



2013 VCHC Spring Conference

## **“The Sky is the Limit”**

April 12-13, 2013

Northern Virginia Community College

Annandale, VA

# **NOVA**

**Northern Virginia  
Community College**





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## **CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

### **Friday, April 12, 2013:**

12:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Registration and light refreshments
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	National Air and Space Udvar Hazy Center (optional activity)
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Opening session with Keynote Speaker & Dinner
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Evening Social

### **Saturday, April 13, 2013:**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	Opening session
9:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Presentation Sessions
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Faculty and Student meetings & Lunch
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	Presentation Sessions
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Faculty Meeting & Student Elections
4:00 – 5:00 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 2013 Conference at Northern Virginia Community College, where the sky will be the limit (conference theme). I am very excited about the range of topics and variety of presentations that our students have submitted, as well as the number of students and schools participating. Speakers and sessions this year will present and analyze politics, economics, scientific discoveries, ethical dilemmas and even pop culture.

Besides the learning and engagement that the conference is sure to provide, the gathering will also include opportunities for networking amongst the students and faculty from all of the institutions represented. 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.

I would also 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 Northern Virginia Community College this has been a great experience that I know will turn into a fun and successful weekend for all of our participants.

Sincerely,  
Jack Trammell  
President, VCHC

## VCHC Executive Committee 2012-2013

### **President**

Dr. Jack Trammell  
Randolph-Macon College  
E-Mail: jtrammel@rmc.edu

### **Faculty Vice President**

Dr. Paul Fitzgerald  
Northern Virginia Community College  
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### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Dr. Joyce B. Easter  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
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### **Faculty, 4-yr. Private**

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### **Faculty, 4-yr. Public**

Dr. Kristin Samuelian  
George Mason University  
E-Mail: ksamueli@gmu.edu

### **Faculty, 2-yr**

Dr. Deborah Brock  
Germanna Community College  
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### **Immediate Past President**

Mr. David Anderson  
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E-Mail: davidand00@gmail.com

### **Student Vice President**

Ms. Deidra Bynum  
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## **VIRGINIAS COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL HISTORY**

The Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC), now over 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

2011-2012	Mr. David Anderson, George Mason University
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/>

2012-2013 VCHC President: Dr. Jack Trammell  
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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.

# 2013 CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Friday, April 12

**12:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

**RECEPTION & REGISTRATION**

**CE-Atrium**

Each registrant will receive their badge, conference materials, and gift. Fruit, cheese, and a selection of desserts from Apple Spice Junction will be served during registration.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center**

A short drive from the NVCC-Annandale campus near Washington Dulles Airport is the companion facility to the Air and Space Museum on the National Mall. The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center displays thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including the space shuttle *Discovery* and the *Enola Gay*.

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**OPENING SESSION**

**CE-Forum**

The conference will open with a welcome from the VCHC officers, and the Northern Virginia Community College Honors faculty. The opening session will feature keynote speaker, Rebecca Kamen.

**6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

**DINNER**

**CE-Forum**

Dinner is being catered by Bittersweet Café and Bakery. Dinner will consist of mesclun salad, Chicken a la Crema, Portobello Mushroom Stacks, Seafood & Vegetable Brochettes, herb wild rice, and assorted cookies and desserts.

**8:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**EVENING ACTIVITY**

**CE-Forum**

Student Game Night Social! This will be an opportunity for students to gather and build contacts with Honors Students from across the Commonwealth. Snacks and drinks will be provided along with friendships that can last a lifetime

## Saturday, April 13

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**

**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

**CE-Forum & CE-Seminar Room A-B**

An assortment of pastries and fruit from Bittersweet Café and Bakery will be available before our opening session. We encourage you to take advantage of the full breakfast that is offered at the hotel as well.

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

**FACULTY MEETING**

**CE-Seminar Room C-D**

Organizational meeting to assign judges and go over judging criteria.

**9:00 am – 9:10 am**  
**OPENING SESSION** **CE-Forum**  
Welcome and overview of the conference.

**9:10am – 9:40 am**  
**PRESENTATION SESSION 1** **CE-Forum**  
Artistic presentations.

**9:45 am – 11:15 am**  
**PRESENTATION SESSION 2** **CN-120, 121, 123, 124, 125, 127**  
Group and Individual presentations will be held in scheduled rooms.

**11:15 am – 11:45 pm**  
**PRESENTATION SESSION 3** **CE-Seminar Room A-B**  
Poster presentations

**11:50 am – 12:50 pm**  
**PRESENTATION SESSION 4** **CN-120, 121, 123, 124, 125**  
Individual presentations will be held in scheduled rooms.

**1:00 pm – 2:10 pm**  
**FACULTY MEETING & LUNCH** **CE-Seminar Room C-D**  
**STUDENT MEETING & LUNCH** **CE-Forum**  
Business meeting and election preparation

Deluxe Box Lunch (sandwich, side salad, chips, pickle, cookie, mint) catered by Apple Spice Junction.

**2:15 pm – 3:15 pm**  
**PRESENTATION SESSION 5** **CN-120, 121, 123, 124, 125**  
Individual presentations will be held in scheduled rooms.

**3:20 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**FACULTY MEETING** **CE-Seminar Room C-D**  
**STUDENT ELECTIONS & DISCUSSION** **CE-Forum**  
Honors Students will discuss the advantages of being an honors student, and how to get the most out of an honors education.

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**CLOSING SESSION** **CE-Forum**  
During this time, announcements will be made, prizes will be awarded to top presenters in each presentation category, and new officers will be announced.

# 2013 VCHC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

## ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Session 1                      9:10 – 9:40 am                      CE-Forum

**9:10 am                      The Old Tradition Made New: The Art of Spoken Word**

Lydia Freeman, Bluefield College

Before the age of the printing press, when books were rare and hard to come by, people spoke their stories. The Canterbury Tales were stories swapped by travelers, and Beowulf was first spoken around a campfire. As books became easily made, the written word overtook the spoken stories - and something beautiful was lost. For as words are spoken, rhythms emerge and new life is breathed through the syllables.

