



2016 VCHC Spring Conference

The Magic of Honors

April 15-16, 2016

Lynchburg College

Lynchburg, VA



Lynchburg College



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CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 15, 2016:

- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Opening Session
- 1:30 – 4:20 p.m. Presentation Sessions
- 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Dinner, Keynote Speaker & Evening Social

Saturday, April 16, 2016:

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Morning Social & Poster set up
- 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. Presentation Sessions
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. Professional Development Workshop / Faculty Forum
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch & Faculty / Student Meetings
- 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Presentation Sessions
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Faculty Meeting / Student Forum
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Closing Session and Award Ceremony

CONFERENCE TIPS

Attendance at the conference is part of your overall honors education! As professionals in your chosen field, you will likely have future opportunities to share your expertise with colleagues at professional meetings. Learning and following the “unwritten rules” of conference etiquette is an important part of your professional development. Whether you are a first time attendee, or a veteran of many meetings, **please** review and adhere to the following guidelines. Your cooperation will help create a professional and enjoyable atmosphere for all attendees

1. Arrive on time and stay for the entire session.
2. If you must enter or leave during a session, please refrain from doing so while a speaker is presenting.
3. Silence all cell phones during sessions.
4. Give the speaker your full attention during each presentation.
5. Asking questions at the end of an oral presentation or during a poster presentation is expected and encouraged.
6. Attend as many sessions and activities as possible!

Thank you in advance for being polite and respectful during the VCHC conference.



Dear Honors Students, Faculty, and Administrators,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 Annual Conference of the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC). On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to wish you nothing less than an exhilarating conference as we explore the *Magic of Honors*. This student selected theme is truly emblematic of all that is good and captivating about honors education. The presentations, posters and panel sessions which are scheduled throughout this conference embrace the breadth and excitement that is honors education. I could not be prouder of the innovative research and tireless work that has been completed by our students to prepare for this conference.

An important element of honors education is embedded in service and civic engagement. This year the students from VCHC member campuses met at our fall meeting at James Madison University and committed themselves to raise funds to support the Make A Wish Foundation. Member institutions have, in turn, completed a wide range of fundraising activities for this very worthy cause. The Executive Board continues to be impressed by the ingenuity, dedication and courage shown by our students as they strive to make a difference through service.

Attendance at a VCHC conference is a special and unique opportunity to engage with both students and faculty members who share your thirst and enthusiasm for knowledge. Over the course of the next two days, I encourage you to introduce yourself to as many students and faculty members from as many different colleges and universities as you can. The *Magic of Honors* is experienced in so many different ways across our member institutions. Whether you learn more about how undergraduate research is organized at another institution or about how a fellow student has integrated a study abroad experience into a senior thesis, you will return home richer for the new contacts you have made and emboldened by the new insights you will have gained.

In closing, first- rate conferences such as this are the product of students and faculty members working closely together toward a common goal. I continue to be amazed by the quality of student engagement and faculty commitment to making VCHC such as positive force for honors education in Virginia and West Virginia. A special note of appreciation is due to our hosts at Lynchburg College for organizing such a terrific program and for being so gracious and welcoming. And in closing, let me express my deep appreciation to the members of the Executive Board, and in particular Dr. Joyce Easter, for their dedication to VCHC and our annual conference.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Roberts

VCHC President, 2015-2016

VCHC Executive Committee 2015-2016

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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

2014-2015	Dr. Mary Ann Schmitt, Northern Virginia Community College - Manassas
2013-2014	Dr. Paul Fitzgerald, Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale
2012-2013	Dr. Jack Trammell, Randolph-Macon College
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 - Annandale
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 - Annandale
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 - Annandale
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/>

2015-2016 VCHC President: Dr. Daniel Roberts
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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 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.

2016 CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, April 15

Schewel Hall & Hall Campus Center

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

REGISTRATION

Schewel Hall Lobby

Each registrant will receive their badge, conference materials, and gift.

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

OPENING SESSION

Syndor Performance Hall

The conference will open with a welcome from VCHC faculty and student officers. Dr. Ed DeClair, Director of Lynchburg College Westover Honors Program; Ms. Emily Horton, Fellow, Society of Westover Fellows; and Dr. Sally Selden, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College will welcome the conference participants to Lynchburg College.

1:40 pm – 3:00 pm

PRESENTATION SESSION 1

Schewel Rooms 207, 208, 214, 215, 217

Concurrent oral presentations

3:20 pm – 4:20 pm

PRESENTATION SESSION 2

Schewel Rooms 207, 208, 214, 215, 217

Concurrent oral presentations

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

KEYNOTE & DINNER

Hall Campus Center – Memorial Ballroom

The keynote address *Better Living through Magic? The Role of Fiction in Moral Development* will be presented by Richard Burke. Buffet dinner of seasonal salad, diced fruit, chicken marsala, stuffed portabella with quinoa, pasta primavera, roasted vegetables, baby baked potatoes, and several dessert selections is being catered by Lynchburg College Dining Services.

7:45 pm – 10:00 pm

EVENING ACTIVITY

The Dell

Student social, including the viewing of the motion picture, *The Prestige* on the large screen in The Dell and popcorn.

Saturday, April 11

Schewel Hall

8:00 am – 8:50 am

MORNING SOCIAL & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Schewel Hall Lobby

Drinks (coffee, tea, juice), seasonal fruit, and baked goods (croissants, muffins, and danish) will be available before our opening session.

9:00 am – 9:30 am

PRESENTATION SESSION 3

Syndor Performance Hall

VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year award presentation and address.

9:40 am – 10:50 am

PRESENTATION SESSION 4

Schewel Hall Lobby

Poster presentations

11:00 am – 11:50 am

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Syndor Performance Hall

Everything you wanted to know about interviewing but were afraid to ask presented by Lynchburg College Professor of Communication Studies, Dr. James Roux.

FACULTY FORUM

Schewel Room 231

A faculty panel will lead a discussion on best practices in honors programs.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

STUDENT MEETING

Syndor Performance Hall

Election preparation.

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

LUNCH

Schewel Hall Lobby

Boxed lunch including a sandwich or wrap, whole fruit, bagged chips, fresh baked cookies, and drinks is being catered by Lynchburg College Dining Services.

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

FACULTY MEETING

Schewel Room 231

Business meeting

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

PRESENTATION SESSION 5

Schewel Rooms 207, 208, 214, 215, 217

Concurrent oral presentations

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

FACULTY MEETING

Schewel Room 231

Faculty judges will meet to finalize student awards

STUDENT FORUM

Syndor Performance Hall

Student officers will facilitate elections and an open forum to discuss issues of concern.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

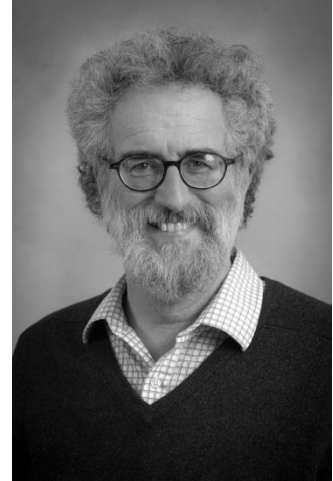
CLOSING SESSION

Syndor Performance Hall

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

2016 VCHC CONFERENCE GUEST PRESENTERS

Dr. Richard C. Burke is the John Franklin East Distinguished Professor of Humanities and a professor of English. He was director of Lynchburg College's Westover Honors Program in the 1990s, and is a Fellow in the LC Teaching and Learning Center. His research interests include cautionary and exemplary tales in early children's literature and death in children's fantasy series. He has lectured at universities in Russia, China, and South Korea.



Originally from New Orleans, **Dr. James Roux** earned a bachelor of science from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana in 1985, an MA in interpersonal and public communication from Bowling Green State University in 1991, and a PhD in interpersonal communication from Bowling Green State University in 1998. He teaches a variety of classes including Interpersonal Communication; Research Methods, Professional and Organizational Communication. He also serves as Director of the nonprofit Leadership Masters Program at Lynchburg College.

2016 VCHC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presentation Session 1

1:40 – 3:00 PM

Room 207

1:40 PM

The Magic Behind Color

Martha Gizaw, Northern Virginia CC - Woodbridge

Extensive research demonstrates why color plays a substantial role in every element of the world. On scientific grounds, there is a “magical” impact behind the phenomenon of color that we should always appreciate. In fact, color can have a substantial influence in our visual experiences when it is being perceived with sight and mind. This presentation will briefly discuss the process where color perception begins with the retina of the eye and then travels from the Ganglion cells to the brain via the optic nerve under the primary visual neuropathway. In addition, research will emphasize the brain’s use of retinal stimuli to generate color perception as well as color psychology as it pertains to emotions, memory, and art therapy; and its overall impact on our health and well-being.

