

## 2004-2005 Project List

### **Race and Inequality in American Democracy**

**Chris Howard, Government**

Sharpe Fellows: Mark Burton, KC Tydgat

**Sharpe Scholars:** Morgan Berman, Christopher Chaulk, Kristin Corcoran, Ernie Dominguez, Younes Jabbara, Katelyn Kenner, Wan Kim, Julia Marion, Ashley Pinney, Zachary Reau, Sarah Tamburrino, Haiwei Wang, Benjamin Winer, and Tiseme Zegeye

The Race and Inequality group worked with Darian Jones, Director of the Williamsburg Minority Achievement Office to administer surveys to parents of WJCC students. The group assessed whether parents representing certain racial and socioeconomic groups felt that schools effectively communicated with them. They also assessed parental involvement by determining whether the schools were welcoming to parents. In order to get a racially proportional sample, the surveys were sent home with a sample of students and distributed at various churches in the area.

### **Hispanic Studies in the Latino Community**

**Jonathan Arries, Hispanic Studies**

Sharpe Fellows: Marshall Popkin and Jessica Foster

**Sharpe Scholars:** Samantha Besora, Cathleen Chong, Pamela Gatarz, Olga Grosh, Heather Keelon, Madeleine McDougall, Mohammed Nauage, Aylara Odekova, Alexandra Rosetti, Simone Smith, Kurt Steinhouse, Sarah Thomas, Ramon Torres, and Caitlin Tuffin

The Hispanic Studies group established community partnerships with two public schools in James City County: Rawls Byrd Elementary and James Blair Middle. The goal of their project was to coordinate a tutoring program, where scholars paired with students and assisted them in overcoming language barriers. The group also created a class website, which contains the school contact information, the Sharpe program's contact information, and tips for tutoring Limited English proficient students. The group wants the website to raise community awareness and educate other scholars and the community about issues related to the Hispanic population in the area.

## **Perspectives on Citizenship and Community** **Joel Schwartz, Interdisciplinary Studies**

**Sharpe Fellow:** Danielle Espino – Terrific Kids Group

**Sharpe Scholars:** Jon Carpenter, Katherine Corcoran, AJ Dronkers, Charlotte Moxley, and Andrew Pinkerton.

This group worked with Principal Andy Jacobs Matthew Whaley Elementary School to develop an after school program geared toward third through fifth grade students. The group created “Terrific Kids” to examine the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The group focused on the traditional understanding, and social justice approach of each pillar using a variety of interactive activities, service projects, skits, problem solving situations, and lessons. The group also created a survey that allowed teachers and parents to assess the character of the students based on the six pillars. This survey was distributed at the beginning and end of the year in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. After compiling and interpreting results, the group was able to make recommendations to the Andy Jacobs regarding the continuation of the program.

**Sharpe Fellow:** Andy Schwarm – Voting Rights Group

**Sharpe Scholars:** Erik Ahlenius, Rasheed Dalla, Sasha Eckstein, Jeree Harris, Casey Hull, Judd Kennedy, Saba Shahid, Robert Tisdale, and Joshua Turner.

This group worked on voter participation and voting rights issues this year. In the fall it assisted with a voter registration initiative coordinated by the NAACP and in the Spring it worked on the issue of student voting rights. While college students in many localities have the choice of voting absentee from their family’s address or voting where they attend college, the Williamsburg registrar has interpreted “domicile” laws to preclude students from voting at their campus addresses. This group has done several things to study this issue, including conducting legal research on the subject, working with the local voter registrar, and surveying William and Mary students: did they vote in the last election? Did the fact that they couldn’t register in Williamsburg affect their decision whether or not to vote? Where would they vote, if given the option? What, in their judgment, would be the impact on local politics if students could vote in local elections?