My presentation involves the recitation of original poetry written to be spoken rather than to be read; written to restore the power of a single voice breaking the silence.

**9:25 am                      Born to be Wilde**

Amie Pickeral, Danville Community College

Praises abounded for Oscar Wilde in the 19th century. Audiences found his wit amusing, his personality charismatic, and his literary works superb. With a lovely wife and two delightful sons, the acclaimed writer seemed to have the perfect family. The only thing missing, Mr. Wilde discovered, was the affection of another man. He began courting Lord Alfred Douglas, the son of a cruel, powerful nobleman. Both society and Douglas's father frowned upon homosexuality, and the relationship ultimately resulted in Oscar Wilde's downfall. Unfortunately, the public's support for Mr. Wilde did not continue following the infamous Trials of 1895, when they learned that their beloved writer was of the homosexual orientation. Join Amie Pickeral alongside a recognizable cast including interviews from Oscar Wilde, Solicitor-General Frank Lockwood, and others in this brief study of a man who chose to create art, simply for art's sake

## **GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

Presentation Session 2

9:45 am – 11:15 am

CN-127

### **9:45 am                      Dying Languages – More than just a dialect**

Lyons Sanchezconcha and Maxine Karp, Northern Virginia Community College

Languages all over the world are becoming extinct at an unimaginable rate. For every lost language, there is lost culture, history, and belief system. As time passes, certain knowledge becomes more important and more valuable, and certain languages are spoken less and disappearing for many reasons. It is crucial to preserve everything that we once valued to understand how humans got to where we are. This presentation will demonstrate what linguists and can do now to preserve these important pieces of the past to benefit, and enable the understanding of future generations.

### **10:15 am                      The Common Route of Memory-Robbing Diseases**

Keevin Hood , Myesha Martin, and Daneilla Gotschin, Norfolk State University

For centuries memory diseases such as dementia have afflicted mankind, but today's longer lifespans mean more sufferers than ever. Dementia affects us as individuals, especially when it strikes our loved ones. But it also burdens the whole community with its terrible costs for treatment and care. It is commonly seen in the aging as it robs persons of their short-term and long-term memories. Dementia is something that we can ameliorate with medicine and therapy but we cannot stop its progress permanently. It has become a part of human life that we must seek to better understand.

### **10:45 am                      Comparing and contrasting the differences between modern day slavery and historical slavery**

Razan Mahgoub and DeDe DeDe, Northern Virginia Community College

206 years ago, the Slave Trade Act was signed, abolishing the transatlantic slave trade, 150 years ago the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln abolishing slavery in the U.S. Slavery was also recently prohibited by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1956 UN Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery. However, to this day over 21 million women, men, and children, in more than 161 countries are trapped in slavery. Statistics have shown that there are more people held in slavery today, than during the height of the transatlantic slave trade. At the height of this civilization as we know it, it is shocking to see such a malicious and taboo practice affecting much of our world's population. Today, we will be addressing the often under reported issue of modern day slavery, as well as comparing and contrasting it to historic slavery.



## INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Session 2

9:50 am – 11:10 am

CN-120

**9:50 am**

**The Gender Issues in Memorialization –  
Where are the statues of notable Civil Rights era women?**

Evita Lucey, Norfolk State University

The Civil Rights era will always be an important part of United States history. A plethora of prominent people have been recognized for their notable conduct during this era, but many remarkable women have been left out. This presentation will analyze the gender issues in memorialization with a special focus on Virginia women of the civil rights era such as the newly memorialized (in a statue) Barbara Johns of Moton High School walkout.

**10:10 am**

**Representation of Women in Shakespeare's works**

Kerri-Leanne Taylor, Virginia Wesleyan College

Tudor England was a man's world. Mankind reigned supreme, and women were simply men's inferior, imperfect counterparts. Scholars have long studied documents pertaining to the practices and beliefs during the English renaissance, revealing the female standards of the time period. Women were to be seen, not heard; controlled, never free; and property, rather than conscious, able beings. However, some figures challenged the discrepancies between the sexes, including the famous poet and playwright William Shakespeare. A great pioneer of the Tudor world, not only in literary terms, Shakespeare was a devout activist for feminism; an overarching, yet subtle admiration of the female sex is apparent in a great deal of his works. Moreover, Shakespeare's revolutionary thinking, or simply the courage to profess it via the stage, aided in transforming the previously misogynistic interpretation of women into a more balanced view of the sexes.

**10:30 am    The Use of Afghan Women in Military Propaganda and its Effects**

Anam Asif, George Mason University

For almost half a century, Afghanistan has been ravaged by conflict. As is often the case, the most vulnerable in society bear the brunt of the violence. Likewise, in Afghanistan, the wars have had a substantial impact on the women and children in the country. The violence continues today as Afghanistan is the primary battleground of the United States' War on Terror. As a tactic to gain support for the war on the home front, and to deflect attention from previous shortfalls the military operation had suffered, the United States manipulated the image of the Afghan woman through military propaganda. By portraying the Afghan woman as an oppressed victim the military was given a new symbol underneath which it could launch a propaganda campaign which appeals to the patriarchal hierarchy of the military to be used to justify their involvement in the country and the surrounding region.

**10:50 am**

**Gender Differences in Lifting Technique**

Kelsey Shelton, Lynchburg College

Executing a proper lifting technique is essential to maintaining a safe work force environment and females appear to be at a greater risk of injury. The purpose of this study was to determine if there was a difference in lifting techniques between males and females and to test the accuracy of a hip and knee angle ratio in determining the lifting technique. Twenty - nine subjects (mean age  $21 \pm 1$  years) lifted a twenty-five pound box from the floor to waist height. Kinematic analyses was performed using a C-motion six camera infrared system. No significant difference was found between males and females, but the mean overall ratio indicated that the majority used a semi-squat technique. The correlation between a visual interpretation and the ratio calculation was 0.52. Lifting technique does not appear to place females at greater risk. Therefore, it is appropriate to educate genders similarly in lifting techniques.

