

VOICES

Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives



March, 2012

Welcome to the March issue of VOICES. Since 1987 March has been designated as Women's History Month. During the month the contributions of women, both past and present, are celebrated. The 2012 theme is Women's Education-Women's Empowerment. This issue highlights several areas of campus that focus on women. I hope you enjoy reading and if you have submissions, please email diversity@wm.edu.
One Tribe. One Family,
Chon

Upcoming Events

March 14 and 15: iPAX production: *My Visits with MGM (My Grandmother Martha)*. A vibrant coming-of-age Latino stage play about a native from Mexico struggling to come into her own in Texas.

March 15: Diversity and Community Initiatives Webinar: Strategic Planning for LGBT Campus Work. 3:00-4:15 pm.

March 17: Lemon Project Symposium: 9:00am—4:00pm at the Bruton Heights School. This year's theme is: "*The Journey Continues: Learning From Difference.*" This is a free event, but please register at: www.wm.edu/lemonproject

March 31: Voices of South Asia Conference hosted by SASA: The Voices of South Asia Conference is an educational event that brings representatives from over 40 universities to discuss issues in South Asian cultures, as well as issues that many South Asians face living in the United States. .



WISE Grant Kick-Off Reception

WISE (Women in Scientific Education) is a grant from the National Science Foundation to benefit women faculty in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) disciplines. Five William & Mary professors recently received a three-year \$580,000 grant that will provide career development activities, research and assessments for female STEM faculty not only at William & Mary and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, but Thomas Nelson Community College and Richard Bland College. The initiative addresses the attrition of women in science at each stage of the educational process by providing funds for career development. The principle investigators of the grant are: Jennifer Stevens, Cheryl Dickter, Catherine Forestell, Pamela Hunt, Lauren Johnson, Christy Porter, Jacqueline Spencer, and Alison Peabody. On February 8th, Dennis Manos, Vice Provost for Research and Graduate/Professional Studies, Kate Slevin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Jennifer Stevens, Associate Professor of Psychology welcomed women faculty to a reception as an introduction to the WISE grant. Pictures to the right are from the reception held at the Muscarelle Museum of Art.



Women's Network at William and Mary

The Women's Network is the oldest of the College's affinity groups. The network was formerly referred to as the Women's Caucus. The group is comprised of faculty members, professionals, and administrators who are organized to support women on campus, to assist new women in navigating the campus, to celebrate successes, and to advocate on behalf of colleagues when necessary. This year the Women's Network hosted a very successful Fall Reception and a Social Gathering at New Town. The Tenure & Promotion Workshop was held on February 23rd at the Mason School of Business, featuring ten panelists and over 50 participants. A networking luncheon is scheduled for March and plans are underway for a family-friendly event in April. The Co-Chairs for the network are Rowan Lockwood and Patty Purish O'Neil. Pictures below are from the Tenure and Promotion Workshop.



*Pictured Left To Right: Laura Heyman (Law), Elizabeth Harbin (Chemistry), Anne Charity-Hudley (Linguistics), Linda Schaffner (VIMS), and Virginia Torczon (Computer Science).

Student Affairs: Women's Leadership Program



The Women's Leadership Program is a selective program, available to junior and senior women that accepts 20-25 participants each Fall. Participants in WLP are active leaders in academics, athletics, campus clubs and community organizations. Leadership training and life planning skills specifically for women are incorporated into this eight-week program. The goal of WLP is to provide a forum for women to learn more about themselves as leaders, discuss women's issues, and gain clarification on career and life goals.

Participants meet with speakers from the College, its alumni and the community to address these topics. The program is facilitated/coordinated by Anne Arseneau, Associate Director of Student Activities and Jen Leung, Assistant Director of Student Activities. The program has been in existence since the mid-1990s. Participants will leave the program with: (1) a greater sense of self, by recognizing personal patterns of behaving, leading, and communicating; (2) a greater sense of the power of relationship in communities, organizations, and work places; (3) an understanding of their opportunity as women leaders to influence and create change in communities, organizations, and work places; and (4) an understanding of the importance of contribution to communities, especially as women. For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.wm.edu/offices/studentactivities/leadership/womensleadership/index.php>.

Women's Studies Program

Established in 1991, Women's Studies was one of the first Interdisciplinary Programs at William and Mary. Women's Studies brings together faculty who are nationally and internationally significant figures in feminist scholarship and teaching. Women's Studies faculty engage in innovative research across the disciplines and within the interdisciplinary framework of Women's Studies itself, employing women, gender and sexuality as primary categories of analysis, and bringing that exciting, cutting edge scholarship into the classroom. The curriculum is both broad in scope and well-integrated to produce synergy between courses--both requirements and electives--as well as theoretical and methodological approaches. Many of the courses are interdisciplinary drawing from conceptual frameworks that span the humanities and social sciences, developing students' ability to think across boundaries. Women's Studies appeals to students from diverse backgrounds who work together as campus and community activists, and who realize their identities in and through a web of relations to others, both globally and locally. By providing vital financial support for student assistantships, awards, internships and student research experiences, sponsored programs including the Carol Woody Real World Internship, the Gove Endowment, the Friends of Women's Studies, and the Charles Center Teaching Fellows Program (formerly Mellon Student Fellows) help to accomplish the program mission. Women's Studies is also an empowering force in diversity awareness, supporting and advancing educational and professional goals and aspirations of (racial, ethnic, and sexual) minorities on campus.



A signature event sponsored by Women's Studies is the Annual Minnie G. Braithwaite Lecture which commemorates Minnie Braithwaite's courage in attempting to become the first woman to attend classes at the College of William and Mary in 1896. **The 2012 lecture entitled, "The Double Life of Female Celebrity" will be presented by Sharon Marcus, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, on Tuesday, March 13th at 6:00 pm in Andrews Hall 101.** For more information on the lecture and to learn more about Women's Studies at www.wm.edu/os/womensstudies.

