



2022 VCHC Spring Conference

Reconnecting

April 8-9, 2022

University of Lynchburg

Lynchburg, VA



University of
Lynchburg



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CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 8, 2022:

Schewel Hall

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	Opening Session
3:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Presentation Sessions
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner & Keynote Speaker & Social Event

Saturday, April 9, 2022:

Schewel Hall

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Morning Social & Poster set up
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Presentation Sessions
10:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Student Meetings & Professional Development Workshop
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Presentation Sessions
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Faculty Meeting / Student Forum
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Closing Session

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,

As a child of the 80s, I am a big fan of the Muppets. Over the last year, the song “Together Again” from the movie *Muppets Take Manhattan* has played in my head more than once as various communities begin to re-emerge from the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme of this year’s Virginia Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) Spring Conference is “*Reconnecting*” and I am thrilled to be able to welcome many of you back to an in-person experience here at the University of Lynchburg. Of course, the pandemic taught us many lessons about resiliency and flexibility, and it is wise to carry on some of those strategies, so I welcome those of you attending virtually via our Whova app to the conference, too. I encourage everyone to immerse yourselves in the excitement of being together again—sharing amazing research, connecting with like-minded peers, and engaging in conversations about your academic and personal experiences.

We have a full agenda for the conference ahead—two days of oral presentations, posters, flash talks, and artistic performances; professional development for both students and faculty; social activities; a dinner with a keynote speaker; officer elections for the upcoming year; and, presentation of awards to our Honors Scholar and Emerging Scholar of the Year. I would like to extend sincere gratitude to Dr. Beth Savage of the University of Lynchburg for spearheading the organization and hosting of this event, along with other faculty and student participants of the Spring conference planning committee.

It would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Dr. Joyce Easter of Virginia Wesleyan University, who has been a long serving member of the VCHC Executive Committee as Secretary/Treasurer. Her dedication to this organization is unparalleled—she truly has kept us in line and afloat! VCHC runs as smoothly as it does because of her efforts. Dr. Easter will be stepping down from this position in the next academic year, and her leadership will be missed.

On behalf of the VCHC Executive Committee, once again I welcome you all and wish you a wonderful conference and I look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible over the next few days.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen M. Layou
VCHC President (2021-22)
Honors Program Coordinator, Reynolds Community College

VCHC Executive Committee 2021-2022

President

Dr. Karen Layou
Reynolds Community College
E-Mail: klayou@reynolds.edu

Faculty Vice President

Dr. Stacy Lopresti-Goodman
Marymount University
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Student Vice President

Ms Katie McShae
Marymount University
E-Mail: mcshea.katie24@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Joyce B. Easter
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Faculty, 4-yr. Private

Dr. Scott Boltwood
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Student, 4-yr. Private

Ms Carlee Sullins
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E-Mail: crsullins20@ehc.edu

Faculty, 4-yr. Public

Dr. Jacqueline Smith-Mason
Virginia Commonwealth University
E-Mail: jsmithmason@vcu.edu

Student, 4-yr. Public

Ms Kirti Sharma
Virginia Commonwealth University
E-Mail: sharmak10@vcu.edu

Faculty, 2-yr

Mr. Thomas Addington
Richard Bland College
E-Mail: taddington@rbc.edu

Student, 2-yr.

Mr. Jeffery Holley
Northern Virginia Community College
E-Mail: jh28340@email.vccs.edu

Immediate Past President

Dr. Bradley Newcomer
Phi Kappa Phi (Formerly at James Madison University)
E-Mail: execdirector@phikappaphi.org



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

2020-2021	Dr. Bradley Newcomer, James Madison University
2019-2020	Dr. Phil Frana, James Madison University
2018-2019	Dr. David Metzger, Old Dominion University
2017-2018	Dr. John Sound, Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria
2016-2017	Dr. Daniel Roberts, Virginia State University
2015-2016	Dr. Daniel Roberts, Virginia State University
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/>
Email: honors@vchc.net

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, April 11, 2008, and April 8 2017)

- Article 1: The annual dues for the institutional members are \$70.00.
- 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.

2022 CONFERENCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, April 8

Schewel Hall

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION

Flint Lobby

Registrants will receive their name badge and conference materials.

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm OPENING SESSION

Sydnor Performance Hall

Conference opens with welcome from Dr. Allison Jablonski, Provost and Dr. Beth Savage, Dean of Westover Honors College at University of Lynchburg; Ms Katie McShea, VCHC Student Vice President; and Dr. Karen Layou, VCHC President. Rick Smallshaw, student in Westover Honors College, will introduce the service project that will be ongoing throughout the conference.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm PRESENTATION SESSION 1

Schewel 208, 215, 217, 232

Concurrent roundtable discussion and oral presentations

4:15 pm – 5:25 pm PRESENTATION SESSION 2

Schewel 207, 208, 217, 232

Concurrent flash talks and oral presentations

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm KEYNOTE & DINNER

Ballroom, Hall Campus Center

The keynote address will be presented by Dr, Stephen Smith, Director of Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology.

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm EVENING ACTIVITY

Ballroom, Hall Campus Center

Game night & Candy Bar

Saturday, April 9

Schewel Hall

8:00 am – 9:00 am

MORNING SOCIAL & BREAKFAST

Second Floor Lobby

9:15 am – 10:15 am

PRESENTATION SESSION 3

Poster Session

Second Floor Lobby

Presenters should set up their poster prior to 9:15 am and remain at their poster until 10:15 am so that conference attendees have an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion.

10:30 am – 11:00 am

STUDENT MEETING (Election preparation)

Sydnor Performance Hall

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Student Professional Development Workshop

Sydnor Performance Hall

Facilitated by Bev Reid, Executive Director of Career Development at University of Lynchburg

Faculty Workshop

Schewel 231

Facilitated by Tara Nunley, M.Ed., LPC, Clinical Director of Counseling Services at University of Lynchburg

11:45 am – 1:45 pm

Photography Station

Schewel 207

Drop in for a head shot by professional photographer John McCormick.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LUNCH

Dining Hall

The dining hall provides diverse options, including vegan and vegetarian.

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

PRESENTATION SESSION 4

Schewel 208, 217, 232, Sydnor

Concurrent artistic performances and oral presentations

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

STUDENT FORUM

Sydnor Performance Hall

Student officers will facilitate elections and an open forum for discussion.

FACULTY BUSINESS MEETING

Schewel 231

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

CLOSING SESSION

Sydnor Performance Hall

VCHC Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year and VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year award presentations and addresses, followed by announcements and introducing the new officers.

2022 VCHC CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stephen C. Smith, Ed.D is the director of the Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology in Lynchburg, Virginia and adjunct faculty at the University of Lynchburg in the School of Education and Westover Honors College. Dr. Smith has been actively involved in education and leadership at the high school and college level for many years with a specific focus on gifted and honors education.



Dr. Smith's students consistently praise his enthusiasm for teaching and learning and his dedication to student success. His popular interactive leadership courses engage students at all levels in developing creative thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and communication as tools for effective leadership. These lessons and others learned outside the classroom exemplify Dr. Smith's belief that "diversity on teams is essential, and that effective collaboration makes everything better." Dr. Smith also enjoys teaching about research methods and statistics, and has taught at all levels from elementary to graduate school over his 30-year career in education.