**9:50 am                    The Meaning Behind the 9/11 Memorials**

Myita Davis, Norfolk State University

Memorials are created to preserve remembrance. The 9/11 attacks on September 11, 2001, were so devastating that there have been several memorials built in memory of the lives lost. The national September 11 memorial in New York City is a tribute to the nearly 3,000 people killed at the World Trade Center site. There is also the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania to remember the 40 lives that were taken in the hijacking of United Airlines flight 93. Lastly there is the Pentagon Memorial which captures the moment when 84 lives became intertwined with eternity. This presentation compares and contrasts the three main 9/11 monuments.

**10:10 am            Regulation of Soviet Symphonies: Stalin's Nationalistic Approach**

Rachel Agnello, George Mason University

In my musical analyses, I focus on the folk and Russian orthodox elements of Shostakovich's fifth and seventh symphonies. In Shostakovich's time, composers were required by Stalin's regime to include these nationalistic elements in their music. This was because Stalin was trying to use Russian nationalism to create a Soviet identity. The nationalistic elements in Shostakovich's symphonies yield insight into Stalin's strategy for modernizing the Soviet Union - they show that he believed a strong sense of unity was the key to modernizing. My analyses also show that he believed that the unification of the Soviet Union was more important than the ideals of communism, given that many of the Russian musical elements he advocated had religious meaning.

**10:30 am            The Global Significance of Tombs for Unknown Soldiers**

Dallas Ellis, Norfolk State University

For centuries, war has been a seemingly inevitable means to either advance or protect the beliefs and self-interests of nations. But war comes at the expense of priceless human life, a fact often taken for granted. This presentation examines the various means cultures have of memorializing their war dead – especially those whose remains cannot be identified.

**10:50 am            A Comparison between Yoruba Dance and Hip Hop**

Saudia McCarley, Hampton University

The Yoruba tribe is a tribe originating in the West African country of Nigeria. It is well known that many African-Americans have roots in West Africa. Furthermore, Hip Hop dance has become a vital component of African American culture. With comparing Yoruba with Hip Hop, there are common trends possibly due to Hip Hop dance having roots in Yoruba tribal dance.

**9:50 am The Stanley Miller Experiment: Looking Glass Into the Origins of Life**

Joseph Giacolone, George Mason University

The question of how life originated on Earth has been pondered by poets and philosophers, scientists and theologians throughout the centuries. That inquiry, driven by the human desire to understand the natural world, is central to comprehending who we are. Yet, for a question so universal and all-encompassing, its resolution seems impossible. In 1953, Stanley Miller, a young graduate student at the University of Chicago, hoped to change that. He developed an experiment that attempted to answer the question of how life formed on the primitive Earth three and a half billion years ago. This presentation will focus on that seminal study in the story of modern science: The Stanley Miller-Harold Urey experiment. Its conclusions generated an explosion of interest in early life studies as well as catalyzing a firestorm of criticism for its assumptions, methods, and implications. However, through a half-century of examination, the fundamental significance of the Miller-Urey experiment has stood the test of time as a looking glass into the origins of life.

**10:10 am The Effects of Convective Cooling on Aerobic Performance**

Brynn Workman, Lynchburg College

In current research, there is much emphasis on the direct relationship between thermal load and dehydration, two known physiological inhibitors of aerobic performance. When an individual is exercising in an environment that does not accommodate thermoregulation through sweat evaporation, thermal load rises dramatically; thus, increasing the thermal strain on the internal environment, as well as augmenting the rate of dehydration. Analysis of performance with and without convective cooling may help determine if the presence of a convective current facilitates improved aerobic performance, less thermal strain, and greater maintenance of hydration during the exercise bout.

**10:30 am Bugs, Biomimetics, and the Insect Respiratory System**

Winston Becker, Virginia Tech

Biomimetic design is developing into a leading paradigm for the engineering of novel devices and systems. One attractive source for biomimetic research is insects, which are capable of performing a wide range of actions by utilizing their unique constituent materials and structures. The insect respiratory system, for example, employs an extensive network of tracheal tubes to effectively transport fluids on the micro-scale to every cell of the body. This amazing fluid transport system may provide a source of bio-inspiration to overcome problems in tissue engineering and microfluidics. In this study, the first mechanical tests aimed at quantifying the variation in the mechanical properties of insect tracheal tubes were conducted. A new tensile testing device was designed to measure the ultimate tensile strength, ultimate strain, elastic modulus, and toughness of ring sections extracted from the tracheal tubes of American Cockroaches.

**10:50 am**

**Stem Cell Research From a Different Angle**

Amanda Gingras, Northern Virginia Community College

My presentation will focus on the ethical and moral dilemma of embryonic stem cell research while offering and supporting the adult stem cell alternative. I will look at the moral and ethical implications in the harvesting procedures, the legal issues that arise, and the clinical uses of both forms of research. My stance on this argument is that adult stem cell research is the more promising type of research both clinically and ethically. It is important for students to be informed about the types of decisions that we are facing in research, and I would like to begin by sharing what I have learned.

**9:50 am                      Social Enterprise and the Alleviation of Poverty**

Jon Koehmstedt, Northern Virginia Community College

There is a movement in the business world around the concept of social enterprise, the idea that economic value and social good go hand in hand. The United Nations hit the bull's-eye in their recent report to third world nations titled Social Enterprise: A New Model for Poverty Reduction and Employment Generation, "the role of social enterprises is considered of utmost importance for the transformation of the economic and welfare systems." Social enterprise has the ability to alleviate social issues while creating economic value. If governing bodies will allow the formation of social enterprises by creating appropriate incentives, as recommended by the UN, social enterprise can alleviate a vast array of society problems including poverty.

