

2003-2004 Project List

Perspectives on Citizenship and Community **Prof. Joel Schwartz, Government**

Sharpe Fellows: Ryan Davidson and Jessica Miller

Sharpe Scholars: Adrienne Wong, Stephanie Byers, John Bavoso, Christina Pinnell, Kyle West, Buck Vines, and Jess Vance.

This year seven Sharpe students have worked on two major outreach projects for the Matthew Whaley Early Childhood Resource Center (MWERC). MWERC is funded by a federal grant that is administered through the Williamsburg Department of Social Services and houses \$15,000 worth of educational toys and materials. One project involved four students making a video to promote the importance of early childhood education and MWERC. In conjunction with the students from the William and Mary Film Department, a video will be produced and distributed on VHS tapes to all kindergarten students at Matthew Whaley, Head Start students, and Social Services community contacts. The second project involved serving as a liaison to the Williamsburg Head Start Program. Three students have been volunteering at Head Start and working to incorporate MWERC material into the classrooms. This partnership has been especially beneficial not only because new materials are getting into classrooms but also because the liaison has helped to link Head Start teachers with Matthew Whaley teachers for training purposes. Within Head Start, one student has developed a tutoring program for volunteers in an effort to increase the number of volunteers and their effectiveness. Additionally, another student has worked on putting together the annual Fun Fest (started last year and held at the regional library) at Head Start this year which will be sponsored by MWERC and coordinated with Social Services. The projects associated with this course have given students a deeper understanding of early childhood education in Williamsburg and the importance of becoming involved in their community.

Race and American Democracy Project Summary
Prof. Chris Howard, Government

Sharpe Fellows: Angie Simms, Mark Burton

Sharpe Scholars: Ashley Bledsoe, Drew Colby, Evan Davis, Richael Faithful, Molly Godwin-Jones, Sarah Lecates, Dorothy Park, Marc Russo, Ideen Solhtalab , Gregory Teich, Paul Trifiletti, Stacey Tse, K.C. Tydgat

The freshmen seminar Race and American Democracy works with the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) Program in Williamsburg James City County Schools (WJCC). AVID is designed to provide academic and co-curricular enrichment activities for middle and high school students who are potential first generation college attendees. Sharpe Scholars tutor students in middle and high school AVID classrooms approximately two to three hours per week. Additionally, this year, under the direction of WJCC's Minority Achievement Office, Scholars assessed the status of AVID by noting the daily activities of the classes in which they tutor, asking students to complete questionnaires, and interviewing teachers and administrators. Scholars also researched AVID programs in other schools districts, and academic programs similar to AVID in purpose.

The goal of this Sharpe project is not only to provide academic instruction to WJCC students, but to evaluate the implementation of the AVID program to ensure that AVID students receive high quality instruction congruent with AVID objectives. A second goal of the program is to forge a stronger relationship between AVD and the College of William and Mary--to encourage undergraduates to tutor in AVID classes and to enable AVID students to access the College's activities and services. Scholars will present a comprehensive written and oral report of their experiences and research findings to the school board this Spring 2004.

United Way Sharpe Group
Prof. Clyde Haulman, Economics

Sharpe fellow: John Gibney

Sharpe Scholars: Micha Aurenz,, Nava Berg, Katherine Eade, Terence Kennedy, Peter Nye, Helen Wong

The United Way Sharpe Group studies and works with the issue of homelessness in the Greater Williamsburg area. The group uses a three prong approach emphasizing: research, civic engagement, and service.

Research entailed the Sharpe students analyzing the economic makeup of Williamsburg and determining the causes of homelessness. Part of the research process involved the group members interviewing 18 local homeless oriented organizations on important information such as client base, workers, publicity/outreach, and services provided. Civic engagement for the students involved raising awareness of homelessness, which the students did by organizing a Faces of Homelessness panel in their dormitory and by attending a Homelessness awareness walk in D.C. Throughout the year the students did direct service with Housing Partnerships, local food pantries, and Newport News PORT program.

By combining their experiences together the students hope to help initiate the Williamsburg Area Shelter Relief Program in conjunction with the United Way.

City of Williamsburg, City Planning Commission Group
Prof. Clyde Haulman, Economics

Community Partner: Reed Nester, Planning Director, City of Williamsburg

Sharpe Fellow: Steven Combs

Sharpe Scholars: Jonathan Hemler, Cara Lodigiani, Colin Verbese, Nicholas Walsh, and Cathy Young

Project description: The goals of this project were two-fold: to learn about local government, specifically the planning process, and to design and administer a survey of students at the College of William & Mary. The survey sought to gather detailed information regarding the interaction between the students and the local community, including shopping, transportation, and entertainment preferences. The survey also asked what College students liked best about the City, what they liked least, and asked for suggested changes. Information gathered from the survey will be used by the City of Williamsburg as part of the Comprehensive Plan update process. Survey results were presented at meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission.

Environmental Studies Group
Prof. Timmons Roberts, Sociology and Environmental Studies

Education Group

Sharpe Fellow: Darcy Newsome

Sharpe Scholars: Kate Perkins, Sara Coren, Elizabeth Burroughs, Matthew Rowe, Michael Schobel

The Environmental Science and Policy class is one of the classes offered to Sharpe scholars. The education portion of this group is working to inform the public on learned information from the environmental science class. The education group is attending various middle and high schools to educate students on storm drain pollution. The presentation explains the importance of watersheds and stresses the role that everyone and everything plays in the water system. After the power point presentation the group splits the students into small groups to conduct a role playing game. The groups are each assigned a different scenario about development. The four groups, developers, homeowner's association, watermen, and the government, are then asked to debate their side of the developing problem. This shows the students that there is no easy solution to the development problem and to storm drain pollution. As the students leave the activity, they receive a pamphlet containing information on leading a conservational lifestyle. The education group hopes that the students will retain the information they learned and work to reduce the amount of storm drain pollution. The education group seeks to reach out to a younger audience, as they will determine the earth's future. If the students learn the effects of storm drain pollution now, their actions will continue on into the future.

Science Section

Sharpe Fellow: Meghan Williamson

Sharpe Scholars: Timothy Brown, James Jackson, Christopher Lemon, Heather Heiser, Marie Kurtz, Erin Morgan, Rosalind O'Brien

The "science section" of the Sharpe Environmental Science Program this year has focused on mapping out storm drains and drainage systems at the neighborhood level. As part of a pilot program for James City County, they are comparing the runoff systems in various communities (ditches along the side of the roads, underground pipes, retention ponds, etc) so that the county and often the local neighborhood have a better sense of how storm water runoff is being handled locally. In many cases, retention ponds have been filled in or never built, storm drains consist of little more than front-yard ditches, and the sediment and pollutants carried away during a storm are transported directly to our local streams and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. As a culmination of their yearlong project, they will have a stenciling-weekend during the end of April in order to alert residents about the environmental damage associated with allowing pollutants to enter storm drains. By labeling each drain as an input into the Chesapeake Bay watershed and distributing pamphlets to local residents, they hope to raise community awareness and sensitivity about the local causes of water quality impairment.