2:00 PM

Tour de France Modeling:

2015 results and comparisons with elite cyclist power data

Chad Hobson, Lynchburg College

For the past dozen years, our research group has been refining a physical model used to predict the winning time for each stage of the Tour de France. Our model is based upon a series of incline planes and incorporates real stage data and cyclist power output, as well as air and rolling resistances. We report on our most recent model modification in which we utilized allometric scaling to adjust our model cyclist’s power output based upon varied rider masses for different stage types. We also provide a comparison between our model and published power data for top level cyclists and recent Tour de France winners such as Chris Froome and Vincenzo Nibali. This juxtaposition showcases not only how well our model predicts stage-winning times, but also the extent to which our model matches reality. We finally report on how our model performed in predicting the winning time for each stage in the 2015 Tour de France.

2:20 PM

Killer Hits: Concussions in the NFL

Hannah Williams, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

My presentation will be focused on the issue of concussions in the NFL, and their debilitating effects on players. The main goal of the presentation will be to inform the audience about the dangers of concussions in professional football players, and how they suffer from these injuries in many ways. I will provide examples of the worst situations involving players affected by concussions, and I will also discuss what the NFL has and hasn’t done to prevent these injuries. I will discuss how the business of the sport, the fans, and the players themselves tie into this urgent topic. I will strive to educate the audience on things they never knew about America’s most popular sport, and what must be done in order to preserve its reputation and the lives of its players.

2:40 PM Physiological Effects of Hiking: A sharp top mountain simulation

Elizabeth Wehr, Lynchburg College

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a close and inviting site to hike for all individuals. Sharp Top Mountain is a 1.5 mile hike that has many visitors each year who are looking to hike for exercise. While hiking is acknowledged as a good form of exercise, few studies have examined physiological differences in fit and less-fit, college-aged individuals. In this study, a simulated treadmill hike of Sharp Top was created, using its elevation profile, and we evaluated individuals' physiological measures using a Polar heart rate monitor, a handheld Lactate Plus machine and a metabolic cart. Subjects were able to change the speed of their exercise as long as they covered the distance and completed the grade changes. The results of physiological measurements on fit and less-fit students were examined. This comparison of these results among the participants may incentivize less-fit individuals to engage in healthy activities like hiking.

1:40 PM**Two Approaches to Drug Addiction**

Hasan Muzaffer, Bluefield College

Ever since the United States declared its "War on Drugs," drug-related crimes have skyrocketed, prisons are now overcrowded with citizens charged with non-violent drug offenses, and the drug trade is as lucrative as ever. The War on Drugs has failed, but a new policy called "Harm Reduction," where addiction is treated as a disease, may finally solve our drug addiction crisis.

2:00 PM The Positive Effects of Recreational Programming on At-Risk Youth

Taylor McIntosh, Virginia Wesleyan College

Funding for recreational programs in impoverished areas is minuscule. Children in these areas often get into trouble because of a lack of things to do. The purpose of this research project is to address if recreational programming is essential to helping at-risk youth. Research shows a strong positive correlation between recreational programs being offered and a reduction in crime, pregnancy and school dropout rates. I will address this by continuing to review scholarly research. Additionally I will be visiting several recreation centers in lower income areas. The centers are in different geographic areas but they have similar populations.

2:20 PM**Depression in Adolescents**

Clair Nguyen, Northern Virginia CC - Manassas

Depression in adolescents is caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. It can affect a teen's social life, academic life, and overall daily function. Teens can turn to drugs, alcohol, and sexual activities to avoid the feeling of depression. This can lead to dangerous risk-taking behavior. A large amount of teenagers with depression go untreated, making depression the third leading cause of death in adolescents.

2:40 PM**The Effects of 9/11: Pediatric PTSD & children in NYC**

Katherine Meyers, Emory & Henry College

This project will focus on the emotional and psychological effects of September 11th, 2001 on children who either witnessed the attacks or who lived close enough to the World Trade Center to either hear, see, or feel the aftermath of the attacks. Due to their increased vulnerability, children who were in close proximity to the attacks suffered from a wide range of age-specific psychological and emotional reactions, and as a result, many suffered from undetected pediatric posttraumatic stress disorder. In those who suffered from posttraumatic stress, it was often brought on or made worse by a parent or caregiver also suffering from symptoms of posttraumatic stress in the time following the attacks. This project will also discuss the way that 9/11 reformed the process of diagnosis of PTSD in children.

1:40 PM**Influences on Inner-City Juvenile Delinquency**

Kamera Langston, Virginia State University

There are now many studies on the causes of juvenile delinquency. Studies have demonstrated that children tend to mimic the language and the actions of those around them (Briggs et. al, 2012). The way children appeal to higher authority also determines delinquent behavior. This topic is now more important than ever because juveniles have more factors than just themselves to blame for their intolerable behavior. Children located in inner-city neighborhoods, specifically those in low income based areas, are more inclined to be influenced by external factors that can contribute to delinquent behavior. The most common factors that attribute to juvenile delinquency are parents, peers, poverty, violent crime, social behaviors, school, gender difference, and possibly race.

2:00 PM**Where Do We Draw the Line: Mentally ill or criminally liable?**

Rachel Alley, Bluefield College

This presentation stems from an interest in a salient issue found in both biological psychology and criminal justice: whether or not the criminal justice system should hold those with a mental illness to the same accountability as those who commit the same crime without a diagnosed mental illness. Throughout the presentation, I plan to describe mental illness and its biological components and the consequences of having a mental illness. I also plan to describe what a criminal is, what biological components are found in common among criminals, and the consequences of committing a crime. I outline treatment options for the mentally ill, what qualifies someone as being able to plead not guilty by reason of insanity, the guidelines the court system has to follow, and the ethical issues associated with mentally ill criminals.

2:20 PM**Is Mercy Ever Justified?****A normative and empirical analysis of parole abolition and reported crime rates**

Melissa Micek, Lynchburg College

Many state parole policies were enacted in the early 1990s, as a response to the public outcry of record-breaking national reported crime rates. Twenty years later, the national reported crime rate has dramatically fallen; however, research is limited if parole abolition correlates with reported crime rates. This paper involves interdisciplinary normative and empirical research of the impact of parole abolition on reported crime rates. The consequentialist moral justifications of parole abolition and time-series regression analysis prove that state policies ought to modernize to more effective and efficient “smart on crime” policies that encompass community-building and hopefully answer the question that mercy is sometimes justified.

2:40 PM

A Justified Punishment:

The examination of North Korean incarceration

Kennedy James, Virginia State University

This presentation will explore the North Korean incarceration system by examining the psychological, physical, social and political effects that it has on its prisoners, citizens and governing body. The reason as to why I chose this topic is because currently, an American college student is being detained in North Korea for committing a “Hostile Act”. I became curious as to how the North Korean government convicts their people (as well as visitors from other nations) of crimes that take place within the country’s borders. Claims that the conditions inside North Korea’s prisons were life-threatening and considered “Human rights volitional facilities” have been repeatedly documented. Ultimately by looking at past events, I seek to uncover the truth behind these supposed claims and answer controversial questions surrounding the governing body entirely.

1:40 PM**It's Not Your Fault, it's Your Gender:
Blame in the workplace as it is attributable to gender**

Dylan Elliott, Lynchburg College

The present study examined gender in the workplace, focusing on the impact of gender in when one fails at their job. Certain occupations have become associated with a particular gender. When one enters into a gender incongruent occupation they may face higher levels of scrutiny. The present study will focus on why certain types of people are given a particular set of attributes in evaluations. The participants were presented a series of vignettes which depict either a male or female on the job (as either a nurse, teacher, CEO, or police officer) in which a significant mistake is made (a patient unexpectedly dying, not being able to reach out and communicate with a student, losing \$100,000, or failing in the line of duty). The results should support the hypothesis that when one is in a gender incongruent occupation, attribution theory puts them at a disadvantage in workplace performance evaluations.