**10:10 am The Resource Dilemma: Sustainability Challenges for the 21st Century**

Kelly Floro, George Mason University

As our civilization moves into the twenty-first century, we will increasingly be faced with a concrete reality: human populations continue to grow, while amounts of water, arable land, and other basic commodities remain finite. Our sustainability, or societal longevity, is no longer something we can take for granted. From now on, we should make it a priority to develop a model for sustainable resource use that maximizes consumption efficiency on the one hand, while expanding reliance on more easily renewable resources like solar energy on the other. A push for more scientific and technological development will be a large and necessary step in this process, but that alone will be insufficient. In this presentation, I will outline what I believe to be the major economic, policymaking, and cultural decisions, in terms of attitudes and approaches to resource allocation, which will shape the course of sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

**10:30 am                      Creating a Social Venture**

Riddick Amber, Hampton University

My passion for non-for-profits working to accomplish the MDGs flourished from two experiences this academic semester. My first was my attendance at the 2013 Youth Assembly at the United Nations. The purpose of the conference was to encourage youth involvement to accomplish the MDGs through social ventures and non-for-profits organizations. My second endeavor was an opportunity that was created through my experience at the United Nations. There my group and I met the VP of Microsoft. She was so impressed with us we were invited us to the Microsoft Innovate for Good Conference in DC the following week. While there my social venture was chosen among nine others to be sponsored and supported by Microsoft. My topic was to combat human sex trafficking. It was there at that conference that I learned how to start a social venture.

**9:50 am****No Turning Back:****How George W. Bush Broke the Libertarian-Conservative Alliance**

Matthew Guse, George Mason University

Especially in recent years, the term libertarian has become popular in conversations about politics. It often seems to be associated with the Republican Party or labeled a right-wing ideology. Though this is, by most modern ideological measures, incorrect (right-wing ideologies support economic freedom and social regulation, whereas libertarianism embraces greater freedom in both areas), the fact that this perception exists in America today speaks volumes. Indeed, a libertarian-conservative alliance has long been a defining feature of the Republican Party in the United States, but since at least the 1970s, growing tension between the two factions has caused concern about the future of the alliance. More recently, the policies of the George W. Bush Administration, especially Bush's hallmark policy of compassionate conservatism, have caused a vast amount of tension between the two factions. Ultimately, they have set in motion the ending of the libertarian-conservative alliance.

**10:10 am****Run Her Down!:****The CSS Tennessee and the Battle of Mobile Bay, 1864**

Megan Willmes, Northern Virginia Community College

Mobile, Alabama, in 1864 stood fast as the last major Confederate port in the Gulf of Mexico. With a calmness that belied the swirling chaos of battle all around him, Admiral David Farragut famously ordered his ships to, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!". The battle would decide not only the completion of the blockade, but Lincoln's re-election bid itself.

**10:30 am****The Ideological Realignment of the Southern States**

Orry Hatcher, Lynchburg College

The realignment of the former 'Solid South', the greatest Democratic Party stronghold in the United States, to an area increasingly dominated by the Republican Party is a well-documented phenomenon in United States politics. While the significance and scope of Southern realignment is widely acknowledged, some debate exists on the underlying causes of the realignment. Among the most common explanations are those based on racial explanations, specifically the role of civil rights legislation and the subsequent alienation of the Southern wing of the Democratic Party. There is a smaller –and typically more recent– body of literature that posits a larger set of explanations that includes economics, religion, and moral values/issues as the underlying causes of the Southern realignment. There is little agreement on which of these categories is the most significant of the possible causes. This study finds that testing this larger set of explanations yields results suggesting that economic and religious considerations may be the strongest predictors of vote choice in the south, and that these predictors of voting behavior have been getting stronger over time.

**10:50 am**

**Spoiler Alert**

Ben Mertens, George Mason University

In 1992, H. Ross Perot ran one the most successful third party presidential campaigns in history, finishing with 19% of the vote against President George H.W. Bush and Governor Bill Clinton. Republicans, including President Bush, would blame Perot for their defeat, charging he was a “spoiler” who cost them the election, while others argued Perot took more votes from Clinton, or drew evenly from the other candidates. Ultimately, the evidence suggests that Perot took more votes from Clinton than Bush, and absent Perot’s candidacy, Clinton still would have won. In this election, at least, there was no spoiler effect.



**11:50 am Religion as a Function of Humanity's Search for Meaning**

Amelia Charles, Bluefield College

A psychological examination of religion's functional role in humanity's search for meaning.

**12:10 pm Psychology, Memory, and the Triggers for Reliving Trauma**

Keyiara Childs, Norfolk State University

Memories of trauma have affected people throughout history, sometimes even victimizing the next generation of individuals. This presentation concerns the process whereby experiences in the present stimulate traumatic memories (as in post-traumatic stress syndrome). Verbal triggers of traumatic memories will be a particular focus.

**12:30 pm Looking In the Victoria's Secret Mirror**

Tony Otero, Northern Virginia Community College

I would like to read an essay about the effects of socially constructed ideas of beauty on the teenage mind and self-esteem. Society's praise on a unified belief that beauty is skinny, tall, big chested, tan, and practically an impossible body figure to accomplish has greatly affected teenagers more than any other age group. I plan on presenting this by reading an essay I will write by doing research in the fields of psychology and sociology. The effects of socially constructed ideas of beauty on teenagers is important because there has been a significant increase in anorexia, bulimia, body dysmorphic disorder, and depression that have been linked to low self-esteem brought on by the mass media and advertisements by fashion magazines, models and stores such as Victoria's Secret.

**11:50 am**                      **Contemporary Text and Evolving Genre:  
A Critical Analysis of First-Person Shooter Genre Innovation in the Video Game Bioshock**

Kenley Hoover, Lynchburg College

Video games have become a behemoth of a contemporary medium. Despite its youth, the video game industry has already proven its capacity for developing games with complex, dynamic narratives. Over the past three decades, gaming technology has become increasingly advanced, and narratives have grown significantly in their depth. By extension, gaming genres have had to frequently adapt to keep up. Even genres created at the impetus of the medium have started to become obsolete. Genre innovation and blending is now quite commonplace. As a result, genre taxonomies are a tangled mess of terms, categories, and sub-categories. Therefore, contemporary video games require a much more fluid understanding of and approach to genre. This study seeks to demonstrate how modern games, such as the 2007 critical hit Bioshock, are combining and transcending traditional video game genres to create entirely new and entertaining experiences.

