Featured Faculty Lectures, Family Weekend 2022

An Introduction to pre-Columbian Art and Cultures

**Dr. Elizabeth Moran**
Associate Chair, Jane William Mahoney Associate Professor of Art History

**Andrews Hall, Room 201**

This lecture will introduce you to some of the art produced in the Americas, by indigenous cultures, before contact with Europeans. While most general audiences are familiar with cultures such as the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, this class will introduce you to two or three cultures that might be completely new to you. For example, we might focus instead on the visual materials of the Taino culture in the Caribbean, the site of Teotihuacan in Mexico, and the Tiwanaku people in the Andes.

Beyond Scarcity and Surplus: Indian Migration and Middle Eastern Oil

**Dr. Andrea Wright**
Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and the Program Director, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

**Boswell Hall, Room 220**

Dr. Wright’s lecture will focus on labor migration from India to work on oil projects in the Middle East. She will look at the conditions of migrant laborers, reasons for migration, and the historical context in which this migration occurs.

Honoring the Ancestors Through Community-Engaged Research

**Dr. Joseph Jones**
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology

**Andrews Hall, Room 101**

Dr. Jones will describe several community-engaged research projects currently underway in William & Mary’s Department of Anthropology and the Institute for Historical Biology. The first project, in partnership with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, involves analysis of human skeletal remains from the original, 19th-century site of First Baptist Church, one of the earliest African American places of worship. Next, Dr. Jones discuss the collaboration with the National Park Service to develop more inclusive and diverse narratives of historic Jamestown. Lastly, he will detail the East Marshall Street Well Project’s efforts to honor – through research, memorialization, and proper interment – over 50 individuals recovered from a 19th-century well (“anatomy pit”) located on the VCU Health medical campus in downtown Richmond. For each project, Dr. Jones will explain how scholarly public engagement benefits descendant communities and institutions as well as student and faculty researchers.
How do nursing facilities respond to minimum wage increases?

Dr. Peter McHenry
Associate Professor of Economics
Small Hall, Room 110

Dozens of U.S. states and municipalities raised their mandated minimum wages between 2017 and 2019. In some areas, minimum wages became high enough to bind for some professional workers, such as lower paid staff at nursing facilities. Jen Mellor and I have been using a lot of great data to study how nursing facilities responded to those minimum wage increases. We find no evidence that minimum wage increases reduced hours worked among lower-paid nurses in nursing facilities. In contrast, we find that increases in state and local minimum wages increased hours worked per resident day by nursing assistants. These results lessen concerns that minimum wage hikes may reduce the quality of resident care at nursing facilities. And they highlight how economists use data to address important public policy questions.

Nuclear Weapons and International Conflict

Dr. Jeff Kaplow
Assistant Professor of Government
Integrated Science Center, Room 1127

The Iran nuclear deal is in trouble, North Korea is testing nuclear missiles, and Russia has repeatedly threatened nuclear use in Ukraine. Before we all take cover, we should think about the role nuclear weapons play in international conflict. Do nuclear weapons make us safer? Do they make war more likely? Or do they have any effect at all? This lecture will examine social science research on nuclear weapons and international security, with implications for the Russia/Ukraine conflict, North Korea, and Iran.

Revealing the Invisible: Light-Driven Innovations in Research & Teaching

Dr. Kristin Wustholz
Mansfield Associate Professor
Integrated Science Center, Room 1221

Why do the vibrant hues in a painting fade over time? How can glowing molecules address important challenges in art conservation to medical imaging? Students in the Wustholz lab in the Department of Chemistry at W&M use light to uncover the answers to these questions, and in doing so, tremendously advance their own learning. In this presentation, Prof. Kristin Wustholz will focus on how her research students discovered an ultrasensitive method to identify fading pigments in historic oil paintings. This innovation means that a tiny paint sample, smaller than the period at the end of this sentence, can reveal what pigment the artist used and how to protect it from further deterioration. Through several examples, Prof. Wustholz will discuss how the creative process of research – generating new ideas and knowledge with W&M students – drives scientific discovery and innovative teaching.
**Social Influence Using Virtual Reality: Beyond Chocolate-Covered Broccoli**

**Dr. Jason Chen**  
Associate Professor, School of Education  
*Integrated Science Center, Room 0248*

Immersive Virtual reality (IVR): What is this form of fake reality, and what are some ways that social scientists are using IVR as a research tool? In this lecture, Dr. Jason Chen will review some of the ways that IVR has been used to understand the psychological bases of learning and instruction. Dr. Chen will also provide a quick peak at some of the federally funded research that he is engaged in using IVR.

**Weather, Climate, & Change: a Geologist’s Perspective**

**Dr. Christopher ‘Chuck’ Bailey**  
Professor and Chair of Geology  
*Small Hall, Room 111*

Professor Bailey teaches *Weather, Climate, & Change*, a COLL 100 course for first-year students. This lecture will be a raucous introduction to topics covered in this course including earth, wind, and fire. Audience participation is encouraged.

**William & Mary’s Highland**

**Maria DiBenigno**  
Special Collections Exhibits Apprentice and PhD Candidate in American Studies  
*Blair Hall, Room 201*

Come learn about Highland, a historic site located in Charlottesville and an integral part of the William & Mary community. Highland is a place for learning, with archaeological research, university courses, student projects, rustic trails, environmental conservation, and collaboration with the Highland Council of Descendant Advisors. Many perspectives make Highland’s work more insightful, as research about the past helps us understand the present and our shared future. We invite you to bring your questions and join us on this journey.