2:00 PM**Student Perceptions of and Gender Differences
in Student Leadership on College Campuses**

Kyle Hodges, Lynchburg College

Developing leadership skills as a student is a critical component of higher education, but all students view leadership in different ways. Some students see leadership in a hierarchical or traditional manner, where those in positions of power make decisions and delegate to those under them. However, a more modern view of leadership considers the transformative model, which is more collaborative and allows all students the opportunity to be a leader. This study surveyed approximately 100 students to examine the perceptions of student leadership by different groups—first-year students, students who identify themselves as student leaders, and students who do not identify themselves as student leaders. In addition, this study looks at gender differences to understand how males and females perceive student leadership in different ways.

2:20 PM

**Ambivalent Sexism, Religiosity, and Perceptions
of College Majors in Christian College Students**

Emily Boyles, Liberty University

This study seeks to determine if college students view certain majors as masculine or feminine and if gender perceptions influence their choice of major and subsequent vocation. The methodology will include analysis of predictive relationship between scores on the Ambivalent Sexism Inventory, the Ambivalence Toward Men Inventory, the Revised Religiosity Inventory, and a scale measuring perceptions of majors as masculine or feminine. A total of 492 Christian college students from a large east coast university have participated in this study by completing an online survey. Based on the university's degree offerings, 24 college majors were selected, and students were asked to rate them as masculine or feminine. The three that were rated the most masculine by the study participants and the three that were rated the most feminine were analyzed, using linear regression to determine if statistical relationships exist between scores on the ambivalent sexism inventory and benevolence toward men inventory and rating the majors as gendered.

2:40 PM

Domestic Violence Affecting Women in Pakistan

Anam Qureshi and Kissa Syeda, Northern Virginia CC - Woodbridge

Despite the current global attention and concern for women recognized at the United Nations, domestic violence is least talked about in Pakistan. The purpose of this research is to bring the issue of domestic violence in Pakistan into the limelight. Domestic violence on women in Pakistan has been a controversial issue since the establishment of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistani women suffer from verbal, emotional/ psychological, and physical abuse. Despite the progress Pakistan has been making in various fields, the mindset of the men and lack of awareness does not halt them from performing this disgraceful act. The essential part of the research is to focus on the causes which provoke men to show their dominance by physical abuse of women.

1:40 PM The Ins and Outs of a Ponzi Scheme: How it works and why it fails, and who are the greedy con artists running them and the unsuspecting victims affected by them

Regina Schicke, Lynchburg College

The Ponzi scheme, a scam investment constructed to detach investors from their money, has been around since before the beginning of the 20th century. Today, Ponzi schemes are quite prevalent and can be quite devastating to their victims leaving many people homeless or in financial ruin. History shows that no one is totally safe from these con artists: Bernie Madoff managed to fool both high profile celebrities and financial leaders. Being an accounting major, this topic allows me to tie in my accounting background with my sense of ethics and morals.

I plan to detail exactly how a Ponzi scheme works, what red flags to be aware of, and what current changes are being made by the SEC and the US Department of Justice to safeguard investors. I hope by covering this topic I can educate the average person and possibly prevent others from falling victim to this crime.

2:00 PM Can You Explain Computers?

Brittany Spivey, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

Our lives are highly dependent on computers—I'm not going to even explain that—but many of us don't understand how they actually work. The computer's most important element is the motherboard which is like a tiny city divided into different districts with distinct functions. The rest of the hardware—the keyboard and mouse, speakers, and monitor allow for information input and output. Information travels through successive levels from an application (such as WWW or email), Transmission Control Protocol, Internet Protocol, and hardware to the Internet and back up from the hardware of another computer. Thus, a virtually indestructible network of information is accessible at our fingertips.

2:20 PM Sustainable Innovation

Trevor Maco, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

We live in a world where innovation is rampant. Whether it be technological innovations with smartphone technology, cars, computers, airplanes, or education, it cannot be denied that technological innovation influences every aspect of our lives. However, a disturbing trend has taken root within these technological innovations; they ignore sustainability. Take a look at our planet today. There are innumerable examples of environmental problems plaguing our planet and driving it into ruin—global warming, air and water pollution, over-population, loss of biodiversity, and natural resource depletion to name a few. I would argue that if we are to survive on this planet and secure a future for successive generations, we need game-changing, innovative solutions aimed at sustainability. In this presentation I will: speak about what qualifies as a game changing solution, give an example of a real game changing solution present right now, and speak about where these innovations are going and how you can support the future of this planet.

2:40 PM Overconsumption and Disposability: The Earth is not our trashcan

Kaitlyn Hudenburg, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

Old shoes: Trash. Broken glass: Trash. Food packaging: Trash.

Throwing away everything from candy wrappers to sofas is an easy and quick fix to our overconsumption as a nation. Jimmy's socks have a hole in them? No problem! Throw them in the trashcan and the garbage truck will pick it up tomorrow morning. After it is picked up by the garbage truck, it does not affect us anymore... right? What happens to our trash after it is transported away? This talk will examine how our trash is managed and the consequences it has on the health of the environment and living creatures alike. Solutions will be provided in shielding the environment from human waste while raising awareness on changing our behaviors on an individual level to minimize our garbage output.

3:20 PM Gene Expression Profiling in an Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Model

Matthew Dalton, Liberty University

Explaining precisely how Alzheimer's disease (AD)—the world's most common form of dementia—materializes in the human brain has proven to be one of the most elusive telos in modern medicine. Progressive memory loss, neurodegeneration, and the presence of abnormal protein aggregates of amyloid-beta ($A\beta$) and neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) characterize this disease. Intimate interactions between tissues have been observed in many diseases, particularly between the brain and blood. This analysis seeks to employ RNA sequencing techniques in the brain in order to identify potential drivers, molecular passengers, and significant contributors to AD, while overlaying this data with that of the blood to identify candidate genes to be used as disease biomarkers. *Ppia*, *Ercc2*, *Grn* and *miR-17* were revealed to be dysregulated in the AD brain. *Hmgn1* was discovered to be dysregulated in both the AD brain and blood, highlighting its candidacy as a predictive biomarker for AD.

3:40 PM Analysis of Corticotropin-Releasing Factor in the Amygdala of Rats following Human Interaction during Adolescence

Amanda Dixon, Radford University

Human interaction during animal research is a necessary component of data collection. However, it is often overlooked as a potential confounding variable during data interpretation. Thus, this study examines a marker of stress in the brain of adolescent rats after being exposed to varying levels of human interaction during adolescence. Twenty-eight female, adolescent Sprague-Dawley rats were assigned to one of four interaction conditions: Tickled, Playful, Restraint, and Control. It is hypothesized that the restraint condition will have higher Corticotropin-Releasing Factor (CRF) immunoreactivity (IR), and the tickled and playful groups will have less CRF-IR in the amygdala than controls. If the method of human interaction is determined to be a confounding variable, future animal research would have to adjust accordingly in order to minimize the effects of this interaction. These results could also have a practical application to the interaction human adolescents have with other humans during that developmental period.

4:00 PM Possible Connection Between Lou Gehrig's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis

Kelly McLean, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

Nearly one in six of the world's population suffers from a neurodegenerative disorder. In America alone, around fifteen people will be diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) every day and about 200 individuals will be diagnosed each week with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Both of these diseases, and many more, have irreversible damaging effects on the neurological system that often leads it's victims to fatality. Millions of dollars has been invested into multiple organizations passionate to find a cure for such diseases to put an end to this wide spread epidemic. But could there be a possible link between common neurological disorders? Could this link aid researchers in finding a solution for these two diseases that has haunted our nations for too long? A connection that could likely change the medical field and people's lives forever.

3:20 PM Sport Participation and its Association with Alcohol Related Behavior

Katelynne Seager and Dr. David Sallee, Radford University

Sport participation and its association with alcohol related behavior is of particular interest, especially in regard to current research linking the practice to risky behaviors including, increased alcohol consumption at a higher frequency. The goal is to provide additional support for the research behind sport participation and its association with alcohol related behaviors. Furthermore, to educate and inform parents, teachers, and coaches of the correlation between sports participation and alcohol related behaviors in order to prevent and decrease risk.

3:40 PM The Sexual State of the Union

Abigail Allen, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

We are animals. We metabolize. Our cells divide. We live and we die, just the same as all other life on Earth. But we are also human beings. We have language and culture. We self-reflect and ponder the future. And we also have sex. Sex is simply a biological process, one that is as natural as breathing and eating. Why then do our school systems continue to teach inaccurate and sexist information when it comes to this important topic? State and federal governments continually fail our youth by funneling money into the broken “abstinence-only” theory of sexual education. This talk aims to highlight some of the inaccuracies and issues that arise when this theory is implemented within the classroom, as well as some of the changes that must occur to fix the system as it stands.