**12:10 pm**                      **Canvas & Camera**

Susanna Schuch, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus

Cinema and the visual arts have always had a complex, sometimes problematic, yet often mutually beneficial dialogue. For my Honors Project in Fall 2012 for the class HUM 295 (“History of American Cinema”, instructor Prof. Waetjen) I created the website “canvas and camera” - <https://sites.google.com/site/canvasandcamera/> - to show this intertwined connection in word and image. I produced two short videos which show many examples of various art movements followed by screenshots of the correlating movies as well as short comments to describe the art movement and how it is expressed in the piece of art and in the correlating movies. To make the audio-visual experience even more compelling, I accompanied each video with the appropriate music. Finally I designed a logo to go with the name of the site “canvas and camera” which is supposed to show the connection of visual arts and film.

**12:30 pm**                      **Laughter at a Crime Scene**

Lesley Cole, Averett University Student

Humor is a popular element in many of today’s popular television crime dramas. This project raises the question “Can the humor portrayed by these shows actually translate into real life as a legitimate aspect of the criminal investigation process?” The research consisted of looking into the humor portrayed in this profession on television, investigating what actual crime investigators do and experience, and determining what humor is and what its possible applications in this field are. The evidence demonstrated that humor had legitimate applications since some of the things experienced in this line of work can be difficult to deal with. Humorous interactions, such as joking with a coworker, can be effective coping mechanisms. Therefore the humor shown in crime drama has actual usefulness for real crime investigators.

**11:50 am****Identification and Characterization of  
Novel Intracellular Effectors from *Aspergillus fumigatus***

Kelly Drews, Virginia Tech

A variety of plant and animal pathogens and mutualists rely on the secretion and translation of small proteins to facilitate colonization and infection. Such proteins have yet to be described or identified in *Aspergillus fumigatus* or other medically important fungi. Through the use of comparative genomics we have identified a N-terminal motif conserved between several primary and opportunistic fungal pathogens. Through the use of confocal microscopy and flow cytometry we show this motif mediates translocation of several secreted proteins into human airway epithelial in the absence of the fungus. Entry occurs via binding cell surface phospholipids. This entry mechanism can be blocked using a variety of inhibitors suggesting a novel avenue to target the development of next generation fungal antibiotics. Our findings indicate a novel and potentially paradigm-shifting discovery as this is the first instance of secreted proteins from *A. fumigatus* capable of translocation into human cells.

**12:10 pm****A Dangerous World**

Steven Briggs, Northern Virginia Community College

We live in a dangerous world where death and disaster could fall down upon us at any moment. The dangers we face are not only from our fellow human beings but also from the very world around us. Not only do we have to be wary of nukes, bioweapons guns, and terrorists, we also have to worry about tsunamis, earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, and the sun itself. Unlike the other disasters that manly take out our physical infrastructure, the sun can hit us with electromagnetic waves which could knock-out our electronics and prevent use from fixing or preventing damages from other disasters. As well as do tons of damage itself. Not only to our ability to respond but also to are ability to communicate with people and prevent them from doing more damage and slowing the recovery. While some cannot be easily prevented we should try to prevent what disasters we can.

**12:30 pm PANDAS: The Bridge Between Strep, OCD, and Tourette's Syndrome**

Jordan Brown, George Mason University

PANDAS, pediatric acute neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcus infection, is a relatively new hypothesis suggesting that there is some connection between the presence of Group A streptococcus (GAS) bacteria and sudden onset Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Tourette's Syndrome symptoms. Proposed by Dr. Swedo and her colleagues in 1997, this diagnostic hypothesis has sparked much controversy in the medical community. However, as new research shows to support the existence of a connection between strep and OCD/Tourette's symptoms, more doctors have come around to supporting Dr. Swedo's original hypothesis. By closely examining a similar syndrome, Syndenham's chorea, and carefully analyzing the evidence produced by both sides of the controversy over PANDAS, it can be concluded that there must be some connection between presence of GAS bacteria in the body and a neuropsychiatric response.

**11:50 am Charter Cities: Consumerism or Colonialism?**

Amy Handlan, George Mason University

Why is there a gap between rich and poor countries? Is it possible to shrink this gap? Economists and politicians seek to answer questions like these on a daily basis. In Honduras, the government and supporters are working towards a solution to their country's disparity. With initial cooperation for economist Paul Romer, Honduras is building a charter city. Paul Romer's charter city theory is where foreign countries with successful economies create and run economic institutions in a portion of land in an economically unsuccessful country. Honduras is trying to work with this theory to create a Special Development Region, known commonly by its Spanish acronym RED, with the assistance of Canada and Mauritius. There is controversy on the morality of charter cities; some claiming it is a form of neo-colonialism. Whether the RED is a success or not, the ramifications could change the world's approach to international economics.

**12:10 pm City Hall of the Present, Slave Market of the Past**

Diane Brame, Norfolk State University

In many southern cities including Norfolk, city hall is not far from where slaves were once sold and exchanged. Although some people are aware of this shameful history, many others are not. This presentation delves into the reasons why this aspect of American history is frequently hidden, and the possible benefits of bringing it to light.

**12:30 pm An Immodest Proposal: Prostitution and Legalization in the U.S.**

Megan DeRosa, Northern Virginia Community College

Long considered the world's oldest profession, prostitution is an issue that is frequently overlooked, or addressed in vague bits and pieces until it can again be pushed under the rug to be hidden with the rest of our "dirty laundry." Prostitution is defined as the "practice of engaging in sexual activity, usually with individuals other than a spouse or friend, in exchange for immediate payment in money or other valuables". Legal status changes from country to country, and, while perfectly legal in New Zealand, it is illegal in forty-nine out of fifty U.S. states. This is an absurdity that needs to change, the United States needs to recognize prostitution, legalize, and regulate it.

**11:50 am Historically Black Colleges and Universities as Memorial Sites of History**

Tanzania Trout, Norfolk State University

Memorials are often seen as glorifying aspects of life that are no longer applicable but simply need to be remembered by future examiners of the past. But the living history of African American struggle embodied in America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities is the reason why no matter how much progress is made in the US, HBCU's should remain as a reminder of what once was. Education is needed for Americans' pursuit of happiness, and no human ever deserved (or deserves now) to be deprived of knowledge.

