2015 Hollins Student Conference  
for Women Who Are Going Places  
Saturday, April 11, 2015  
Moody Center

11:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.  Registration Lobby, main level

1 to 1:20 p.m.  Opening Ceremony Ballator Gallery, upper level

1:30 to 2:20 p.m.  Presentations—Session 1
   101: Exploring Ideas: Hollins Honors Program Projects  
       Ballator Gallery, upper level

2:30 to 3:20 p.m.  Presentations—Session 2
   201: Exploring Modes of Expression—Performances  
       201 A – 2:30 to 2:55: Botetourt Building, Dance Studio 2  
       201 B – 2:55 to 3:20: Rathskeller, lower level
   202: Exploring and Making History  
       Goodwin Private Dining Room, main level
   203: Exploring Contemporary Issues in Science and Society  
       Janney Lounge, main level

3:30 to 4:20 p.m.  Presentations—Session 3
   301: Exploring Culture through Art and Religion  
       Goodwin Private Dining Room, main level
   302: Exploring Questions in Math and Science—Poster Presentations  
       Glass Dining Room, main level

4:45 to 5:15 p.m.  Closing Comments/Awards Rathskeller, lower level
1:30 to 2:20 p.m.  Presentations—Session 1

101:  Exploring Ideas: Hollins Honors Program Projects
       Ballator Gallery, upper level

Panel Descriptions: This panel will present progress reports on the collaborative research projects designed by students in the Hollins University Honors Program.

Panel Keywords: mental illness, research, color, coal-mining, feminism

Sponsored by: Christina Salowey and Robert Sulkin

Into the Blue: The Universal Essence of Color Between Lapis Lazuli and Mayan Blue

Madi Hurley, art and business
Rory Keeley, mathematics

We will present an in medias res timeline that accumulates our research on the history of the pigments lapis lazuli and Mayan blue. Upon investigating the color blue and its origins, we failed to come across any research that connected the symbolic meaning of ultramarine and Mayan blue in their differing cultures. Ample research exists that analyzes the meanings of each hue of blue in their separate cultures and how they developed meaning through history. However, we recognized a similarity in symbolic meaning for both hues of blue despite the vast geographical distance and cultural differences. This is where our search began, with the simple question of how did these two vastly different cultures and regions develop, through history, such a similar meaning for blue? Our project is interdisciplinary in that we are measuring the similarities between differing cultures using color as our tool. In addition, we will be presenting our findings in a “Blue Experience” museum exhibition that uses different media to communicate our thesis.

Keywords: Mayan blue, symbolic art, lapis lazuli

Historical Hysteria

Emili McPhail, communication studies and international studies
Amanda McVey, English
Elizabeth Trout, political science and communication studies
Amelia Verkerk, classics

Historically, mental illness has often gone untreated or treated inadequately, especially in women. Our research examines the treatment shift in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We hope to bring about a greater understanding of the gendering of women’s mental illnesses by examining the social constructs that surrounded the illnesses. The literary focus is “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, written in 1892, centering the research in the late 19th century. We are examining this text to study the psychology of women’s mental illness and the societal aspects of why and how mental illness was gendered. The project will culminate in a documentary that will include primary sources such as images from the time, diaries, and accounts from women in treatment at the time. In addition, we are speaking to experts in the field and museum curators to augment our research.

Keywords: mental illness, The Yellow Wallpaper, 19th century, asylum movement

#FirstTimeFeminists: An Engagement of Young Females in the Feminist Activist Movement

Cierra Earl, undeclared
Taylor Humin, English with creative writing
Danielle Raymond, English with creative writing

This researched-based, multimedia project attempts to mobilize young women and girls to identify with and become active members of the feminist movement. Feminism is often presented in a negative light and prevents young girls from labeling themselves as feminists for fear of being connected with inaccurate stereotypes. The central questions are: How do the media present feminism to young girls from
grade school to college, and in what ways can they be engaged and inspired to participate in the feminist movement? The main channel to promote the project is through online media. Research was done on history of feminism, the relationship between media and feminism, campaigns and their critiques, as well as the ways in which social media can be used to promote positive change. Information gathered from this research will go toward launching a campaign that will include a homebase webpage containing articles and information on feminist history and news, multiple social media accounts, and an ongoing hashtag initiative. Our hope for this campaign is to shed light on the movement and mobilize others.