In his spare time, Dr. Smith enjoys spending time with his grandsons and playing games of all types, some of which he designs himself. The Smith family's involvement in Honors education spans the generations; his son, Harrison, is a 2016 graduate of the Westover Honors College. Dr. Smith's ability to connect with colleagues and students embodies his philosophy that "strong, healthy connections between people are the foundation of a happy, meaningful life."

VCHC Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year

The Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year award serves to recognize a student from a member institution who has shown extraordinary potential as an *emerging* scholar, and who embodies the scholarship, character, and ambition associated historically with honors students and the VCHC.

2022 Nominees

Brandi Clemons, Radford University Major: Allied Health Sciences

Kameron Jones, Virginia Commonwealth University Major: Biology

Taylor Morgan, University of Lynchburg Major: Psychological Science

Sasha Murphy, University of Mary Washington Major: Biochemistry

Deaquan Nichols, James Madison University Major: Biology

2022 Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year

Kameron Jones

Excerpt from Nomination Letter:

“Kameron is an exceptional student, who has distinguished herself from her peers both in the classroom and as part of the Honors community. Her work demonstrates tremendous potential for future growth. Not only is she an excellent thinker, but Kameron is also reliable, friendly, and innovative: in short, she is one of those people who brings a great deal of energy and academic rigor to all her endeavors. Kameron spends most of her waking hours on research or community engagement. Kameron’s creative problem-solving, enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment to helping others has created valuable connections of support in a time where support, care, and connection are much needed. Service to others is of great importance to this outstanding scholar and she is committed to connecting fellow Indigenous students and serving Native American communities. Kameron is driven by a sense of purpose and passion for improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality in the U.S. She has already established an impressive range of research and maternal health care-related experiences. She completed training to become a postpartum doula and newborn care specialist. She is already making a positive difference in the lives of others and she will be an asset to her community colleagues, future patients, and their families.”

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.

2022 Nominees

Manuela Amouzou, University of Lynchburg Major: Biomedical Science

Madison Cogle, Ferrum College Major: Agricultural Sciences

Steven Davic, James Madison University Majors: Intelligence Analysis, Biological Anthropology, and Psychology

Alayna Johnson, Radford University Major: Interdisciplinary Studies

Elysia Lin, Virginia Commonwealth University Major: Interdisciplinary Studies

Carleigh Rahn, University of Mary Washington Major: English Literature

2022 Honors Scholar of the Year

Steven Davic

Excerpt from Nomination Letter:

“Steven is a non-traditional student who was an enlisted Marine before ... he returned to college. [His] experience in the JMU Honors College illustrates how Honors students can embrace their diverse backgrounds and focus on facing unique challenges in the future. He is pursuing a triple major (Intelligence Analysis, Biological Anthropology, and Psychology) and two minors. He has combined these areas to focus on Evolutionary Psychology [in his research] examining adaptive narrative traits that lead to conspiracy spread and adoption among domestic populations. Steven’s research at JMU is already making lives better for veterans across the globe. While Steven’s work is impressive, he is humble about these accomplishments and sees himself as a servant leader. In many ways, his work at JMU continues his military service and illustrates his lifelong commitment to his brothers in arms.”

2022 VCHC CONFERENCE

PRESENTATIONS

**3:00 PM Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Native American Women:
A Model for Restructuring Maternal Health Care Systems**

Kameron Jones, Virginia Commonwealth University

Native American women experience obstetrical complications or death at disproportionately higher rates than other demographic groups. According to the CDC, the American Indian/Alaska Native Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) was 32.4 compared to the total MMR of 17.2 deaths per 100,000 live births from 2011-2015. Through a literature review spanning 1987 - 2019, this research study investigated the structure of US maternal health care systems and how the lack of standardization, coordination of care, and training increased the risk of severe maternal morbidity and pregnancy-related death among Native American women in the Southwest and West Coast regions. To identify strategies for optimizing the quality of maternal care, three focus areas were examined: maternal care provider collaboration, labor-management practices and protocols, and cultural sensitivity. The findings include interdisciplinary practices that prioritize coordination among maternal care providers which lead to more cohesive and continuative care. Labor management protocols should include criticality assessments for severe morbidity and mortality to ensure the availability of specialized providers to address medical complications. Further, hospitals and birthing centers should require community-led cultural competency training for hospital staff. Finally, future research must explore evidence-based and culturally responsive solutions to address the maternal health needs of Native American women.

3:20 PM The Effect of Weight Bias on Cardiovascular Disease Treatment

Manuela Amouzou, University of Lynchburg

In recent times, the condition of obesity has been recognized as a multi-faceted chronic disease with the most recent recognition coming from the American Medical Association (AMA) in 2013. The decision to mark obesity as a complex chronic disease has been a controversial one among lay society as well as in the medical community. Moreover, discussions surrounding this decision served to highlight an ongoing discourse on the treatment of persons of size by the medical community and its ongoing effects. This presentation will be a review of the causal relationship between recorded weight bias, in healthcare providers, society at large, and internalized, and negative health outcomes. In addition, the increased rate of recorded obesity is often tied to the increased incidence of cardiovascular disease in the population, therefore, it is imperative to discuss the causes of this relationship and an updated course of treatment. Moreover, the purpose of this review of literature is to evaluate the prevalence of cardiovascular disease in people who are considered overweight and obese and review the evidence on the consequences of weight bias on health. Furthermore, this review will explore the intersectionality of health disparities along with both weight and racial lines.

3:40 PM

mRNA Vaccines: History, Development, and Potential

Maia Pappadakis, Marymount University

Vaccination has been integral to the development of society, and many methods of vaccination have been developed. However, there is not a vaccine for every disease. Nucleic acid vaccines and therapeutics were in development for decades before the emergence of COVID-19. As research has progressed, mRNA emerged as a more effective method of vaccination and treatment. This research included the development of modified mRNA with pseudouridine and examined several methods of delivery into the body including raw injection, viral vectors, and lipid nanoparticles. Several mRNA-based vaccines and therapeutics were in development before 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic provided the necessary funding and urgency to achieve approval from the Federal Drug Administration. There are many advantages to these vaccines, including quick and inexpensive production, induction of a robust immune response, and safety. Concerns with the mRNA vaccines include allergic reactions, instability, and inaccessibility. While not perfect, these vaccines have created opportunities for the development of more novel vaccines and therapeutics utilizing mRNA, including current gaps in vaccination, the treatment of inherited and autoimmune disorders, and even cancer. This research reviews the development of mRNA vaccines, how they have impacted the COVID-19 pandemic, and their potential developments.

3:00 PM

Roundtable discussion: Help Save the Next Girl

Abigail McGovern and Emma Brubaker, Ferrum College

Help Save the Next Girl is an organization started in 2010 by the parents of Morgan Harrington, a 20-year-old Virginia Tech student murdered in Charlottesville in October 2009. The organization's primary goal is "to sensitize young women and girls to predatory danger," especially in college and university settings. This roundtable discussion has two purposes: It is intended to provide an opportunity for members of their own campus chapters to network with members of other chapters and share ideas for programming, recruitment, fundraising, and similar initiatives. It is also intended to help students whose campuses do not have an HSTNG chapter learn about how to start one.