**12:10 pm "In God We Trust" – An Examination of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America and Their Christian Values**

Owen Hayden, Averett University

The history of the Founding Fathers and their Judeo-Christian values is fiercely debated between historians and scholars. Through the examination of their personal documents, volumes of correspondence, professional works, biographies, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other historical works written during and after the Founding Era it is clear and conclusive how the majority of the Founding Fathers were devout Christians. They lived out their faith through their actions, seeking to implement their religion in the development of the United States of America.

**12:30 pm Remembering America's Historical Milestones**

Brittany McCoy, Norfolk State University

American history is remembered differently by each ethnic group existing in the United States today. During the Pre-Columbian and early colonial era, Native Americans and Europeans had very different views of the land we now call the US. Similarly, the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence (in 1976) and the Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation (this year) memorialized important changes in America but have been interpreted differently. Commemorations of the nation's milestones are essential, but fully comprehending these events may be impossible.

**2:15 pm****Tears and Triumphs From Our Past:  
Reestablishing the Cultural Identity of African Americans**

Andre Christian, Norfolk State University

Enriching collective memory is one means African Americans use in their quest to preserve history and to socialize their children. This research presentation explores African Americans' current collective memory of the Civil Rights Movement, with a view to understanding how different people in different generations pass on vital cultural knowledge. Implications can be drawn from this research that is pertinent in the healing process of story-telling, narrative analysis and introspection for social workers and other community partners who are uplifting those vulnerable populations.

**2:35 pm****Sharing Ancient Myths in the Modern World**

Chloé Benner, Virginia Tech

This project involves educating children about mythology. Myths can be teaching tools for discussion about empathy, problem solving, appreciation of diversity and history, emotional intelligence, and other significant concepts. Myths are stories that represent psychological patterns people experience as they try to understand their relationship to something beyond themselves. They are time-tested attempts to navigate complex interactions common to the human experience, condensed into a story form that takes vast and abstract issues and translates them into an easy to grasp context. Thus, myths are a perfect vehicle for helping children start to consider big questions. I will construct “crankies” (moving panoramas) with elementary school students that feature myths, and encourage their involvement with visual art to make the crankie, as well as their participation in creating musical accompaniment. I believe the integration of knowledge of myths and participation in the arts is of lasting benefit to children.

**2:55 pm****The Dangers of Holocaust Denial**

Marilyn Matthews, Norfolk State University

Denial of the Holocaust is an outrageous, falsified belief that is most often held by people with dangerous mindsets. The real problem is that such people may be capable of following up their mistaken thoughts with dangerous actions. One needs to place a special focus on Iran and the other countries that deny the bitter truth of Jewish collective memory. One finds that these nations and renowned people use anti-Semitism to create a common enemy, seeking to conceal their bitterness, hatred, and conspiracy.

**2:15 pm      Memory Manifest in Film: The Preservation of World War II**

Alexander Parker, Norfolk State University

World War II films often depict traumatic memories, capturing a slice of individual and collective memory that is most relevant to a certain group. This presentation will focus on three film memorializations: *Grave of the Fireflies* (a 1988 Japanese animated film), *Saving Private Ryan* (Spielberg's 1998 depiction of D Day and its aftermath), and *The Pianist* (a 2002 film recalling the terrifying experiences of a Jewish musician in hiding from the Nazis).

**2:35 pm      Early American Landscape in the Eyes of Three American Authors**

Matthew Lamb, Northern Virginia Community College

Life in America from the 17th century to the early 19th century is portrayed in the writings of many American writers. Each writer makes a distinct and valuable contribution in shaping contemporary understanding of the American landscape during the nation's formative years. This essay examines the works of several prominent early American writers such as William Bradford, Anne Bradstreet, George Washington Irving, Thomas Jefferson, J. Hector St. John Crevecoeur with regards to their portrayal of the American landscape. These writings reveal less of what the American landscape was but more the writers' vision of what the American landscape could be and should be. At least three trends characterize early American writings—the urge to construct a divine landscape that consolidates the Puritan tradition of religion; the attempt to locate an American landscape that centralizes European values, customs, and cultures; and the passion for a sublime landscape that conveys patriotic sentiments.

**2:55 pm      Benito Cereno: Puppet or Puppet Master**

Judellia Cole, Norfolk State University

Herman Melville's *Benito Cereno* is the only work of the author that directly deals with slavery. Based on the same historical passage that inspired the motion picture *Amistad*, the novel centers around Benito, a slave ship captain who is seemingly more sympathetic than authoritative. Tended to by his servant Babo, Cereno praises and acclaims his young prodigy for keeping the peace during the difficult transit. Melville's juxtaposition of a strong, authoritative white male being supported by and paying homage to a lesser class black servant sparks the controversial dialectic of race relations well before its time. The work has raised the question as to whether or not slavery was justified and according to some serves as verification for the practice. After analyzing and researching the work I have concluded that in fact the abstract, yet intimate nature of the work is a humanistic approach in the style of true American transcendentalism to bridging racial divides and healing self-inflicted societal wounds. I support this in detail in a fifteen page research paper dissecting the literary meaning of the piece and its impact on society at large. I used my paper for the basis for my oral presentation of the work.

**2:15 pm****Transtibial Prostheses:****The Most Effective Prosthetic Foot for a Preteen**

Roshni Malik, Virginia Commonwealth University

The primary focus of this paper is to compare the efficiency of the Vari-Flex, Multiflex, and S.A.C.H. in order to design a prosthetic foot in a transtibial prosthetic for a preteen (10-12 years old). Preteens are constantly under body image pressure. When designing an efficient prosthetic foot for a preteen emphasis was placed on the appearance of the foot in addition to its performance. Energy storing prostheses like the Vari-Flex, in comparison to the conventional Multiflex and S.A.C.H., allow for more ankle dorsiflexion and therefore more speed when running. Energy storing prostheses in general have a greater ankle push-off which also ensures faster speed and lower oxygen consumption. The low mass of the Vari-Flex allows the user to use it longer with less fatigue. The appearance of the S.A.C.H. foot makes it more natural looking especially for a preteen. The ankle of the Vari-Flex will be used in combination with elements of the S.A.C.H. and Multiflex prostheses to make an efficient, yet natural looking prosthetic for a preteen.