Keywords: feminism, gender and women studies, multimedia, communication

Appalachian Coal Mining Communities: Generations, Challenges, and Change

Gabrielle Turner, undeclared
Nora Williams, religion

Coal mining in Appalachian communities has had serious effects on the people who live there, the environment, and the economy. Appalachia’s younger generation is responding to pollution, safety, economic impact, and environmental regulation. Our research focuses on the perspectives and activism of individuals and groups who are seeking to effect change. In our research, we have studied the history and methods of mining in Appalachia using books and documentary films; and we are relying on newspaper articles as primary sources. We are hoping that newspaper articles and interviews with newspaper editors will allow us to draw meaningful conclusions. In addition, we hope that the personal interviews we conduct will put a face on the growing movement studied in our project.

Keywords: coal mining, generation gap, activism, environment

2:30 to 3:20 p.m. Presentations—Session 2

201A: Exploring Modes of Expression—Performances
2:30 - 2:55: Botetourt Building, Dance Studio 2

“And in This House”

Chanice Holmes, dance

Sponsored by: Gina Kohler

My thesis research began with the question “Who am I?”, which prompted me to explore the issues around the untold stories within the black communities, both historical and current. I concentrate on the relationship between black women and the systems that exploit them. It is important to discuss the history of exploitation and the objectification of black women and their bodies. One of the ways exploitation shows up in mainstream media is through the exposure of women’s bodies. Through both dance and dialogue, I dissect what it means for the bodies to be a “temple” or a “house,” in which one is in total control of her own femininity, race, and sexuality. In African-American communities, the woman usually holds the power within the household. However, outside of the house, women have been eroticized, objectified, stereotyped, and ripped of their rights. In this performance work, we are investigating the recurring pattern in popular culture that demonstrates an overwhelming interest in women’s bodies being used as revenue. Has America moved away from ridiculing a black body, or are we continuing to perpetuate a system rooted in white supremacist capitalist patriarchy?

Keywords: Black women, HER-story, power, liberation

201B: Exploring Modes of Expression—Performances
2:55 - 3:20: Rathskeller, lower level

The Artemis Series: Book 1, The Escape

Krista Knauer, English with creative writing

Sponsored by: Amanda Cockrell

In this project, I am writing part one of a serialized young adult science fiction novel. The novel is about four genetically modified teenagers who were created by the military to be super soldiers to fight in
World War III. It is from the point of view of the main character, Artemis, who is 17. It begins as they are trying to hide from the U.S. military by seeking shelter with citizen rebels. It flashes back to past tense to set up how they came to decide to leave the military after they have been sent out on their first mission. My purpose in doing this project was to turn my attention to writing longer works of fiction, especially young adult novels, which are my passion. This work signifies a huge step for me as a writer in learning to write quality young adult fiction.

Keywords: young adult, science fiction, female voice

202: Exploring and Making History
Goodwin Private Dining Room, main level

“Books, Bonds & Beaus: The Perpetuation of Traditional Gender Roles at Hollins College during World War II”
Ashley Farrer, history and English Sponsored by: Jennifer Donnally
In 1940, President Bessie Randolph Carter addressed the Hollins College Board of Trustees. Women’s education, she charged, was vital to defend American democracy against the threat of totalitarian regimes. President Carter and Dean Mary Phlegar Smith presented opposing views over whether Hollins should continue traditional liberal arts course work that positioned the students as well-rounded southern mothers and wives, or if the institution should aim for preparatory courses for viable employment such as typing. Throughout World War II, Hollins administrators, professors, and students participated in the debate regarding the course work that would best equip students with skills to contribute to the war effort. Scholars D’Ann Campbell, Susan Campbell, and Amy Thompson McCandless have shown that American society required less sacrifice and labor, and more domestic normalcy, from the elite southern class of which Hollins students were a part. Drawing from student newspapers, president’s, dean’s, and registrar’s annual reports to the board of trustees, this presentation builds on this scholarship to argue that Hollins students and administrators resisted major changes in the midst of World War II and championed traditional female roles in order to preserve a home front to which American soldiers would wish to return.