4:00 PM Your GILLS: A user's guide

Leonardo O'Gilvie, Northern Virginia CC - Manassas

The concentration of this presentation will be on using our “GILLS” to take a breath of fresh air. Specifically speaking, we will be discussing aspects of our thought processes, taking a look at different leadership styles, and also trying to gain a better understanding of ourselves. Being Honors students living in a fast paced society where there is both internal and external pressures placed on us to achieve, it is important for us to understand who we are and how that effects our leadership. Be prepared to jump in and get your feet 'wet.'

3:20 PM How the Tiger of Central Asia Lost Its Roar

Rebecca Goforth, Northern Virginia CC - Manassas

Most Americans could not find Turkmenistan on a map. Yet just 18 months ago, the country was named the "Tiger of Central Asia," its booming economy a sign of prosperity. Now, though, the tiger has lost its roar -- two and a half decades of corruption and irresponsible spending are catching up to it, and the Turkmen people are caught in the crossfire. Who is to blame for the country's downfall? This talk aims to prove the political corruption of Turkmenistan's current and former elected officials through a macroeconomic lens.

3:40 PM We Kill in the Name of Islam: The truth behind Jihad

Misbah Muzaffer, Bluefield College

The times we live in today are becoming increasingly Islamophobic and the concept of Jihad has been twisted to fit political agendas. Verses from the Quran are taken out of context to increase hate and distrust towards Muslims. Furthermore, the actions of "Muslim" terrorist groups are reflected onto and seen as representative of the world's Muslim population. This presentation will discuss and analyze accurate Islamic beliefs in hopes of clarifying common misconceptions.

**4:00 PM Political Influences on United Nations Interventions during Genocide:
DRC-Rwanda and Yugoslav wars**

Srikar Gangavarapu, Virginia Commonwealth University

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 consisting of 193 member states seeking one goal: peace. Unfortunately, flaws such as belated action, inadequate mandates, and political polarization continue to plague the UN. The decision-making process of the UN's actions revolves around the United Nations Security Council, which is where all current problems are derived. It is composed of 5 permanent members (P5) that are the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom; also, 10 rotating members of the UNSC with far less influence. Leading political scientist Christian Reus-Smit has offered three reform proposals: (1) a self-imposed moratorium on the use of the veto, (2) a compounded veto, and (3) an alternative weighted voting system. I examined them for the benefit of the United Nations in the context of the Yugoslav Wars and the DRC-Congo conflict to determine which is truly best for future peacekeeping efforts.

3:20 PM**The Survival of the Mayan World:
How architecture contributes to the lifespan of Mayan structures**

Ashley Peterson, Virginia Wesleyan College

Many of the ancient ruins of the Mayan people in the Yucatán Peninsula remain standing today. The structures have survived thousands of years of history, and many far surpass the average lifespan of modern structures and buildings. This research study investigates what exactly allows for the long-lasting survival of the Mayan structures through years of weathering from tropical storms and rough climate. By observing and photographing numerous Mayan structures in the Yucatán Peninsula, including the ruins of Chichen Itza, Tulum, and Uxmal, it was concluded that the strong attention to detail in regards to architecture and location of the structures allows for their survival. It is also noted that recent governmental restorations play a part in the survival of the structures as well. The findings not only suggest the intelligence of the Mayan people, but also offer architectural examples and constructional strategies to modern humans.

3:40 PM**A Data-Driven Look at the Cultural and Socioeconomic
Roles of Women in the Muslim World**

India Mazzaro, Northern Virginia CC - Manassas

In my presentation, I will be taking a look at the roles of women in different countries in the Muslim World. The Muslim World is very diverse, so I chose countries that are very different from each other to help emphasize the diversity. I will be talking about 4 countries and the general roles of women there, and then I will be doing a case study comparing the roles of women in a more conservative country (Saudi Arabia) vs a more progressive country (Jordan).

4:00 PM**Biracial Identity in Japan: A whole “hafu” life**

Maiya Taylor, Norfolk State University

Biracial individuals on a global scale tend to face ethnic and racial discrimination, but with Japan's extremely homogenous population, biracial Japanese face particular difficulties in navigating their culture. With the new need for a global perspective when discussing racial issues, researching how racial and ethnic minorities are treated in different parts of the world is relevant to all disciplines and of the utmost importance. The research done for this paper included a literature review from different disciplines (sociology, anthropology, and journalism) which consider biracial identity; a comparative media analysis; and an interview done with two Japanese women who both identify as "hafu". Hafu who are a mixture of African and Japanese or who mix Japanese with other Asian backgrounds are sometimes treated with less compassion and dignity than those hafu who are European/Asian in their heritage and appearance.

**3:20 PM Analyzing the Methodology of Water Quality Assessments
 within Costa Rican Freshwater Stream Systems**

Hannah Cooke, Lynchburg College

In the Monteverde region of Costa Rica, research on the water quality of 9 different freshwater stream sites has been conducted over the past three years. It aims to determine the health of the streams using macroinvertebrate insects as the key component to understanding each site. Three macroinvertebrate samples from different riffles were collected at each site, and later the riffles were counted individually within the lab. A comparison of the results of various riffle combinations was generated by running the macroinvertebrate data through the Biological Monitoring Working Party-Costa Rica (BMWP-CR) and a modified Index of Biological Integrity (IBI). The methodology of collecting macroinvertebrates was analyzed by comparing these various riffle combinations to past data in order to find a consistent process. The IBI indexes were consistent within the combinations of two or more riffles, and showed a continuation of the results from previous data of the sites.

3:40 PM Modeling Possible Retrofits to East Hall Using BEOpt

Seth Antozzi, Virginia Wesleyan College

Located on the Virginia Wesleyan Campus in Village Two, East Hall was built in the 1980s. Older buildings such as East Hall are inherently less energy efficient compared to new construction. It is often possible through retrofitting to reduce energy waste while keeping energy cost constant, or even lowering energy costs. In this study, the Building Energy Optimization (BEOpt) model was used to simulate various retrofits, and to maximize both the possible energy savings and the possible energy cost savings. This study considered several retrofits: replacing the existing boiler heating system with a more efficient boiler or a ground-based heat pump, adding wall insulation, installing double-panes on windows, converting to all compact florescent lighting (CFL), and adding roof-mounted photovoltaic panels. The most cost-effective option that achieves significant energy savings is a retrofit that includes replacing the boiler system and installing CFL bulbs in all permanent lighting fixtures. For this retrofit, the energy savings are approximately 4.9%, and annual energy cost savings are approximately 0.5%.

4:00 PM

**Indoor Air Quality at Lynchburg College:
Comparing building variables to student perception**

Abbigale Anderson, Lynchburg College

Indoor air quality is a rising concern for public health. Students spend a vast majority of their time in their residence halls and classroom facilities, exposing them to possible pollutants in the air. Solid Phase Microextraction was used in conjunction with Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) to determine the presence of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Hobbs-Sigler Hall, Schewel Hall, Drysdale Student Center, McWane Hall, and Hopwood Hall. VOCs are compounds known to contribute to a variety of health issues, including asthma and cancer. In addition to VOC research, Lynchburg College students were surveyed regarding their perception of indoor air quality in each of the five buildings examined for the presence of VOCs. Responses were analyzed to determine the overall impression students have of the air they breathe on campus and whether or not they feel safe and healthy.

9:00 AM**VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year**

The Honors Scholar of the Year will be awarded to a student nominated by a member institution that successfully embodies the scholarship, character, and ambition associated historically with honors students and the VCHC.

2016 Nominees

Laken Brooks, Emory and Henry College

Major: Literature

“Laken Brooks has beaten long odds to emerge as one of the most thoughtful, effective, and creative students whom I have ever taught, and her leadership within our honors cohort has been truly transformative for many of her classmates. Her thoughtful contributions to the literary culture, her sense of community diversity and empowerment, her extraordinary insights in both seminar discussion and essays, and her tireless devotion to the well-being of others indicate that she will accomplish a great deal in the world.”