3:00 PM The Impact of Female Militia Units on Women’s Rights in a Society

Grace Ball, University of Lynchburg

The question raised is, can women gain equality within the government, society, and culture due to their participation in militia units during times of revolution. This thesis evaluates the case study of Syrian Kurdish women fighters between the time frame 2011 to 2021. In particular, the paper will analyze the Women’s Protection Unit which is composed of female Kurdish fighters, who fought against ISIS and the Syrian government. Previously, Kurdish women have a documented history of oppression due to their gender. In their society, culture, and government, females have been suppressed from equality. The study will analyze if women can alter their status in society through their participation in militia units. Based on the findings of this study, it may encourage further research and analysis that may promote the participation of females in future militia and military units. Through the research, I hypothesize that women are able to gain rights and gender equality in society and their culture by participation in militias.

3:20 PM To The Shores of Tripoli: A Barbary Retrospective

Kathleen Brett, James Madison University

The First Barbary War took place between the United States and Tripoli from 1801 to 1805. The Barbary states were made up of the North African states of Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers. The Barbary states had been incredibly aggressive towards the United States in the Mediterranean prior to 1800, attacking American merchant ships and taking Americans hostage. After an intense series of naval battles between the Barbary pirates, specifically those from Tripoli, and the United States, the Americans won the First Barbary War. After a series of conflicts with other nations, notably the War of 1812 against the British, the Second Barbary War broke out between Algiers and the United States in 1815. Thanks to the increase in advanced diplomatic strategy of the United States and the strengthening of their Navy, this Second Barbary War only lasted a few months.

3:40 PM

What's in a Vote:

Voter Choice in the 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020 Presidential Election

Matthew Gillett, University of Lynchburg

Perhaps the most important question in American politics asks what motivates a candidate on Election Day? Voter's decisions affect the direction of our country over the next four years. A long running debate in political science deals with the rationality of voters, concerning itself with the main indicators of vote choice, which include party versus policy. The paper advances these debates to the 21st century, addressing the results from the 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020 general elections using data sets from the ANES Data Center. The data sets were analyzed using a logistic regression to operationalize each explanation. The results of this regression analysis point to three major factors that impact voter choice, party identification, economic issues, and qualities of a candidate. The data made clear that party identification provided the most powerful explanation around voter choice, with a notable increase in partisan voting from 2008 to the 2020 election. The research also pointed to the fact economic issues were incredibly important to voters, arguing voters who have a negative outlook on the economy typically vote for the out party. The conclusion points to the nuance of vote choice, proving that each factor of voter choice relates to one another.

4:15 PM

Insanity:

The Effect of the Scientific Revolution on the Treatment of Mental Illness

Samantha Lipert, University of Lynchburg

This paper discusses the effect of the scientific revolution on the treatment of mental illness. Specific ailments analyzed include melancholia and dementia, and misdiagnoses are briefly touched on. In essence, it is argued that the scientific revolution not only made the treatment of mental illness more humane, but increased the popularity of pharmaceutical treatments while decreasing the religiously-based and physical treatments that were prevalent prior to the 1800s. Likewise, it is argued that misdiagnoses became less prevalent and thus treatments were more effective. Works analyzed include those of Benjamin Rush, Philippe Pinel, and J.E.D. Esquirol, whose methodology is still referenced today.

4:35 PM Prescription Stimulant Misuse by Undergraduate Students at Public Universities in the United States: The Prospective Benefits of an Integrative Peer Mentoring Program

Kenza Benkirane, Virginia Commonwealth University Honors College

Undergraduate students in the United States face immense pressure to succeed academically as well as balance their busy lifestyles, leading them to pursue unhealthy coping mechanisms such as sensation-seeking and substance abuse. This research examines surveys designed to determine why students misuse prescription stimulants, where exposure to prescription stimulants occur, how students fall into the cycle of misuse, and how institutions of higher education can better support students through integrative peer mentoring programs. Results indicated that students begin misusing prescription stimulants as a means of studying and completing schoolwork, students are exposed to prescription stimulants in the college social scene by individuals who are already prescribed stimulants or have access to others' prescription stimulants, many students misusing prescription stimulants may have undiagnosed learning impediments such as ADHD, prescription stimulant misuse is an ongoing issue on college campuses because academic institutions have not made successful comprehensive efforts to support students, and integrative peer mentoring programs have demonstrated positive effects for student support in higher education.

4:55 PM

The Relationship Between Dreams, Emotion, and Memory

Noemi Cerritos Gatto, Marymount University

Despite decades of research, there is a gap in understanding the relationship between the content and emotion of dreams and their later recall. In the waking world, events experienced with an emotion attached are better recalled later than events with no emotional content. This study explored whether dreams associated with greater emotion are recalled better than dreams without strong emotion. Participants completed an internet-based survey of their dreams and associated emotions for a period of one week, and then their recall was tested two weeks later. It was hypothesized that dreams with highly emotional content would be recalled in greater detail two weeks later than dreams with little or no emotional content. Results were not statistically conclusive. They did yield some support that negative emotions are more likely to influence recall over time. There was evidence supporting the hypothesis that emotions felt during a dream might be retained even when the dream content is not. Research gathered from this study aspires to contribute to the limited existing research on dreams, emotions, and dream recall. This study also aims to provide a framework for future research in this subject area to occur. This research contributes to the limited existing research on dreams, emotions, and dream recall and provides a framework for future research in this subject area.

4:15 PM**Preventing Future Harm:
Understanding Epistemic Injustice Against Children**

Ava Gonzalez, Marymount University

Epistemic injustice occurs whenever someone is regarded as lacking in fully fledged capacities as a knower, or someone possessing knowledge, because of some prejudice against the social group to which that person belongs. Epistemic injustice has been extensively discussed by feminist epistemologists, philosophers of race, and bioethicists. I argue that a distinct kind of epistemic injustice can be committed against children. Many arguments that question the occurrence of epistemic injustice against children are based on outdated assumptions about developmental psychology. While it is unreasonable to expect a child to have extensive factual knowledge, current research shows that can be believed when testifying to their own personal experiences under certain conditions. Further, I argue that it is distinctive from the other forms of harm against adults and that children must be treated with special consideration. Caregivers have a moral obligation to treat children as if they were competent epistemic agents so that children can develop their epistemic capacities. This has concrete practical implications in preventing childhood abuse and neglect.

**4:35 PM The Effects of Communication Differences on Listeners' Attitudes
of Warmth and Competence, Credibility, Intelligences, and Social Distance**

Rebecca Parks, University of Lynchburg

Prior research has shown that listeners may hold a variety of negative attitudes towards individuals with speech or language disorders, such as beliefs that they are lower in intelligence, friendliness, or competence. These studies have suggested that attitudes tend to vary based on the type and severity of the disorder, but results are inconclusive on specific communication characteristics impacting perceptions. The present study measured participants' attitudes towards an actor portraying either a fluency, articulation, voice, or language disorder. The between-subjects design involved participants being randomly assigned to listen to one of the four disorder conditions and then completing scales measuring their beliefs about the speaker's warmth and competence, credibility, intelligence, and desired social distance. Prior studies have suggested that exposure to individuals with communication disorders may relate to more positive attitudes, so this was assessed in the demographic questionnaire. It is hypothesized that there will be main effects of both communication disorder category and personal contact with individuals who have communication disorders on attitude ratings. Speech language pathologists, disability advocates, and other educators can use information about specific negative attitudes when designing programs to increase knowledge and acceptance of these populations.