Tribe

Tribe Women Coaches Recognized

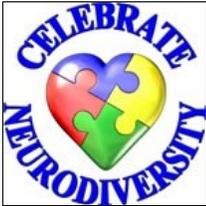


William and Mary women's tennis head coach **Meredith Geiger-Walton** was recently inducted in the USTA Oklahoma District Tennis Association Hall of Fame. Each year the ODTA recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to Oklahoma tennis. In junior tennis, Geiger-Walton was constantly ranked No. 1 in the state of Oklahoma in both singles and doubles. By age 11, her No. 1 ranking continued in the Missouri Valley Section, and she was ranked No. 1 nationally in doubles for several years. She played collegiately at Arizona State where she was an All-American as a senior after earning All-Pac 10 in 1994 and 1995.



William and Mary head field hockey coach **Peel Hawthorne '80** was inducted into the St. Catherine's School Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 11, 2012 as part of the inaugural class of six individuals and one team. Hawthorne, a 1975 graduate of the Richmond, Virginia prep school, lettered in field hockey, basketball and lacrosse before coming to William & Mary as a student-athlete in 1976. Of the 393 W&M victories recorded since 1973, Hawthorne has been involved with 308 victories as either a player or a coach.

Neurodiversity: *Our brains are as diverse as the rest of us!*



The Neurodiversity Working Group at the College of William and Mary seeks to raise awareness of neurodiversity on campus, and to develop programs of support for College students on the autism spectrum, and their peers who can learn from them. In an effort to maximize human capital through making students, faculty and staff aware of the diversity of human neurologies and the challenges and talents available on campus, the group hopes to create a highly desirable educational destination for learners of all kinds of abilities. NWG includes administrators, faculty, staff and students. Plans are underway for campus events in April for Autism Awareness Month. For more information, contact Warrenetta Mann (wcmann@wm.edu) or Karin Wulf (kawulf@wm.edu).

Campus Pride Index

The College recently completed the Campus Pride Assessment that is used as a vital tool for assisting campuses in learning ways to improve their LGBT campus life and ultimately shape the educational experience to be more inclusive, welcoming and respectful of LGBT and Ally people. William and Mary received a 3.5 out of 5 stars. The highest ratings were Institutional Support and Student Services. A working group is compiling an action plan to address areas of needed improvement.



Counseling Center teams up with WMSURE and the Center for Student Diversity

The Counseling Center, The Center for Student Diversity, and the W&M Scholars Undergraduate Research Experience (WMSURE) program have teamed up to engage in an ongoing dialogue about the interface of diversity and the educational experience at the College. February 24th began a monthly lunch series on Managing Multiple Identities. The first session explored experiences of identifying as a member of multiple marginalized or minority groups, while balancing what those identities mean at various times. The idea of Stereotypes was explored more in depth on February 27th as Professors Anne Charity-Hudley and Cheryl Dickter facilitated a conversation with faculty and students on Stereotype Threat, which is being subject to the influence of any negative stereotype about a group you identify with. The series will continue with “Meet the Shrink” on March 23rd. The focus of this discussion is to address the myths and mysteries about mental health. On April 20th the question “Are You _____ Enough?” will be explored and allow participants to explore how identity labels may constrain authentic expressions of personhood. The discussions are held at 12:00 noon in the Center for Student Diversity.

Black Law Student Association Hosts Tuskegee Airman Hinton

The William and Mary Black Law Association brought Tuskegee Airman Sargent Harry Quinton for Black History Month. Airman Quinton served in the 477th bomber group of the Tuskegee Airmen as a mechanic after attending an aviation mechanic school in Trenton, NJ. In the lecture he spoke of his experience, “we had to fight for the right to fight,” and “you had to pick your time and place to make a stand.” Mr. Quinton and others were able to attend the inauguration of President Barack Obama as they received the highest honor given to a civilian, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The movie, *Red Tails*, tells the incredible story of the contributions of the Tuskegee Airman to the history of our country.



Pictured to the right is Vice President of BLSA Diana Cooper and Sargent Harry Quinton.

Religion and Culture—Did you know?



Holi

Every year, thousands of Hindus participate in the festival Holi. Waiting for the day after the full moon in the month of Hindu month of Phalgun, or early March. Holi has many purposes. It celebrates the beginning of the new season of spring. It also has a religious purpose, commemorating many events that are present in Hindu mythology. During this event, participants often hold bonfires, and throw colored powder at each other all in celebration.

Purim

Purim is a joyous Jewish celebration which occurs on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar in the Hebrew calendar beginning at sunset. According to the Book of Esther (the *Megillah*), the king of Persia, Ahasuerus, was nearly convinced to kill all the Jews in his land. King Ahasuerus' chief advisor Haman despised Jews, especially a man named Mordechai who had refused to bow before him. Haman wanted to punish all Jews for Mordechai's actions. King Ahasuerus, did not know that his queen, Esther was Jewish, and accepted Haman's plan to murder all the Jews. Esther intervened on behalf of her people by telling the king that she was Jewish. Upon hearing this, Ahasuerus ordered Haman's death instead and Mordechai assumed Haman's position as chief advisor. During the holiday of Purim, the Book of Esther is read aloud in the synagogue, often in the format of a skit or play. When Haman's name is mentioned, the listeners stamp their feet, boo and hiss and make noise with groggers. Children dress up in costumes and there is often a carnival in celebration that the Jews were not destroyed. A traditional triangle-shaped cookie called Hamantaschen is given out which symbolizes the tri-cornered hat that Haman wore.