Dane Romar Asuigui, Hampden-Sydney College

Major: Chemistry

“Dane Asuigui is an exceptional student who possesses both rare maturity and potential and who has demonstrated strong initiative in his academic career. Dane is a top-notch student and researcher who has serious scholastic abilities. Dane is one of the most positive and friendly individuals I have met. He has all the qualities of someone I would like to mentor in a lab; he’s hardworking, intelligent, and genial.”

Kristen Christopherson, Liberty University Majors: Vocal Performance & Music Education

“I became enthralled with her talents, poise, and meritorious scholarship. Kristen has an adroit understanding of musicology and just as challenging, of the German language. However, it also intimates Kristen’s passion for teaching. She is not just a performer – although she is an extremely gifted one; she is a teacher. Kristen is so confident, driven, and dedicated to and impassioned by her craft and scholarship, to say that she is an outstanding student is an understatement.”

Payal Panchal, Northern Virginia Community College

Major: Science

“Payal is one of the most extraordinary students we have had the pleasure of working with. Payal is one of the most selfless, most giving people I have met, always willing to help whenever she can, and second, Payal is fearless. She is so willing to take on overwhelming large opportunities, and she always brings 100%.”

Amanda Dixon, Radford University

Majors: Psychology and Spanish

“Amanda is conscientious and communicates well. The honors experience has benefited her by allowing her excellence to shine within a community that truly values her skills. She is among the most ambitious students. She has a friendly, agreeable interpersonal style. She is not in any way a self-promoter. She is someone who quietly goes about the business of doing excellent work. Her interpersonal qualities combine with a strong intellect and maturity.”

Ellen Korcovelos, Virginia Commonwealth University

Major: Bioinformatics

“It has been great working with Ellen because of her willingness to take academic risks. Unlike some of her peers, she has had to work very hard to pay for college and it has given her a broader perspective about the value of education and life experiences. Ellen will be among our most distinguished and engaged alumni in the future.”

Claire Kelling, Virginia Tech

Majors: Statistics and Economics

"Claire puts into action her [academic] interests through intentional social calls for action. She has maintained an impressive grade point average while being highly engaged in university, community and national level activities. Claire’s journey has certainly been one of excellence, it has been a journey that [in which] she did not back down from challenges but faced them head on, and brought others into this involvement. She has sought to gain the perspectives of others, to empathize and work diligently so that the voices of others can be heard."

1. The ODU Research Community Alliance Discovers Two Novel Bacteriophages

Katherine Grambo, Sinan Duran, Armin Bahrani, Evelyn Lewis and Nazir Barezki
Old Dominion University

The ODU Research Community Alliance or ORCA is a group founded at Old Dominion University and comprises of undergraduate students who hunt for new bacterial viruses in the Tidewater region of Virginia. Students collect soil samples in order to isolate and characterize bacteriophages. The bacteriophages were enriched from different soil samples using *Mycobacterium smegmatis* mc2155 as the host organism. Many rounds of purification and isolation using spot plates and stick streaks were used to purify the phages. Subsequently, the genomes of two isolated phages named HedwigODU and Goldilocks were sequenced. The annotated genomes revealed that the phages were in two different clusters and had unique genomic elements.

2. Dollar Dinners: An undercover app for domestic violence survivors

Laken Brooks, Emory & Henry College

Homes are supposed to be inherently safe. What happens when homes are places of torment, despite laws such as the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act? Dollar Dinners was designed to meet this problem by providing users with an undercover smartphone app, disguised as an unassuming cooking blog, with tips for recognizing and escaping a violent partner. The app contains directories of phone numbers of national and county-by-county anti-violence organizations and shelters across the entire United States. Dollar Dinners is part of two efforts: 1) In the most immediate sense, the app's goal is to provide help to those currently living in an abusive situation, 2) In a long-term sense, the app's goal is to analyze past and current domestic violence legislation and assistance from the U.S. government, thus catalyzing a meaningful discussion of how to maximize the effectiveness of future abuse laws.

3. Distributed Thermistor for Temperature Monitoring of Malnourished Infants

Lauren Cashman, Virginia Tech

One of the complicating effects of malnourishment in low-resource communities is the tendency for calorie-conserving bodies to become hypothermic. Left untreated, this dangerous state can quickly lead to death. Additionally, the temperature of a hypothermic infant must be continually monitored as they are warmed to avoid hyperthermia. To meet this need we developed a system for low-resource health environments to monitor the axillary temperatures of multiple infants and report the temperatures wirelessly to a device. The system uses an armband to secure a thermistor in the axilla and Bluetooth technology to transmit temperature updates to an Android device. The system was tested using an array of six bottles containing heated water under varying insulation and wireless thermistors were used to monitor their falling temperatures. This demonstrated preliminary success of the concept. Human validation testing is scheduled for early 2016, with limited deployment and additional testing in Malawi in mid-2016.

4.

The Peruvian Debt Crisis

Tarryn Chichester, Radford University

My research studies the Peruvian debt crisis that impacted the country between 1985 and 1990. My findings indicate that the crisis was fueled through missteps in government policy decisions, such as discontinuing debt-servicing, a heterodox policy, and printing money in an inflationary manner. Absent such policies, the crisis may have been avoided or at least made less disastrous. The Peruvian economy begins to correct in 1990 as the new political leader, Fujimori, lowers inflation and institutes beneficial policy reform. Beneficial policies included a new currency, the removal of price controls, the elimination of FDI restrictions, and other free market reforms. Once such reforms were instituted, Peru sees inflation fall from 7,650% to 139% by 1991 and sustained economic growth occur into the late 1990s.

5.

All Our Teams: The geography of SEC fandom and Southern Identity

Jacob Cooper, Emory & Henry College

Scholars have argued that the American South is one of the most distinct regions in the United States (Zelinsky 1980). Its inhabitants culturally identify with the geographic area and express and retain that identity by naming their businesses using the term “Southern” (Reed 1976), reading *Southern Living* (Lauder 2011), and eating collards (Davis and Morgan 2015). Geographers can in turn map cultural expressions like these. One identifier of Southern culture is the intense and distinct fandom surrounding Southeastern Conference college football. Since the 1920s, the South has held autumn Saturdays when SEC football is played in high cultural esteem. SEC football can therefore be mapped to examine the cultural South. The 14 member institutions’ ticket sales to games, donations made to the athletic departments, merchandise sales, location of affiliate radio stations, social media support, and availability of vanity license plates are mapped here to approximate just where “SEC Country” is.

6.

Perceptions of Self-Control

Kelci Falls, Radford University

The current study examined whether multiple raters agreed on their perceptions of other people’s self-control. Data were collected from 24 four-person groups of undergraduates who had brief interactions with each other. Participants completed an icebreaker task and then rated themselves and every other group member on a standardized measure of self-control. The Social Relations Model was used to analyze the data. These analyses revealed minimal evidence for consensus in ratings of others’ self-control. In contrast, strong evidence suggested that a person’s perceptions of others’ self-control was correlated with self-perceptions of self-control. Last, individuals were likely to rank others as having significantly higher self-control than themselves. Taken together, the results suggest that participants did not have an especially accurate perception of others’ self-control. Rather, these undergraduates rated others as they rated themselves, except somewhat more positively. These results have implications that individuals cannot trust their intuition about a person’s self-control.

7.

Writing Vietnam:

Genre, translation, and structure in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*

Elizabeth Farschon, Virginia Commonwealth University

Traditional war novels, written from traditional American wars where Americans are fighting for the good and win because they are good, create a standard role for the American Military while also building a standard of structure, genre, and translation that has become the basis for most American war novels. Vietnam, the first war that the United States lost, broke the standards for American wars and American war novels. Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* embodies the changes that were necessary for American war literature to fully encompass the American experience in Vietnam. TTTC blends fact and fiction to create a genre, and a story, that is capable of telling the truth of the experience, not just the truth of the facts. The translation, genre, and structure of TTTC are necessary changes from the long tradition of American war novels because the war itself broke tradition.

8.

Handshake: Forming successful university-museum alliances

Mary Galen, Longwood University

In recent years, mutually beneficial university-museum partnerships have increased throughout the United States. Studying university-museum partnerships' financial, educational, and community engagement success will provide a contrast between solely university-controlled collections and smaller public and private museums. Additionally, negative aspects of the partnership for one or both parties, such as mismatched values and primary concerns, will also be reviewed. An exploratory case study for this research, the Robert Russa Moton Museum and Longwood University partnership, will highlight necessary planning and community support needed for a successful alliance and discuss areas for improvement. With the assistance of this study, prospective partnership members will potentially gain insight in methods to build or improve upon their own university-museum partnership.