**4:55 PM Mathematical modelling of the use of insecticide-treated nets
for elimination of visceral leishmaniasis in Bihar, India**

Joy Watson, Virginia State University

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is a deadly neglected tropical disease caused by a parasite *Leishmania donovani* and spread by female sand flies *Phlebotomus argentipes*. There is conflicting evidence regarding the role of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) on the prevention of VL. Numerous studies demonstrated the effectiveness of ITNs. However, KalaNet, a large trial in Nepal and India did not support those findings. The purpose of this paper is to gain insight into the situation by mathematical modelling. We expand a mathematical model of VL transmission based on the KalaNet trial and incorporate the use of ITNs explicitly into the model. One of the major contributions of this work is that we calibrate the model based on the available epidemiological data, generally independent of the KalaNet trial. We validate the model on data collected during the KalaNet trial. We conclude that in order to eliminate VL, the ITN usage would have to stay above 96%. This is higher than the 91% ITNs use at the end of the trial which may explain why the trial did not show a positive effect from ITNs. At the same time, our model indicates that asymptomatic individuals play a crucial role in VL transmission.

4:15 PM**Entropy in Victorian Literature**

Hannah Harris, University of Mary Washington

In the chemical world, entropy, or the randomness and chaos of a system, must continually increase; it is much more favorable for things to fall apart than to be put together. I believe this scientific concept can be rightly applied to the study of literature. While it is true books contain information put together into some sense of order from chaos, making them counterintuitive to entropy, I am convinced these works must still obey the laws of thermodynamics. There must be an increase in chaos somewhere, and if it is not within the words themselves, it must lie within the ideas they represent, their interpretation by readers, and the deconstruction of the text through literary analysis. In this study, the works of Victorian authors including Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, and George Eliot, are deconstructed into entropic elements such as the lack of a reliable center, spontaneous combustion, the idea of revolution, and the profuse uselessness of clutter, dust, and empty actions. This very act of literary analysis and the search for an identifiable meaning, often to incomplete ends, only highlights the inevitable role of entropy in all things.

4:35 PM**Harmony in Peril:****Interactions Between Red and White in The Canterbury Tales**

Frederick Smallshaw, University of Lynchburg

This presentation analyzes Chaucer's treatment of the historically harmonious pairing of red and white hues in medieval literature. I present four categorizations of the contexts in which Chaucer creates an ironic synthesis of these two colors. The first is a "tragic distortion" in the Knight's Tale, where well-meaning characters are led astray by twists of fate and place the colors of white and red in literal conflict. The second is a "comic distortion" in the Miller's and Reeve's Tales, where the vulgar context of red and white entertains and cautions audiences to respect the sanctity of the synthesis or face similar humiliating consequences. The third is a "hypocritical distortion," where the Prioress and the Physician present apparently sound syntheses of white and red in their tales, but a closer inspection reveals the pairings' inappropriate nature due to these pilgrims' own vices. The final category I suggest is a "role reversal," where the Pardoner references white and red in an unholy matrimony, the font of pure vice rather than pure virtue. The overarching color theme of red and white indicates the omnipresence of spirituality in the Canterbury Tales, yet its distortion in each instance highlights the physical and spiritual infirmity of the corresponding characters on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.

4:55 PM

Tea With Mr. Darcy:

Bath's Jane Austen Centre, Commodification, and Audience

Ekaterina Savelyeva, University of Mary Washington

The Jane Austen Centre in Bath serves as one of several prominent literary tourist destinations in England aimed at Austen fans, though unlike her house in Chawton, it does not connect directly to any particular place that Austen lived. Nor, unlike Chawton and the British Library, does it feature material artifacts directly owned by or connected to Austen. Rather, the Jane Austen House serves an aggregatory function, acting at once as a source of basic information about Austen's life, a resource on Regency history, a celebration of Austen's characters, and an acknowledgement of well-loved adaptations of her works. Aiming at a broad target audience, the Jane Austen Center's immersive function – the tagline on its website as of November 2021 is “Step into Jane Austen's world” – has been criticized for promoting a romantically nostalgic, one-sided image of Austen's works that ignores their political sophistication, as well as misrepresenting Austen's relationship to Bath. I argue that these criticisms stem from the critically underexplored problem of the Centre's audience expectations. Its misrepresentations of Austen's life and relationships, as well as its choice to blur the fictional and real “worlds” of Austen, stem from marketing to an imaginary, unsophisticated reader of Austen's work.

4:15 PM A Walk through Mass Media History and Where We Are Today

Lily Perry, James Madison University

Throughout time, humans have relied on mass media in order to spread news, challenge their preconceived notions, and learn from the world around them. Innovators are driven to create these mediums in order for more ideas to be spread and for us to learn and grow as a society. However, there has been change in recent history as media creation started to become more about making money and less about sharing of good ideas. This has caused great harm. In my flash talk, I want to talk about this change, the negative effects of modern mass media, and how we can continue to use media to positively impact the world.

**4:25 PM Forgotten Promises, Stunning Disparities:
The Humanitarian Failures and Media Successes of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake**

Hannah McAllister, James Madison University

In order for humanitarian and developmental aid to be both effective and ethical, nonprofit advertising must be highly impactful and match the quality of aid being distributed. There has been a discrepancy between nonprofit advertising and services being provided. For example, the 2010 Haitian Earthquake was one of the greatest tragedies of the 21st century, but the following fundraising efforts were an incredible example of the power of effective humanitarian storytelling and marketing. According to NPR, The Red Cross alone raised utilized marketing opportunities such as the Super Bowl and the influence of celebrities and Michelle Obama to raise around \$500 million dollars, about half of what Haiti's national budget was at the time, pledging to spend the money on emergency relief aid and "rebuilding neighborhoods and rebuilding lives." This was an incredible success for nonprofit marketing, but the actual aid distributed did not match the success and promises of the advertising. The Red Cross's marketing was unethical because it misled both donors and Haitians and supported a system not well equipped for long-term developmental aid. This kind of mistake should never happen again.

4:35 PM Social Media and the Illusion of Choice

Anthony Lawson, James Madison University

Social media is one of the most powerful and influential tools of the Information Age, yet its potential remains largely unharnessed. Collectively, we have very little understanding of the apps and algorithms that push content at us. Social media is a vast, virtual library of information, and these algorithms are the librarians that hand us what we are searching for. But can we trust them? Never was this question more prominent than during the pandemic, when society went virtual. From the 2020 election to the January 6th Insurrection, it became obvious that online regulation of disinformation is not up to standard. As the world reopens and we begin to reconnect, we must acknowledge how our worldviews have been changed by our screens--both positively and negatively. Disinformation is a threat. Media regulation is difficult but necessary. We must understand algorithmic incentives in order to know what must be changed and how.