## **Perspectives on Community Health** **Monica Griffin, Sociology**

**Sharpe Fellow:** Stephanie Byers – Virginia Dept. of Health / Olde Towne Medical Group

**Sharpe Scholars:** Teva Brown, Courtney Cox, Tina Ho, Justin Jarrett, Colby Tataronwicz, and Ryan Wong

TheVDH-Olde Towne Medical group worked with the Rene Cabral-Daniels, Director of the Office of Health Policy and Planning, and Lilia Mayer from the Virginia Dept. of Health, to survey doctors in the Charles City County area in order to re-establish the

federal designation of the region as a Health Professional Shortage Area. They also worked with and with Judy Knudson, Executive Director of Olde Towne Medical Center (OTMC) to complete a survey of over 200 OTMC patients in order to collect data to improve the quality of care. Although these are two separate partners, the groups attempted to integrate the projects to improve access to quality health care for low income residents of Williamsburg and Charles City County.

#### [Sharpe Fellow: Rachael Faithful – Community Activism and Social Health Group](#)

**Sharpe Scholars:** Anthony Feghali, Danielle Garrett, Annie Maynard, Jemma Moore, Arash Sadraee, Maha Syed

The Community Activism and Social Health group worked with numerous community partners in the area due to their keen interest in political and/or civic service. They were particularly interested in procedural types of service, such as grassroots activism that demanded problem-solving and practical intervention skills. The group worked with Thayer Cory, veteran facilitator with Williamsburg Talks, a local organization which hosts discussion circles based on racial diversity. The group spent the fall semester sharing different racial experiences, understanding campus racial climate, and learning how racism affects social community health. The group also participated in an Action Forum where the group listened to community members' concerns about racial inequity, and brainstormed points for community action. The group also attended monthly meetings with the Virginia Organizing Project (VOP), a community organization designed to empower local citizens to forge meaningful change within their communities. And, they worked with Patti McKenzie, President of Williamsburg Homeless, and Indigenous (WHI). Sharpe students from this group synthesized this combination of experiences in the form of a "living" project, describing and supporting the academic need for civic volunteerism and paving future opportunities for activist-oriented projects in Sharpe's new partnership with the College's Center for the Study of Inequality: SITIN (Student Initiatives Task Force on Inequality).

#### [Sharpe Fellow: Gianne Harper – Granby High School Achievement Gap Group](#)

**Sharpe Scholars:** Christina Daya, Charone Dew, Elise Helgesen, Cindy Kao, Brittany Krantz, Kristan Schrider, Brooke Tortorella and Lindsay Usry

The Granby group worked with Principal Ted Daughtry, Granby High School in Norfolk, VA to coordinate and facilitate three events for Granby High freshmen, in an effort to address factors in the achievement gap present at the high school. These events addressed academic, cultural, and service aspects of the college experience in order to generate interest among Granby students to attend college. Members of the group attended monthly Achievement Gap Task Force meetings in Norfolk, in order to gain a better understanding of achievement gap issues and administrative approaches to solving the problem. As a final product, the group completed a research paper that analyzed the achievement gap nationally in comparison to Granby's situation—its to community health and the strengths and weakness of programs designed to address the problem—and

offered suggestions and solutions for future high school-oriented, achievement gap partnerships.

**Sharpe Fellow: Katie McCarthy – Saturday Morning Academy Group**

**Sharpe Scholars:** Floret Parker, Colin Fuller, Aveena Kochar, James Donecker, Corinna Hann, Jessica Goforth, and Kellyn Carrier-Fenster.

The Saturday Morning Academy group worked with a Saturday tutoring program with James River Elementary School, led by Mrs. Mary Scales. The program targets children who may have trouble passing Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) for weekend tutoring. Some members of the group also volunteered at the elementary school during the week with the after school tutoring program, the Target Program. Sharpe students created a field day project for Saturday Morning students, integrating physical health information with SOL skills in activities such as Math Twister, Jeopardy, Spelling Bee, and more. The group also worked collaboratively with Mrs. Scales to coordinate a field trip to downtown Williamsburg (the post office, train station, police department, fire department, and library), encouraging the elementary kids to explore experiential forms of learning as they prepared for the SOL exams.