9.

Evaluating the Negative Regulation of TLR Signaling Pathways via Intestinal Organoid Cultures

Haleigh Hixson, Virginia Tech

Recent advances in stem cell biology have led to the ability to culture and maintain three-dimensional intestinal organoids termed "mini-guts" in artificial environments outside of living organisms. Compared to previous two-dimensional culturing techniques, organotypic cultures provide more physiologically relevant models of the mammalian adult intestine and are emerging as powerful tools for examining the properties of intestinal epithelial cells (IECs) *in vitro*. Of particular interest is the use of these organoids to study the contributions that the negative regulator Interleukin Receptor Associated Kinase-M (IRAK-M) has in innate Toll-Like Receptor (TLR) signaling pathways. Organoids were generated from mice deficient of this negative regulator for future stimulation with various infectious agents. We anticipate that the successful maintenance of these 3D-intestinal organoid cultures will lead to an enhanced understanding as to how IECs contribute to innate immune signaling pathways within the mammalian intestine.

10. Self-efficacy as a Mediator between Goal Orientation and Academic Achievement

Ellie Karle, Liberty University

Much research has focused on the variables associated with student academic outcomes indicated by class grades. This study explored the influence of student goal orientation on academic achievement based on a trichotomous model: mastery goals (motivated by a desire to master a task or subject), performance-approach goals (motivated by a desire to perform well compared to others), and performance-avoidant goals (motivated by a fear of failure). As the literature demonstrates, a myriad of personal factors may influence the connection between goal orientation and academic achievement—variables such as intrinsic motivation, commitment to goals, perceived competence, and affect. The hypothesis of this study was that the construct of self-efficacy, which encompasses several of these variables, moderates the relationship between goal orientation and academic achievement. Based on the results of the study, implications were discussed regarding the importance of parent and teacher involvement in promoting student self-efficacy and appropriate assignment related goal setting, particularly during high school for those planning to attend college.

11. Storytelling: Validating the art of communication

Jessica King and Trey King, Virginia Tech

Storytelling has historically been the chief means of relaying information, be that the history of a people or a set of values. In today's world of written communication, however, the art of telling stories takes a back seat to what are viewed as more practical means of sharing ideas. Why bother learning to tell a good story when numbers and pie charts speak for themselves? In October, an interdisciplinary group of Virginia Tech Honors students, none of whom had heard professional storytelling before, traveled to Jonesborough, Tennessee for the National Storytelling Festival. Some of the trip's takeaways were how storytelling can inform research across multiple fields, the significance of communication skills as a means of navigating the social and professional world, and the use of storytelling as a tool to bridge the gap between the sometimes-inaccessible world of academia and the results-focused social context of Western society.

12. Impact of Global Climate Change on Pediatric Health

Katherine Meyers, Emory & Henry College

This project will focus on the various effects of global climate change on pediatric health, with a focus on pediatric health in developing countries. Due to its increased vulnerability, global climate change has a heightened adverse effect on pediatric health in less-developed countries. This project will offer a brief background on global climate change and its effects on global health as a whole, then discuss the effects of global climate change in regards to both pediatric health as a whole, and pediatric health in developing countries specifically, and conclude by discussing the implications global climate change has had on developing countries and on the role of pediatricians.

13. Optimal Angles for Swimmers

Jessica Richardson, Emory & Henry College

Swimming has been a sport since its debut in England in the 1830's, yet swimmers continue to break world records every year in large part due to our newfound knowledge of hydrodynamic body positions. Therefore, I set out to find the most effective technique for a sprint freestyler to have. I analyzed various different angles of collegiate through Olympic swimmers including hand entry angle, elbow angle, water to hand angle, and forearm to water angle. Using these angles I was able to create a linear regression model in the computer program R comparing swimmers 50 freestyle times and their specific angles while factoring in for differences in height. Through this analysis I was able to determine the optimal angles a swimmer should strive for in order to obtain the most power and speed for their stroke. I was also able to create a predictive model based off a swimmers height and specific angles that will determine the swimmers 50 freestyle times.

14. The Weight of the World on My Shoulders:

The relationships between anxiety, depression, and stress in college students

Jessica Rivers, Radford University

Research suggests that approximately 16% of college students have depressive or anxiety disorders (Eisenberg et al., 2007). These disorders are correlated with stress (Wiegner et al., 2015), which has a negative effect on physical health (Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 2002). College students in the present study (N=293) completed anxiety, depression, and stress questionnaires. As hypothesized, anxiety ($r=.59$) and depression ($r=.54$) were correlated with stress and with each other ($r=.63$). T-tests showed that depressed students were experiencing more anxiety ($t=7.43$) and stress ($t=6.85$) than non-depressed students. Compared to males, females endorsed more depression ($t=2.84$), anxiety ($t=3.20$) and stress ($t=5.48$). There were no interactions between gender and the relationships between stress and mood. This research strengthens previous research concerning the relationships between anxiety, depression, and stress and provides additional insight about the associations among these variables in college students.

15. Cissexism and Transphobia in the Modern U.S. Healthcare System

Andrew Siva, Emory & Henry College

Through my project, I examined in depth the most pervasive issue currently impacting transgender, gender non conforming, and non-binary people: healthcare ethics and inequality within the healthcare system. I delved into two sides of an ongoing debate occurring in the United States concerning what the government's role should be in assisting (through hormone replacement therapy, sexual reassignment surgery, etc.) individuals living with gender dysphoria or who identify with a gender identity other than cisgender or a sex other than cissexual. To better understand this issue of healthcare inequality, which radically impacts transgender, I viewed my research through several lenses including utilitarian and religious perspectives. I then looked at the way in which the Western world views gender and the tremendous effect on the political side of this question of healthcare, specifically examining how Iran views SRA, Chelsea Manning in relation to gender, and questions for further research.

16. Population Stability and Conservation of the Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)

Lauren Spahr, Liberty University

Timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) have become extinct in several states and are a species of concern in others. The Leslie matrix provides a method to model populations and assesses the impact of losing different age classes and different numbers of animals on long-term population stability. The method requires obtaining survival rates and fecundity values for each age class, and an initial population vector. We estimated population size, survival rates, and fecundity using the Jolly-Seber method and our mark-recapture data on adult females, collected over the last eleven years along the Blue Ridge Parkway. What-if projections using the matrix showed both populations incapable of sustaining losses of more than one adult yearly, and losses of adults had a greater impact on the population stability and size than losses of juveniles. Thus these populations are sensitive to extirpation from adult losses and gestation sites in particular, and therefore should be monitored.

17. 21st Century Biblical Miracles

Erin Ujueta, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

My poster presentation is going to be regarding the authenticity of biblical miracles in the 21st Century. Miracles were part of the foundation of Christianity, but some profess that they can be done today by Christians who are willing to receive the gifts of the Holy Ghost. In the book of Acts in the Bible, it is explained that the Holy Ghost is the spirit of God that had fell over Christians after Jesus had resurrected, and left to be on the right hand of the Father. Therefore I will be researching, then analyzing information into three different categories: History, Testimonies, and Correlation. In the History section, I will be looking at where and when biblical miracles began. In the Testimonies section, I will be looking at various 21st century accounts. In the Correlation section, I will be looking at similarities and relationships between multiple characteristics that seem to reoccur.

18. Comparative Histology of the Oral Mucosa of Snakes

Jacob Vaught, Radford University

The snake tongue has been modified for the detection of volatile chemicals, and has subsequently lost sensory papillae found on tongues of many other animals. The oral mucosa of snakes, however, contains sensory papillae that possess both taste and touch receptors, but relatively few studies have been published on the comparative anatomy of the snake oral mucosa. Because snakes vary greatly in terms of their skull morphology, we asked the question whether there would be differences in touch and taste receptor distribution and composition across several snake lineages. We compare the gross anatomy and histology of the oral mucosa across four families (Pythonidae, Boidae, Viperidae, and Colubridae) and describe the concomitant changes that have occurred as different modes of prey acquisition have evolved. Our preliminary results show that the relative position of sensory papillae is similar across snake taxa, but there may be differences in papillae density in advanced snakes.