4:45 PM

Social Dissonance:

Avoiding Calamity in the Music Industry Using Social Science

Angie Wiederock, James Madison University

Music industry professionals must be prepared to practice exceptional communication in order to secure the prosperity of the post-pandemic music scene. Every famous musician depends on hundreds of people working behind the scenes on different but related problems. A failure in one role can take down the whole operation; for example, a seemingly inconsequential miscommunication between an artist and their manager can sabotage a multi-million dollar concert tour. What do social interactions look like in the music industry, and how can one prepare for the inevitable problems that arise? My flash talk will present insights gleaned from social psychology, communications, and sociology that are relevant to the smooth functioning of music concerts, promotion, and management services.

4:55 PM

**The Urgent Need for Cross-Disciplinary Education
in Business Management and Media Studies**

Cyrus Sarehraz, James Madison University

Could a degree program that fuses business management with media studies benefit society? Superficially, that might sound like an overly specialized program for a niche student population. In reality, however, curricula that fuse sound business knowledge with media savvy could potentially benefit millions the world over. This is because the explosion of social media into a giant global industry has given ordinary citizens everywhere access to widespread advertisement for everything from personal hobbies to business ventures. As more people begin promoting businesses or income-generating hobbies through social media, demand will rise for courses that teach effective integration of business and media skills. The education system will face a need to respond. A program like this could contribute significantly, as it models a process for learning business and media skills, and subsequently applying them in a practical context to enhance the success of a business venture.

5:05 PM

Behind the Scenes of a Consulting Influencer

Jaeda Cohen, James Madison University

What you see of the work of a social media influencer is definitely not what it looks like behind the scenes. Being an influencer and doing café consultations takes a lot of work. You get to be both in front of the camera, behind the camera, an editor, a manager, etc. I have learned that acquiring good business sense is important and difficult. I am currently creating an LLC which has helped me learn the legal, accounting, and taxation aspects of social media influencing. A big takeaway in successful consulting influencing is the ebb and flow between putting yourself out there and being selective about clients. After growing my network I now have emails flowing in constantly from people who want to do collaborations and invite me into their businesses.

5:15 PM

**Nature vs. Nurture in Neurology:
Is It as Complicated as We Once Thought?**

Deaquan Nichols, James Madison University

The complexity of the nature vs. nurture question has been long assumed. The answer might be contained in a single discipline: neurology. The chemical composition of all beings' brains grow and develop in such a way that they are afforded the best chance of survival under present circumstances. As humans, we are no exception. The human psyche constrains itself to grow within the means of the environment for which it is needed. Why do those abused have a higher chance to be abusers? Why do those whom witness violence regularly seem to disregard the importance of a human life? Adjustments to and perceptions of traumatic events are not completely created on one's own, for it is the recognition of abnormal events that forces the brain to alter itself in ways that lead to perceiving the "normal" as traumatic.

Being a Successful Consulting Influencer

Jaeda Cohen, James Madison University

Being a consulting influencer takes a lot of dedication as well as consulting and influencing soft skills that determine your success in this world. Consulting in my world consists of going into cafés, coffee shops, and restaurants, and creating content for the company/café to use on their advertising platforms, as well as for my own promotional use to both promote myself and the brand. Although similar, influencing is a whole different world. Through my Instagram and TikTok I would consider myself a clothing, jewelry, coffee, skin care, and make up influencer. This sort of influencing consists of a lot of back-and-forth between negotiating as well as communicating with companies and brands to receive their products and create content and promote them through my social media platform. My poster will share how to do this successfully and what the behind the scenes influencing work looks like.

Supporting at risk children during and after COVID-19:

A pilot study to provide virtual support for vulnerable children

Jordan Daniels, Virginia State University

In this poster session, the author will describe his proposed senior thesis project which will use qualitative research methods to interview social workers and other mental health providers in order to develop effective and appropriate virtual interventions for children who are at risk for experiencing abuse, neglect, depression, or other hardships as a result of living through COVID-19 and as society begins to move from a global pandemic to an endemic way of life. The author would like to develop a pilot program that uses different methods to provide virtual support to at risk children. The author is specifically interested in children from Latin American countries who already face other risks such as economic hardship and political unrest. In 2020, The Bernard van Leer Foundation wrote a report called “The Covid-19 pandemic and childhood in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The report described the various effects of living through the pandemic on children but it stated those effects have been mostly ignored. The report describes how the negative financial impacts that resulted from the pandemic along educational interruptions from schools being closed have really taken a negative toll on children who were already at risk. The author would like to explore ways that social workers and other mental health providers can provide virtual intervention services to at risk children. Interviews with experienced professionals will be conducted and transcribed so that themes can be developed and an appropriate intervention plan can be proposed. This poster session will present the author’s work so far and will share the plan for completing the project and disseminating the findings.

Storytelling & Healing:

A Student-Led Community Building Initiative through Narrative and Art

Emma Geisler, Elysia Lin, and MiJin Cho, Virginia Commonwealth University

In colleges and communities today, there is a need for spaces that promote inclusive dialogue and understanding, equipping individuals with self-compassion and mobilized empathy for others. Storytelling & Healing is a student-led initiative that seeks to build a platform for creative self-expression, growth, and resilience within the Richmond community through dynamic processes of narrative. Since our founding, we have facilitated virtual readings and exhibitions of student work, discussion groups, and guest lectures on topics of mental health, minority justice, women in media, and COVID-19. Our current initiative is an ongoing empowerment writing workshop with women's homes under REAL Life, a nonprofit serving individuals experiencing homelessness, in recovery from substance use, and those who have been incarcerated. In a workshop model, we employ creative writing techniques, visualization, and the storytelling arc to develop coherent narratives of recovery. Through the development of workshops, key aspects of the “re-authorship process” have emerged, including establishing community norms, identifying hidden points of tension within expressed and internalized language, and confidential group sharing to empower the individual and collective voice. We would like to present the significance of building narrative spaces and how such practices can be translated into student-led workshop models across disciplines.

Functional Comparison of RAW 264.7 Cells and Murine Bone Marrow-Derived Macrophages (BMDM)

Quinn Harker, University of Lynchburg

Parallel examination of the functional responses of bone marrow derived macrophages (BMDM) to the viral transformed murine RAW 264.7 cell line provides a basis for comparison of in vitro and ex vivo experiments using the cells as models for inflammation. Equivalent responses would allow the substitution of the RAW 264.7 cells for BMDM and reduce the use of animals in experimentation. RAW 264.7 cells are maintained in media and BMDM are generated by culturing bone marrow cells from female Swiss mice femurs. The cell lines are stimulated with lipopolysaccharide or *E. coli*, respectively, to induce an inflammatory response. Removal of the supernatant is used for quantification of nitrites in solution by the Greiss assay. To correct for a slower growth rate of BMDM compared to RAW, cells will be dislodged from wells following treatment and counted by hemocytometer. Nitrite response levels will be normalized between the RAW 264.7 cells and the BMDM by establishing a response level per 10,000 cells for comparison purposes. Correcting for cell growth rates over the LPS exposure time will allow for better interpretation of results and comparison of experimental outcomes.

Which Ethical Theory is better: Deontology, Utilitarianism, or Virtue Ethics?