Based upon psychological analysis of a preteen's desire to "fit-in", a major goal of this analysis was to design a foot which appeared to be more biological, yet still have the benefits of a more bionic-looking prosthetic.

**2:35 pm****Controversy Over the Diagnosis of PTSD in War Veterans**

Alexandra Pool, George Mason University

Post-traumatic stress disorder in war veterans is, if not an increasingly prevalent issue, an increasingly evident issue in the medical field since its identification within the past half a century. As a subjectively diagnosed psychiatric disorder, the continuing question of certitude in diagnosis is reflective of the question of the existence and nature of the disorder that has characterized its study and diagnosis since before its publication. Although the original process of identifying and defining PTSD was slow and arduous, progress in the research and definition of the disorder has been achieved at an increasingly rapid rate over the past few decades. In the current climate of new war, it remains imperative (if not becomes more so) for research to continue and to focus on recent data.

**2:55 pm****Why am I behaving this way?****A Patient's Perspective on Alzheimer's Disease**

Cheryl Cherry, Norfolk State University

Approximately 4,000,000 people have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Although it is the very nature of Alzheimer's to rob its victims of the power of clear speech and thought, this presentation will attempt to study the victim's perspective on his/her destruction using two films: the somewhat romanticized movie *The Notebook* (2004) and the far more realistic *Amour* (2012).



**2:15 pm      Terrorism and Drug Prices: Does a Drug-Terror Nexus Exist?**

Abigail Burnette, Lynchburg College

Since the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, global counterterrorism policies have increasingly targeted reducing terrorist financing. These increased financial counterterrorism regulations have diverted the traditional sources and methods of terrorist funding, including illicit drug revenue streams. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the relationship between terrorist events (both domestic and transnational) and the price of heroin, an illicit drug. Using regression analysis, I find that the correlation between the annual U.S. price of heroin and domestic and transnational terrorist events is statistically significant, suggesting that future counterterrorism policies should continue including counter narcotic policies.

**2:35 pm      Globalization of Food Corporations**

Khushboo Bhatia, George Mason University

In order for food corporations to be successful in the globalization movement, corporations must localize themselves. This process of localization works so that these corporations adapt to culture-specific qualities, enabling the corporation to find common ground with the consumers and generate revenue. A primary example of this process is McDonald's entrance into the Indian market after it was freed in 1991. The McDonald's corporation did thorough research of the Indian market and India's consumer culture before entering in the market; as a result McDonald's was successfully able to integrate itself into the Indian market. Kellogg's and Coca-Cola both failed to take these steps when first entering the Indian market; however, as a result of changing their marketing strategies in order to localize, both the corporations bounced back on top. Thus, to successfully globalize, it is vital for food corporations to successfully localize.

**2:55 pm      To what extent are trade and economics in our society interrelated with the spread of invasive species in our environment, and what moral and ethical responsibilities do we have to our environment on the subject of trade of invasive plants?**

Robert Wallace, Northern Virginia Community College

The purpose of this paper is to examine to what extent trade and economics in our society are interrelated with the spread of invasive plant species in our environment, and to question what moral and ethical responsibilities we have to the environment on the subject of trade. Invasive plant species are a serious threat to the environment and are often overlooked by many people. This paper explains what invasive plants are and illustrates the relationship between international trade and the spread of invasive plants. This paper also brings into focus differing views on invasive plants, both positive and negative, for the purpose of showing how the spread of invasive plants are controversial issue with more than one perspective.

**2:15 pm****The Battle for Jerusalem's Monuments**

Samantha McNeal, Norfolk State University

For generations, there has been an ongoing battle between the Israelis and Arabs because of the fundamental differences within their religions. The anger between these two groups of people is continually reignited over the jurisdiction and control of religious monuments like the Wailing Wall. In each faith, the Wailing Wall is considered to be a sacred site. To the Jews the wall is the remains of the Second Temple which was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. However, Muslims refer to the wall as Al-Buraq and believe it marks the site where Muhammad ascended to the heavens to talk with Allah. As long as the fate of Jerusalem as a whole is in dispute, severe tensions will continue.

**2:35 pm****Genghis Khan and the First Mongol Invasion of the Middle East**

Tyler Weisman, Randolph-Macon College

In 1219, barbarians from Mongolia swept down upon Persia, crushing everything in their path. Led by their powerful leader, Genghis Khan, the Mongols rode into Khwarazm on a mission of vengeance, seeking to punish the Shah who had slaughtered their merchants and executed their ambassadors. Leaving hundreds of thousands dead in their wake, the Mongols branded Persia with desolation. They depopulated and devastated the land by waging a brutal war of extermination against the Persians, burning cities to the ground and massacring the survivors. Before they arrived, the cities ruled by the Khwarazm Shah had been centers of learning, culture, and wealth in Iran. After they had passed over, sometimes not one brick still stood upon the other to mark where the cities had stood. The Mongol invasion dramatically affected the way of life for Persia as the changes they caused affected the region for centuries to come.

**2:55 pm****U.S. Policy Effect on Burmese Refugees and Citizens**

Shavia Westmoreland, Hampton University

The first section of my study will review the conflict and violence within Burma taking place since 1980. The second section of this study will analyze United States refugee policy from 1980 to 1999, focusing on the intake of Burmese refugees. The third section will review U.S. foreign policy responses to the conflict in Burma and its effectiveness. Chapter two will discuss whether or not America's treatment of Burma from 1980 to 1999 was effective in helping the Burmese people receive relief from human rights violations.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Session 3

11:15 am – 11:45 am

CE-Seminar Room A-B

### **Religion and Politics in Cahokia: The Political and Social Dynamics of a Lost Civilization**

Rachel Kenderdine, George Mason University

As one of the largest Native American populations to ever have inhabited North America, the Cahokian people, who once lived near present-day St. Louis, had a complicated hierarchical society based on their religion. This project looks to understand how that religion, one centered around the cosmos, sacrifice, and ritual, affected their social and political dynamics. By studying the roles of the Cahokian chiefs and priests in ritual practices and their control over the landscape of the civilization, I was able to analyze the Cahokian social structure. Accordingly, I found that Cahokians depended on their leaders to maintain religious order and thus maintain a social equilibrium.