19. Inheritance of Tiger Stripe Patterns in Sumatran Tigers

Susan Wack, Marymount University

Tiger stripe patterns are known to be unique to the individual. However, it is unknown if these patterns are inherited. The purpose of this research is to prove inheritance of Sumatran tiger stripe patterns with hopes of it being of use in the efforts to prevent inbreeding. The Species Survival Plan (SSP) has suggested this research could be useful in providing information to support a controversial new study about tiger subspecies. After researching topics in genetics, it proves likely that stripe patterns are inherited. A method of tracing and ImageJ was used to compare facial stripe patterns of a family of Sumatran tigers. An unrelated male was also compared. The percentages of similar patterns in comparisons between the cub and its father, mother, and the unrelated male are 68.891%, 46.274%, 43.468%, respectively. These results suggest evidence of maternal X chromosome silencing in the cub.

20. Tradition Meets Modernity: a compilation of healthcare case studies in Loreto, Peru

Adrianna Wilson, Virginia Tech

In the Loreto province of Peru a strongly rooted heritage in traditional medicine is slowly mixing with an evolving healthcare system. As healthcare accessibility is increasing, new treatment options are emerging, but there are still problems with financial feasibility and logistics in the more rural areas. Residents, as well as medical practitioners, from urban and suburban centers and rural indigenous communities around Iquitos were interviewed about their preferences and habits concerning healthcare. While traditional medicine and modern medicine typically are not used in conjunction in health facilities such as clinics and hospitals, both western and traditional medicines are used by the majority of Loreto's inhabitants. A wide range of plants from the Amazon rainforest are used in traditional medicine for both spiritual and physical ailments. The traditional medicine culture and knowledge is still thriving throughout the region.

21. Mental Health in the Peruvian Amazon

Keaton Unroe, Longwood University

Through the National Collegiate Honors Council's Winterim in Peru program, I visited the Peruvian Amazon to research a health topic that has very little coverage in that area of the world: mental health. The purpose of this investigation was to determine the prevalence of mental health disorders in the Peruvian Amazon. In addition, we hope to better understand what treatments to mental health problems exist, as well as identifying and comparing modern treatments (e.g., antidepressants and other medications) and traditional treatments (e.g., going to a shaman, healer, or using herbs) that are available. Lastly, this investigation was used to determine the prevalence of mental health disorders and types of treatments that are available in Iquitos, Peru (an urban area) compared to rural communities on the Amazon River. Individuals were interviewed and self-reported their experiences and knowledge of mental health problems in Peru.

22. Discovering the National Parks and new perspectives: Partners in the Parks

Summer Caton and Serena Emanuel, Virginia Tech

Partners in the Parks (PITP) is a National Collegiate Honors Council program that offers unique opportunities for collegiate honors students and faculty. Seminars are led by professors and park personnel and include historical, scientific, and cultural aspects unique to each park focusing on the themes of Engagement, Education and Stewardship. Many projects include a service learning component within the park. Participation in PITP, such as the Sequoia and Mt. Rainier programs, enlightens students of the various ways to experience nature as well as the different perspectives including but not limited to those of scientists, students, outdoor enthusiasts, and artists. The presenters will share their experiences of meeting Honors students and faculty from across the country and learning through interaction with the environment. VCHC members are encouraged to participate in one of the 11 projects such as Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the Virgin Islands.

2:00 PM Discrete Boundary Problems via Integro-differential Algebra

Sieu Tran, Virginia Tech

The main purposes of this study are to design new mathematical methods of solving discrete boundary problems, develop the proofs for their key properties, and explore their applications. As mathematical models describing biological phenomena become more sophisticated and realistic, more efficient tools are necessitated. In this study, we introduced an abstract structure called the (discrete) integro-differential algebra to facilitate the study of boundary problems. To do so, we aim to employ the (discrete) variation-of-constants formula to extract the Green's operator of difference equations. We then derive a confluent rewrite system and normal forms modulo this reduction system as research tools to simplify and solve every complex discrete operator and every boundary condition. We conclude with a discrete "ill-posed" boundary problem from which we extract its Green's function and simplify it using our established rewrite rules.

2:20 PM Designer Mosquitos and their contribution to the Zika Virus.

Payal Panchal, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

The Zika Virus has caught much attention lately because of its ruthlessness and devastating effects on infants, known as microcephaly. Symptoms of Zika are very similar to flu like symptoms, such as fever and muscle weakness. In the most serious cases, a patient might develop Gullian Barre Syndrome. This invasive species of mosquitos that carries the virus has caused many South American scientists to further investigate how to prevent the spread of Zika. Multiple methods such as the SIT and RIDL methods have been executed to introduce sterile male mosquitos into the wild, to shrink the amount of offspring that potentially carry Zika. Another method is the insertion of a self-destruct gene into the mosquito's genome. Lastly, future research and experimentation could include manipulating chromosomes to have females carry the self-destruct gene, so that female offspring could also inherit it and help prevent the spread of Zika.

2:40 PM

**Calcification Rates and Symbiodinium Concentrations
Indicate Stress Tolerance in Belize 'Back Reef' Corals**

David Jones, Old Dominion University

Reef-building corals host symbiotic algae known as zooxanthellae living within their tissues. Exposure to prolonged elevated temperature can cause corals to expel their symbionts and lead to coral bleaching. In this study, *Porites astreoides* (the mustard hill coral) were collected from an inshore reef (high temperature variability) and an offshore reef (low temperature variability) in Belize and were subjected to a 6-week-long heat stress experiment to determine if inshore corals displayed higher stress tolerance than offshore samples. Thirty-five of the 70 coral samples (n=70) were placed in two control tubs set to 28- C while the other 35 were placed in two tubs heated to 31-C. All four tubs were placed in the same tank (approximately 200 gallons). Skeletal growth over the 6 weeks was measured via the coral buoyant weight technique to determine calcification rates. The number of symbionts per coral was also measured via replicate hemocytometer counts and scaled to coral surface area. Belize's inshore or "Back Reef" corals demonstrated the highest calcification rates and symbiodinium concentrations, indicating greater stress tolerance.

3:00 PM

**Olfactory Memory Learning in *Drosophila melanogaster*
Through Scientific Advancements**

Shahrozia Imtiaz, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

Drosophila melanogaster, commonly known as the fruit fly, has an olfactory memory, meaning that they are able to recollect odors. Olfactory memories are thought to be denoted within the ~2,000 intrinsic Kenyon cells of the *Drosophila* mushroom body. Each individual odor activates certain populations of Kenyon cells within the mushroom body providing cellular specificity to odor memories. Previous analysis of fly memory showcases what Kenyon cells look like and where their axonal and dendritic territories are located. Despite multiple initiatives aimed at deciphering large scale neural networks, technical challenges have historically made it difficult to obtain synaptic resolution in sufficiently large data set to enable structure-function interpretation of said networks. Recent advances have made it possible to reconstruct brain spanning networks at synaptic resolution.

2:00 PM**The Cultural Impact of Kanye West**

Maksimilian Kochev, Northern Virginia CC - Annandale

In an era when information is seemingly controlled by media, our perspectives are often formulated by such mediums. Rap music often has the reputation of carrying a bad name, however heavily influencing millennials. Kanye West is arguably one of the most influential artists of the 21st century, however his attempts to alter social norms are misinterpreted. Kanye is known for his controversial stunts, disorganized rants, and larger than life ego. In this talk, I will demonstrate how his music and actions have gone against norms of society and ultimately shifted cultural paradigms. I will dive into his music with rebellious examples, from opening doors to introduce new environments for current artists, to exploring faith and religion by conceptualizing a relationship with his higher power. Kanye knows how to sell his image and make an impact, but can an artist simply be an artist without consciousness of race and or culture?

2:20 PM**How to Overcome Culture Shock?'**

Tahmina Gafurova, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

As someone who lives in such a culturally diverse country, it's important to be aware of the diversity and differences that we face in our everyday lives. Have you ever wondered what culture shock really is? Whether you've truly experienced it? It's definitely something that most of us have probably experienced or thought of at some point or another. It's common to experience culture shock when living/traveling in a foreign country for an extended period of time. Most of us have probably been in such situations, but haven't looked too much into them. According to *Quartzmagazine.com*, 40% of the foreign college students in the U.S have no close friends on campus: The culture shock of loneliness (Quartz, Online). Aside from this, one in three adults also has experienced culture shock, without having to leave their countries. This talk aims to highlight and inform you about some of the ways you can prevent culture shock from happening to you or strategies on how you can make the best out of it (culture shock). I strongly believe that this topic has a great potential to make your traveling life easier and make you appreciate the diversity within different cultures as well as help you battle prejudice and stereotyping when it comes to diversity.