Laura Horton and Madalyn Holdren, Bluefield University

For this poster, we want to explore why one of these theories should be considered better than the other two. We will compare, contrast, and include our own views.

The Remarkable Effect That Algorithms Have on the Way We Think

Anthony Lawson, James Madison University

Social media has led to the mass spread of involuntary institutionalization. A tool meant to shatter our preexisting worldviews often tends to do the exact opposite--reinforcing the beliefs that we already hold. This can be attributed to the algorithms that control the social media experience from behind the scenes. Never has this topic been more prominent than during the pandemic, when society went virtual. Now, as the world begins to reopen, and as we all begin to reconnect, it is important to take a step back. We must examine how we have changed, and what has influenced that change. It is more than likely that social media played a part. As active citizens, it is essential that we acknowledge and understand the invisible hand of algorithms in order to better our future media landscape. Media literacy, media regulation, and the reduction of misinformation are crucial to the progress of socialization and society online.

The Great Disconnect: When the Media, Mission, and Management of Humanitarian Responses are Misaligned: Through the Lens of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake

Hannah McAllister, James Madison University

The response to the 2010 Haitian earthquake was one of the biggest successes in nonprofit and humanitarian marketing, but also one of the biggest failures in aid delivery. The Red Cross alone was able to raise nearly 500 million dollars through their campaigns, about half of Haiti's total national budget at the time. With that money they did very little of what they had promised. After five years, the Red Cross had only built six permanent houses. What made the marketing campaigns for Haitian aid so largely successful? Were the campaigns themselves ethical in their storytelling techniques? Where did the money from such successful campaigns go if not towards the programs they promised? The disparity between the advertising and the follow through leads to a wide range of questions that are critical to understanding when learning from this tragedy and developing higher quality, more effective and ethical humanitarian and developmental responses.

Regulation of Electron Transfer Pathways in Cytochromes with Aromatic Amino Acids

Deaquan Nichols, James Madison University

Natural photosynthetic proteins are based upon chains of reactions that start with sub-nanosecond light energy conversion into the energy of electrical charges and are followed by multi-step electron transfer (ET). Attempts to develop artificial enzymes for photosynthesis have been relatively futile due to the difficulty of generating sufficiently fast primary charge separation even with the smallest proteins. Here we report our results on attempts to accelerate ET by placing aromatic redox-active amino acids along the putative path of ET for the E39C mutant of PpcA, a 3-heme cytochrome. With LC-MS we verified protein purity and successful attachment of Ru(bpy)₃ to Cys-39 in E39C, E39C/F41W, E39C/F41Y, and E39C/I38Y mutants. Using analytical size exclusion chromatography, we verified successful protein folding and removal of unreacted photosensitizers. With temperature-dependent circular dichroism spectroscopy, we evaluated the thermal stability of both mutants. Finally, we observed increasing fluorescence quenching under more alkaline conditions in E39C, E39C/F41W, E39C/F41Y, and E39C/I38Y suggesting that Trp-41 and Tyr start to serve as intermediate sites in the ET pathway responsible for the acceleration of ET.

Role of GATA4 and NKX2-5 Mutations in Ventricular Septal Defects

Isabella Ochalik, Marymount University

Proper heart development depends on a highly specified network of gene regulation (Saliba et al., 2020). The smallest change in this sensitive process can cause a birth defect. Ventricular septal defects (VSD), the most common type of congenital heart disease, affect more than one in every three hundred births (Gruber & Epstein, 2004). Most cases of VSDs are linked to gene mutations. GATA4 and NKX2-5, highly conserved transcription factors, are among the first genes expressed in the developing heart. Mutations in these genes change their affinity for DNA binding, impact interaction between transcription factors, and alter the expression of other genes. Although the role of genetic mutations in heart organogenesis is not entirely understood, recent studies using mutated cardiac progenitor cells and mouse models have provided new insights into the complex networks that regulate heart development.

The History of Media: Innovators and Their Effects on Society

Lily Perry, James Madison University

Gutenberg's printing press marks the start of mass media history in 1455; mass media has only grown since then. The intentions behind the printing press help us understand why modern-day mass media has become such an essential part of our lives. Mass media allows us to express our thoughts and make them more accessible to others. Still, the intentions of media pioneers have changed throughout time, and innovation has become more about money and power. This research follows the history of media and the effects that innovators have had on society--both positive and negative. By looking at the inventor intentions, and impacts throughout time, we can gain an understanding of disinformation, how we became such a polarized nation, and ultimately decipher how to become better consumers of media.

Exploring How The Built Environment Affects Student Well-Being on College Campuses

Kaeley Pollock, Roanoke College

Personal well-being and holistic wellness practices have been gaining attention in academia, work settings, and research in the past several years. There is a gap in the literature, however, on the unique experiences that college students go through whilst living in residence halls on their university's campus. After extensive research on pre-existing literature surrounding the topic, Roanoke College students were sent a campus-wide survey to assess and compare student preferences and understanding of well-being. Using the information included in a literature review and the findings from the survey, this study explores how one's physical built environment and institutional arrangements influence their well-being. During analysis, we address the following questions, "how do aspects of the built environment and institutional arrangements influence students' well-being?" and "what changes can be implemented in common spaces within residential halls to positively influence students' well-being?". Furthermore, we propose ideas, themes, and practices that should be incorporated in an intentional living community centered around student wellness. The proposal will be presented to the office of Residence Life and Housing on Roanoke College's campus, who intend to include characteristics of the environment as suggested in their planned development of an on-campus wellness intentional living community.

Can Military Working Dogs Suffer From PTSD After Combat?

Mackenzzy Robbins, Marymount University

There are currently an estimated 1,500 to 2,700 Military Working Dogs (MWDs) serving in the U.S. military. MWDs can be employed as explosive detection dogs (EDD), to track, patrol, or attack, as well as used in search and rescue. The most common MWDs are Belgian Malinois, German Shepherds, and Labrador Retrievers given their heightened anxiety, controlled aggression, and increased olfactory system. During combat, MWDs can come face to face with explosions, attacks, and gunfire. When humans experience these events, they can potentially suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Like humans, MWDs can become traumatized from these events, causing their behavior to alter and, in many cases, making them unfit for military performance. This presentation will argue that combat-related trauma or stress can cause Canine PTSD in MWDs.

Business Management for Media and Entertainment

Cyrus Sarehraz, James Madison University

As a new interdisciplinary field, Business Management for Media and Entertainment are practically non-existent. The few exceptions teach business and media studies separately with little to no instruction on synthesizing the necessary two skill sets in real-world contexts. The present project focuses on creating a preliminary model for a curriculum that goes beyond the current models, as these impart theoretical knowledge from the two disciplines in isolation. This project also seeks to prepare learners for real-world integration of the two skill sets with a view to fostering entrepreneurial success in media ventures and enhancing the effectiveness of media use in entrepreneurship. This model's usefulness is not limited to programs for future business leaders in the media industry. In the near future, the education system will begin looking for such models, as global demand will undoubtedly rise for this knowledge. This is because online commerce and social media have now given ordinary people a global stage for promoting their businesses, and many will want to learn better ways to achieve success.

