or not Islam and American democracy are compatible.

How Absentee Fathers within the African American Community Affect the Academic Success of their Children

Allen Boddie, Norfolk State University

In recent years, the concern for academic success of students, particularly within the African American community, has become a primary focus among law makers and the general public at-large. The absence of fathers from the home within the African American community has spun African American youth into an academic crisis. This presentation will highlight the negative effects absentee fathers have on the academic performance of their children, also exploring alternative explanations for black children’s poor performance in school.

Persuasion in Literature

Lydia Freeman, Bluefield College

Uncle Tom's Cabin is a novel that changed the history of the United States of America. This literary work juxtaposes the stories of slaves and the white people who own them. In a time when slaves were thought of as animals, Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel forced the reader to see slaves as equals. But the value of the novel as literature has often been questioned: did the novel lose its value as art because of its use as a persuasive tool?

The Celluloid Urban Classroom: Portraying Educational Deficiency Onscreen

Judy Lawrence-Lamb, Norfolk State University

A deficiency has been discovered in our educational system in the United States: black students are underachieving relative to whites. This presentation will give insight into this dilemma by highlighting the portrayal of 'super teachers' in popular films, beginning with Sidney Poitier's performance in *To Sir With Love* (1967) and moving up to the present. There are many underlying factors that affect the teacher-student relationship in the classroom, affecting the mindset of the educators and the performance of the students. Even Hollywood may offer viable solutions.

The Power of Animation

Nader Ahmed, Northern Virginia Community College

My presentation is regarding how animation stimulates the imagination on a more profound and creative fashion than what is typically considered "real" cinema. My thesis is as following: animation can stimulate the imagination in such a fashion that events can be portrayed in a more realistic way. The goal of my presentation is as a whole to address the supposed irony of animation's ability to portray things more realistically. I'll also supply my own theory of why animation is more realistic, delving into the realm of philosophy, for ex, how Deleuze's notion of horizontality is more readily realized in the realm of animation

The Power of Art in A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

Kerri-Leanne Taylor, Virginia Wesleyan College

In recounting his tale as a child soldier in Sierra Leone's ferocious civil war, how is it that Ishmael Beah focuses so vividly on his experiences with art? I argue that the harsh reality Beah faces is, in fact, exactly why music, storytelling, and theatre feature so prominently in his memoir. Through art, Beah provides himself with a realm in which he can be freed from war's shackles and regain some sense of childhood innocence. Moreover, creative expression allows Beah not only to salvage hope and his faith in humanity, but also on numerous occasions, art saves Beah's life.

ROLL CALL

Averett College
Bluefield College
George Mason University
Germanna Community College
Hampden-Sydney College
Longwood University
Lynchburg College
Norfolk State University
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale
Northern Virginia Community College - Loudoun
Radford University
Randolph-Macon College
State council of Higher Education for Virginia
Virginia Tech
Virginia Union University
Virginia Wesleyan College
Virginia Western Community College

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Jersey Mike's Subs
All Student Presenters

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