2:40 PM**Do you know what you think?**

Nana Adwoa Ofori, Northern Virginia CC - Manassas

Our brains are hardwired to use shortcuts to make instantaneous judgements when necessary. This presentation focuses on the role implicit bias plays in making these types of judgements and what that means for race relations in America today. The connection between implicit bias and race will be explored through biological, psychological and social lenses with the hope that being aware of these influences will change the conversation on racism.

2:00 PM**PC America**

Raven Knight, Northern Virginia CC - Loudoun

As a society we have in a sense become people who are afraid to speak their mind. We were granted the ability through our constitution to have the freedom of speech but it has been hindered due to the aspect of political correctness. Political correctness is defined as “the avoidance, often considered as taken to extremes, of forms of expression or action that are perceived to exclude, marginalize, or insult groups of people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against.” This topic has grown into a beast from the small amount that was implemented in earlier times to the way that people basically tiptoe around each other today. PC America is all about what political correctness is defined as, as well as what it has grown into in modern times and how it affects our society as a whole.

2:20 PM**The Cuban Experiment:****A 50+ Year Embargo as a Failed Means for Economic and Political Development**

Tyler Francis, Radford University

The purpose of this paper is to critically analyze the past and present reasons for the US embargo against Cuba and to call into question its ability to effectively promote economic and political reformation in the future. Unintended consequences from the embargo have imposed high costs on the health and economic well-being of average Cubans. Canada and European countries have had success engaging in trade with Cuba, as is evidenced by the reemergence of the tourism industry and growth of the economy in recent years. Cuba’s economic growth stimulated by its trade with these countries preceded improvements in the economic and political institutions in the country. This suggests that international reforms in Cuba, and the subsequent improvements in the livelihood of the Cuban people that would accompany such reforms, are a product of free trade rather than a prerequisite.

2:40 PM**Clinton’s Foreign Policy Constraints:****An analysis of Clinton’s Veto of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Self-Defense Act of 1995**

Atom Foltz, Virginia Commonwealth University

Studies on the Presidency often vary in approach, many of them adopting either the institution-based model or the persuasion-bargaining model. These models result in different understandings of both how powerful presidents are as well as how well they are able to utilize that power when crafting policy. This dissertation attempts to analyze the effectiveness of these models when examining President Bill Clinton’s decision to veto the Bosnia and Herzegovina Self-Defense Act of 1995. This shift in policy was influenced by Clinton’s initial failures to attract support for ‘lift and strike’ as well as by variations in his personal beliefs. Clinton was primarily forced to make this shift, however, due to external pressures on his administration from the international community, from the American public, and from Congress. This dissertation concludes that the institution-based model better explains Clinton’s decision to veto, given the level of outside influence that pressured Clinton’s decision-making.

3:00 PM

**Balance of Power or Collective Security:
Explaining United States actions using realism and liberalism**

Spencer Murray, Lynchburg College

This thesis examines the actions and rhetoric of the United States in arms control conferences and the treaties that result from those conferences. Given the increasing ability of military weapons to wreak massive destruction, arms control has increasingly become an important pillar of US foreign policy over the course of the twentieth century. The motivations for arms control must then be examined. The findings of this research conclude that the actions and rhetoric of the United States during the Naval Conferences was realist in character while during the negotiations over the NPT, the actions of the U.S. was realist, while the rhetoric was liberal. It continues to discuss the ideal forms of arms control following the principles of each ideology, concluding that none of the treaties matches up with either realist or liberal principles. Instead, they each incorporate elements of both.

2:00 PM**Satirical Suburbia:****Interpreting the portrayal of female satisfaction in *Desperate Housewives***

Olivia Golden, Virginia Commonwealth University

It all takes place on a single, white picket-fenced suburban street: Wisteria Lane. Lynette Scavo, Susan Mayer, Gabrielle Solis, and Bree Van De Kamp are four housewives and best friends living seemingly perfect lives in an American suburb, until discovering that their neighbor, Mary Alice, has committed suicide. Throughout the series, the audience gets insight into the lives of four extremely different yet relatable housewives. This comedy-mystery-drama aired from 2004 to 2012, and gained an immense following from women across the nation. *Desperate Housewives* presents real struggles that women living in American suburbia face. Throughout the show, characters and setting are used to represent larger ideas about gender roles and societal expectations.

2:20 PM**Patriarchy as Perpetuated by Women:****Internalized misogyny in Shakespeare's plays**

Laken Brooks, Emory & Henry College

Internalized misogyny is the principle of adopted gender bias, in which women embody the stereotypes of a patriarchal society and will perpetuate these norms. In Renaissance England, a society dominated by male-to-male relationships deemed an autonomous female as threatening to the religious and social expectations that bound together the family and economic unit of primogeniture. Many feminist and queer-theory readings of Shakespeare chronicle the taming of independent women. By the end of such plays, a female character that fails to meet gender standards meets one of two fates: she is either dead or wed. Rarely do works engage the role of other female characters in reigning in the sexually and socially deviant female characters of Shakespeare's plays. This unique analysis probes three plays throughout Shakespeare's career to analyze female characters' adoption of gender norms and their responsibility for imposing misogynistic standards upon their fellow women.

2:40 PM**Sisterhood Under Fire:****Interracial female friendships in children's historical fiction**

Gabriele Morgan, Bluefield College

This presentation explores interracial friendships in girlhood found in children's historical fiction set during the period of desegregation in the United States. Using the middle-grade novels "A Friendship for Today" (2007) by Patricia McKissack and "The Lions of Little Rock" (2012) by Kristen Levine to examine the issue, this presentation looks at the possibility of these books vicariously fulfilling the contact hypothesis for young readers through the process of perspective-taking.

3:00 PM

Queer-baiting on BBC Sherlock:

Addressing the invalidation of queer experience through online fan fiction communities

Cassidy Sheehan, Virginia Commonwealth University

Fan fiction writers build on and transform original source material. The homoerotic subtext persistently extant on BBC Sherlock lends itself to the production of slash fan fiction. I argue this subtext constitutes queer-baiting, a psychologically harmful tactic used by showrunners to entice certain audiences. Commentary from show creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss illuminates the denial of queer possibility on Sherlock. However, as will be seen, healthy queer identity development requires quality television representation of queer individuals. I compare dialogue and scenes from the show to excerpts from works of fan fiction to explore reactions to queer-baiting within fan communities. Queer fans create online fan fiction communities as safe havens for exploring identities free from stigmatization. Fans engage in queer discourse and activism by subverting heterosexual norms. By challenging heteronormative standards, queer fans address the invalidation of their lived experiences and may have a hand in inducing larger cultural change.

2:00 PM Actions for Change: How to Take Back the Night

Claire Kelling, Virginia Tech

Gender-based violence often seems relentless, especially on college campuses. I have had the honor and privilege of coordinating an annual event called Take Back the Night on Virginia Tech's campus. Take Back the Night is an annual rally and march to raise awareness of gender-based violence by establishing its presence through personal narratives and the significance of the need to address it. Take Back the Night is just one of many efforts to raise awareness of gender-based violence and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that perpetuate this violence.

In this session, I will present actions that students in the region can take to lessen violence in their communities. I will outline potential formats for Take Back the Night and other national campaigns. Finally, I will describe local efforts at Virginia Tech that could be implemented nationally. I believe that together, we can Take Back the Night.

2:20 PM The Past, Present, and Future of Independent Scholars(hip)

Alaina Ambler, Eileen Breslin, Megan Ciszek, Zachary Gordon, and Sydney Thier
James Madison University

Presenters will illuminate the origins and legacy of independent scholarship in America, the growth of individualized major programs within honors programs and colleges, and the inauguration of the Independent Scholars major within James Madison University's new Honors College. Information will be shared on the rise and fall of certain keywords in independent honors project concentrations. They will also outline potential future impacts on independent honors scholarship and the "build-your-own major" movement. These impacts include the new public management through outcomes-based assessment, accountability structures, retention strategies and completer degrees. They will conclude with a discussion of the future of curricular and co-curricular customization through such innovations as big data, predictive analytics, competency-based experimentation, summer academies instead of semesters, and MOOCs.

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Concord University
Emory & Henry College
James Madison University
Liberty University
Longwood University
Lynchburg College
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Old Dominion University
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Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Virginia Wesleyan College

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Dr. Oeida Hatcher, Dean of School of the Communication Studies and the Arts
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