Finding Harmony:

Why Communication Studies and the Music Industry (Should) Go Hand-in-Hand

Angie Wiederock, James Madison University

The music industry is a vast network with a multitude of moving parts, relying fully on excellent communication to run smoothly. Without communication in many different capacities across an abundance of parties, there would be no music industry at all – no big artists, no concerts, and no streaming. This poster explores social events within the industry through the lens of a social scientist. What important interactions occur between an artist manager and an artist, a booking agent and a concert promoter, an artist and their huge audience? What human instincts can be observed in these interactions, and what can we do to limit room for error and miscommunication? Every part of the system has their own perspectives and goals, and each has to negotiate and create open dialogues to reach a satisfying compromise. With the general public being recently reconnected to concerts, music industry professionals must be prepared to practice exceptional communication in order to secure the prosperity of the post-pandemic music world.

**1:45 PM Impacts of TRIM72 on bleomycin-induced injury
and pulmonary fibrosis; an in-vitro approach.**

Rohan Rathi, Virginia Commonwealth University

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis is a chronic, progressive disease of the lungs where thick scar tissue develops irreversibly, leading to dyspnea and respiratory failure. Previous studies have implicated lack of functioning alveolar type 2 epithelial (AT2) cells in IPF pathogenesis, with some pointing to tripartite motif protein 72 (TRIM72) as a critical component for acute plasma membrane damage repair for AT2 cells. This study tested the effects of TRIM72 on in-vitro cultured rat lung epithelial (RLE) cells with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. In this study, we tested and compared the effect of bleomycin in RLE cells with or without TRIM72 expression. We examined the expression of Nox4 (a marker for oxidative stress) and P21 (a marker for cell senescence) using immunoblot. We found an increase in both Nox4 and P21 in response to bleomycin treatment. RLE cells overexpressing TRIM72 had reduced levels of Nox4 and P21 as compared to RLE cells lacking TRIM72 after bleomycin exposure. Further research is being conducted on examining the levels of other senescence markers, as well as in the effects of externally introduced TRIM72 (recombinant) on bleomycin induced injury in RLE cells.

2:05 PM Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Research

Emily McPike, James Madison University

Microwave Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation (maser) from water molecules in galaxy centers prove to be an important tool for probing supermassive black holes and distance measurements to extragalactic astrophysical sources. Masers are crucial for providing foundations of our understanding of how the universe formed and evolves. Unfortunately, luminous water masers are rare. Currently, there is tentative evidence connecting the maser pumping mechanism with accretion of matter onto supermassive black holes in galactic centers, known as active galactic nuclei (AGN). Herein, we investigate identifying AGNs in maser galaxy hosts via mid-infrared variability, a method that is less sensitive to cosmic obscuration while still revealing variations in the AGNs. We employ the Megamaser Cosmological Project (MCP), which offers a complete list of galaxies surveyed for water maser emission, as well as multi-epoch mid-infrared data from Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE), and present analysis of variability in surveyed galaxies.

2:25 PM Effect of a chemistry case study on students' understanding of chemical bonds

Katie McShea, Marymount University

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetically produced organic compounds. These compounds have both hydrophobic and lipophobic properties and their unique chemical structure render the chemicals practically non-biodegradable. These compounds are generally used as surfactants or to create products that are water and oil repellent and heat and acid resistant. Over the past few years, PFAS compounds have been receiving increased media attention for their adverse environmental and health effects. PFAS compounds are extremely relevant to college chemistry students because their stability in the environment can be attributed to their chemical structure. PFAS compounds contain the strongest bond in organic chemistry, the carbon-fluorine bond. Our research group has developed a case study focused on PFAS compounds to help students understand important chemistry topics: chemical bonds, electronegativity, atomic radius, bond length, dipole moment, and bond enthalpy. These topics explain why the C-F bond is the strongest bond in chemistry. Here, we present the case study and data analysis from the first round of completed workshops. Data analysis will help identify any statistically significant improvements in students' survey responses related to their understanding chemical bonds. Therefore, PFAS compounds are relevant both to news outlets and the chemistry classroom.

1:45 PM The Invasion of the American Heiress: How wealthy**American women bought husbands and married their way to the top of British society**

Ana Emond, University of Lynchburg

“Sir, if you were my husband, I would poison your tea,” quipped Lady Nancy Astor. “Madam, if you were my wife, I would drink it,” responded Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Lady Astor did more than banter with Churchill, however. In fact, Lady Astor was the first woman in the British Parliament—and she was an American. Lady Astor was just one of the numerous rich and glamorous Americans from the late 19th to the early 20th century that married British title-holding men. At one point, one-third of the British House of Lords had American wives. These marriages were not for love but were mutually beneficial partnerships. Daughters of new money became outcasts in American old money high society; while British lords found themselves penniless. Through their marriages, the wives joined the highest echelons of society and the British husbands regained their wealth. These women, their marriages, affairs, husbands, and lives became the hottest topics in societal papers. Looking back, these writings reflect an image of a time when gender roles were flipped, American women had great influence in British society, and finding a husband was akin to a woman’s shopping trip.

2:05 PM Accounting Information Systems

James Burcham, Bluefield University

The researcher chose to look at Accounting Information Systems and what one entails. An Accounting Information System (AIS) is a system that collects, records, stores, and processes data to produce information for decision makers. With the use of an AIS, a business is able to add value to their organization. Additionally, the researcher specifically focused on the threats an AIS may face and preventative measures that should be put in place to prevent these threats from occurring.

**2:25 PM “What’s in your wallet?” A Survey of Federal Prosecution
of Credit Card Schemes in Virginia and How Businesses Respond to the Challenge**

Courtney Streeby, Radford University

Credit card fraud increases exponentially on an annual basis. The Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problem by necessitating the increased use of technology and online shopping. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reports that credit card fraud made up 32% of Virginia’s identity theft reports. With credit card fraud making up such a large number of Virginia’s identity theft reports, it’s increasingly important for consumers to know what security measures companies have in place to protect their data and money. The author examined 27 United States District Court cases involving credit card fraud in Virginia from both the Eastern and Western Judicial Districts of Virginia ranging from 2014 to 2020. The author also conducted eight interviews with Virginia-based companies. They were asked a range of questions concerning recent fraud suffered by the company to what specific integrity techniques they use to deter and detect credit card fraud. The author then compared that information with the information obtained from examining court cases and company websites to identify if what the companies are doing are deterring or catching the criminals. While no system is perfect, it’s important to note that fraudsters are constantly improving their techniques, making it hard for systems to adapt to these new techniques.

1:45 PM Environmental and Social Concerns in Fashion Textile Production

Caroline MacDonald, Marymount University

Fibers and materials used for textiles have positive and negative social, economic, and environmental impacts in each stage of their life cycle; polyester may have promising recyclability qualities but releases microplastics. Leather and fur are deemed more biodegradable, but generate concerns over animal welfare and chemical effluent in the production processes. Cotton production presents struggles regarding the regulation of chemicals and concerns over forced labor. Major strides have been made to encourage designers and companies to establish better social and environmental responsibility practices through projects such as the Sustainable Apparel Coalition and The U.N. Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, as well as legislation such as New York's Fashion Sustainability and Accountability Act. Due to opaque manufacturing practices, consumers are left with few options to make ethically informed decisions regarding the apparel they choose to buy. This presentation argues that in order to create a socially and environmentally responsible apparel industry, designers and brands must consider every detail of the materials they plan to use, employ innovative practices to minimize their negative impacts, and provide consumers with a transparent understanding of the products they buy and how to care for them throughout their life cycle.