### **Effects of the Invasive Cane Toad**

Ashley Palmer, George Mason University

This research considers the role of an organism's niche in its role as an invasive species and the native species it affects using the cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) in Australia as a case study. Several aspects of niche are considered, including habitat use and predator-prey interactions. Several detrimental effects are noted, such as displacement, competition, declines in prey populations, and declines in predator populations due to toxicity. Although some effects of the cane toad's invasion are extreme, most are unnoticeable, and some expected effects are unseen. This observation also leads this research to consider possible explanations of this phenomenon. This research concludes that the Australian ecosystem has adapted to the presence of the cane toad through both phenotypic plasticity and selective adaptation, and approaches the ethical and biological concerns facing cane toad population control.

### **Social Implications of the Iraqi Internal Displacement Crisis**

Samantha Parsons, George Mason University

Approximately 2,750,000 citizens of Iraq have been internally displaced due to armed conflict and continued sectarian violence. Currently, a scholarly debate is taking place in an attempt to explain how past and current violence in Iraq is affecting the social standards throughout the country, focusing on the changing responsibilities of women, the lack of educational opportunities for children, and the limited employment prospects for Iraqi civilians. While this prolonged violence does play a key role in these changing social realities, the purpose of my research is to consider the present internal displacement crisis, along with the inescapable prospects of prolonged integration, as influential forces that are also causing these social changes within the country.

## **The Media of the Mujahids: An Identification of Taliban Characteristics Based on the Products of Their Information Campaign**

Mason Pazhwak, George Mason University

The nations of the western world have long condemned the group known as the Taliban, yet many cannot readily define this infamous organization. Their deeds have been at times good and evil, well intentioned and heinous, logical and illogical, and many things in between. Indeed, they are not so easily categorized. Scholars have approached the problem from various angles with varying levels of success. Yet the products of the information war which the Taliban are currently waging against international forces and the Afghan government remain largely unexamined. The study of the content of this media reveals the repetition of several key central messages, or themes, which reflect the nature of the Taliban's ideology and outlook and how that relates to their past and present behavior. This allows for a much better definition of the Taliban to become possible, opening up many opportunities for engagement and understanding.

## **The Politics of Building a Civil Rights Monument—Of Bills and Commissions**

Tyree Sloan, Norfolk State University

Beginning in 1619, slavery plagued the United States for approximate 250 years. Slaves did not have rights and were treated as property until the 13th Amendment was ratified in 1865. However, this legislation did not end discrimination. Brave men and women of various races fought for equality, often being severely injured or killed in the process. This presentation analyzes the challenging grass-roots, state and national politics involved in honoring Black heroes with public monuments.

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Mahgoub, Razan	Northern Virginia Community College	2	CN-127
Malik, Roshni	Virginia Commonwealth University	5	CN-123
Martin, Myesha	Norfolk State University	2	CN-127
Matthews, Marilyn	Norfolk State University	5	CN-120
McCarley, Saudia	Hampton University	2	CN-121
McCoy, Brittany	Norfolk State University	4	CN-125
McNeal, Samantha	Norfolk State University	5	CN-125
Mertens, Ben	George Mason University	2	CN-125

<b>Presenter name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Presentation Session</b>	<b>Room</b>
Otero, Tony	Northern Virginia Community College	4	CN-120
Palmer, Ashley	George Mason University	3	CE-SEM AB
Parker, Alexander	Norfolk State University	5	CN-121
Parsons, Samantha	George Mason University	3	CE-SEM AB
Pazhwak, Mason	George Mason University	3	CE-SEM AB
Pickeral, Amie	Danville Community College	1	CE Forum
Pool, Alexandra	George Mason University	5	CN-123
Riddick, Amber	Hampton University	2	CN-124
Sanchezconcha, Lyons	Northern Virginia Community College	2	CN-127
Schuch, Susanna	Northern Virginia Community College	4	CN-121
Shelton, elsey	Lynchburg College	2	CN-120
Sloan, Tyree	Norfolk State University	3	CE-SEM AB
Taylor, Kerri-Leanne	Virginia Wesleyan College	2	CN-120
Trout, Tanzania	Norfolk State University	4	CN-125
Wallace, Robert	Northern Virginia Community College	5	CN-124
Weisman, Tyler	Randolph-Macon College	5	CN-125
Westmoreland, Shavia	Hampton University	5	CN-125
Willmes, Megan	Northern Virginia Community College	2	CN-125
Workman, Brynn	Lynchburg College	2	CN-123

## VCHC CONFERENCE: NOTES








**VCHC CONFERENCE: NOTES**


## ROLL CALL

Averett College	Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria
Bluefield College	Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale
Danville Community College	Northern Virginia Community College - Loudoun
George Mason University	Randolph-Macon College
Germanna Community College	State council of Higher Education for Virginia
Hampton University	Virginia Commonwealth University
Lynchburg College	Virginia State University
National Society of Collegiate Scholars	Virginia Tech
Norfolk State University	Virginia Wesleyan College

## 2013 VCHC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Bluefield College	Lydia Freeman, Rob Merritt
George Mason University	Elvira Razzano, Kristin Samuelian
Germanna Community College	Deborah Brock, Shashuna Gray
Lynchburg College	Kelly Sawyer, Alex Cash, Nancy Cowden, Edward DeClair, Katherine Gray
Norfolk State University	De'idra Bynum, Page Laws
Northern Virginia Community College	Jeffrey Young, Stacy Rice, Paul Fitzgerald
Radford University	Joe King
Randolph-Macon College	Jack Trammell
Virginia State University	Daniel Roberts
Virginia Wesleyan College	Mariarosa Marinelli, Elise Myers, Victoria O'Leary, Justina Paproski, Alexis Turner-Lafving, Joyce Easter

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Ms. Charlotte Calobrisi, Dean of Languages and Literature, NOVA Annandale  
Ms. Gabriela Cueva, NOVA Annandale Honors Office  
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