2:05 PM The Anthropocene, Capitalism, and the Destruction of Nature

Macy Pope, Marymount University

Climate change poses one of the most pressing challenges for contemporary society. We are attempting to create solutions before first pondering what is causing the rapid destruction of our environment; humanity's age of living in harmony with nature has come to an end in the era of capitalism. The usage of natural resources for economic gain has jeopardized not only our relationship with the Earth itself, but also future generations that will be born into a world suffering from the choices of generations past. Therefore, we must investigate what solutions to climate change exist, and whether or not these solutions must exist outside of a capitalistic society. Leaning on the works of Marx, Jonas, Marcuse, and other modern ecological theorists, this study utilizes critical evaluations of the relationship between capitalism and nature to see what would be necessary if we are to mitigate ecological disaster.

2:25 PM

**A Quantitative Analysis of Gender Inequality on
Efforts to Reduce Human Trafficking in Countries**

Amelia Simmons, University of Lynchburg

The phenomenon of human trafficking is a growing problem that affects millions worldwide. Literature on the subject suggests that inequality between men and women can be a crucial factor in determining national efforts to combat trafficking in persons. This research studies the association between a country's efforts to reduce trafficking and their literacy rate difference between men and women as a measure of gender inequality. An analysis of variance yielded statistically significant results that national efforts to combat human trafficking were associated with inequality between men and women in those nations. Discussion on how these results can inform efforts to hinder trafficking is included.

Presentation Session 4 1:45 – 2:45 PM Sydnor Performance Hall

1:45 PM

The Seasons of Our Appalachian Youth

Madalyn Holdren, Bluefield University

Short recollection of stories from my youth growing up in an area of southwest Virginia that was considered to be part impoverished Appalachia. Stories are read going through each one of the four seasons.

2:05 PM

Speaking Through Movement

Joy Watson, Virginia State University

Movement alone is a language. It is like an open-ended question that can be interpreted in any way. Joy Watson performs an artistic piece exploring storytelling and expression through dance.

2:25 PM

Loss, Loathing, and Love

James Grayson, Bluefield University

I will be reading a creative nonfiction piece I wrote in 2020 which contains my reflections and thoughts on the issues my mother was facing at the time. Specifically, her struggle with her medication becoming ineffective and her mental state changing as a result, as well as the confusion and pain this must have caused her.

Pre-Recorded Presentations

Poster: Trend Analysis of Modern Cyber Attacks with the Adoption of the Cloud

Varsha Venkatesh, George Mason University

Since its initial growth in the late 1990s, Cloud technology has gained widespread traction as the future of IT Modernization. Cloud services utilize the internet rather than a local device to regulate services and programs. External vendors maintain these online servers and software platforms in return for a cost. A noteworthy phenomenon with the rising popularity and use of Cloud-based platforms is the parallel surge of modern-day data attacks. As an evolving and widely-used technology, my research explains whether (if) Cloud Adoption (adopting to Cloud technology) contributes to an increase in digital vulnerabilities and attacks. Upon reviewing the development and evolution of the Cloud, weaknesses and security consequences of Cloud Systems, and case studies of Cloud Adoption, a general trend suggests that malicious online players take advantage of low user knowledge of utilizing and securing Cloud systems to facilitate attacks. A significant portion of security breaches on online platforms originates from user error rather than service error. Overall, this specific line of technological inquiry was selected given the rise of modern-day cybercrime. With the growth of the online domain, my research underscores the relationship between cyber-crime and the advancement of the internet and cutting-edge technological developments.

Oral: The Use of Whole Cow's Milk as a Dietary Source of Tryptophan:

Regulation of Sleep in Individuals Aged 18-30 with Delayed Sleep-Wake Phase Disorder

Shraddha Patel, Virginia Commonwealth University

Young adults in the United States are increasingly affected by DSPD (delayed sleep-wake phase disorder), a circadian rhythm disorder that delays evening sleep and morning wake times. Although medicinal supplements have shown to produce effective results on sleep induction, they come with unwanted side-effects. A review of the literature on clinical nutrition and endocrinology suggests that dietary alterations through the timed consumption of tryptophan-abundant whole cow's milk could be a supplemental means of improving sleep quality. Studies on chrono nutrition indicate that dietary components absorbed by the bloodstream can change the circadian schedule of melatonin secretion from the pineal gland, and the timed consumption of tryptophan through one cup of milk can consequently spike melatonin levels before a DSPD patient's desired sleep time. This MILC treatment may decrease the patient's morning sleepiness on the basis that disordered, high-stressed, and sleep deprived individuals are susceptible to minimal changes in hormones because their bodies naturally attempt to attain homeostatic equilibrium. The correlation between chrono-nutrition and dietary effectiveness is a novel idea, and testing is needed to quantify the optimal timings and ranges of dietary intake that can produce a significant effect on the sleep schedule of a DSPD patient.

Flash Talk:**Ending World Hunger**

Mariah Smith, Hampton University

In the Flash Talk "Ending World Hunger", I will explore the heavily researched yet seldom discussed solution to food insecurity worldwide: ceasing animal agriculture. Not only will this change significantly reduce land used for farming, but it would make food accessible to the most impoverished communities globally. I will delve into several studies surrounding the topic, explain the politics behind food deserts, and touch on projects currently in progress. This Flash Talk is a powerful statement to spark the conversation about how such a large industry is contributing to arguably the most pressing issue in the world today.

PRESENTER INDEX

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Amouzou, Manuela	University of Lynchburg	1	3:20 PM	Schewel 208
Ball, Grace	University of Lynchburg	1	3:00 PM	Schewel 232
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Brett, Kathleen	James Madison University	1	3:20 PM	Schewel 232
Brubaker, Emma	Ferrum College	1	3:00 PM	Schewel 215
Burcham, James	Bluefield University	4	2:05 PM	Schewel 217
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Holdren, Madalyn	Bluefield University	4	1:45 PM	Sydnor
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Lawson, Anthony	James Madison University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby
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McAllister, Hannah	James Madison University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby
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McShea, Katie	Marymount University	4	2:25 PM	Schewel 208
Nichols, Deaquan	James Madison University	2	5:15 PM	Schewel 232
Nichols, Deaquan	James Madison University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby
Ochalik, Isabella	Marymount University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby

Presenter name	Institution	Session	Time	Location
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Sarehraz, Cyrus	James Madison University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby
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Watson, Joy	Virginia State University	4	2:05 PM	Sydnor
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Wiederock, Angie	James Madison University	3	9:15 AM	Schewel Lobby

ROLL CALL

Bluefield University
Emory & Henry College
Ferrum College
George Mason University
Hampton University
James Madison University
Longwood University
Marymount University
Radford University
Reynolds Community College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
University of Lynchburg
University of Mary Washington
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia State University
Virginia Wesleyan University
West Virginia University

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