Keywords: gender, Hollins College, World War II, women’s education

Darlings in Love: A History of Romance Between Women at Hollins in the Early 20th Century
Antonia Nagle, undeclared Sponsored by: Glenn Bracey
This paper and accompanying sources hope to provide a detailed examination of the world of darlings at Hollins between the years 1900 and 1921, using primary sources gathered from The Spinster, the college’s yearbook. As a small, single-sex institution established in 1842, Hollins has a history of romantic relationships between students. Students who participated in these relationships between the years of 1900 and 1921 were called “darlings.” These same-sex relationships flourished at Hollins in the early 20th century and were a well-known and accepted part of life at Hollins. For this study, over a hundred primary sources were gathered from The Spinsters of this time period and used to create a picture of the culture and customs of darlings. These sources are entirely student-composed and include poems, short stories, play scripts, jokes, cartoons, senior pages, club pages, and portraits. This paper has drawn from the sources found in The Spinster to compose a comprehensive history of the darlings and their world at Hollins.

Keywords: sexuality, history, women, Hollins

Dark Sacred Night: The Song of Songs and Erotic Discourse in Medieval Literature
Lindsey Narmour, English Sponsored by: Marilyn Moriarty
This senior honors thesis focuses on the medieval exegetical treatment of the Song of Songs and the proliferation of erotic discourse during the 12th and 13th centuries which was influenced by the song. The thesis examines whether the eroticized metaphor of lovers in the song was used by religious writers in the
12th and 13th centuries to represent the relationship between God and the church. This thesis first examines the song in context by defining its structure and textual position in the Bible, early patristic writings on the subject of Christian sexuality, medieval exegesis on the song, and finally the use of similar erotic language in later medieval religious writing. This examination is focused on such primary texts as the song and medieval homilies on the song, writings of patristic authors such as St. Augustine, Tertullian, and Origen, and later religious mystic and ecstatic writings by St. Gertrude the Great, Mechthilde of Magdeburg, Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe. This thesis offers conclusive evidence for the use of erotic discourse in religious writing representing the relationship between God and the church or God and the Christian devotee, as well as the profound influence of the song on medieval religious literature.

Keywords: Medieval literature, language, sexuality.

Healing through Hope: A Rhetorical Analysis of Barack Obama’s National Eulogies

Victoria West, communication studies and political science  Sponsored by: Jill Weber

This paper analyzes President Barack Obama’s rhetoric in three of his national eulogies in order to examine how Obama consoles the nation following various tragedies and how his strategies differ from past presidents. These three addresses include President Obama’s responses to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the Boston Marathon bombings, and the West, Texas, plant explosion. For this paper a rhetorical analysis of Obama’s addresses was performed using a form of genre criticism. The components of this genre criticism were drawn from Robert Dennis and Adrienne Dennis Kunkel’s (2004) framework concerning national eulogy rhetoric. The results of this analysis illustrate that President Obama focuses on the survivors of tragedy rather than the victims, and transforms the survivors into heroes. President Obama’s emphasis on the survivors of tragedy rather than the victims promotes a sense of hope for the survivors and the nation by empowering the people to move on from the tragedy.

Keywords: national eulogies, tragedy, President Barack Obama, presidential rhetoric

The Effects of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch on Human and Environmental Health

Alexis Banaszak, biology  Sponsored by: Morgan Wilson

Plastics have been called the perfect invention because of their durability and resistance to degradation by both chemical and physical means. Plastics that have been discarded or lost may persist in the environment for longer periods of time and collect in large masses. In the northern Pacific Ocean, called the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” there is a gyre of discarded plastics (e.g., bottles, netting) covering nearly 538,000 square miles. The gyre is a basin of water where currents flow in a circular motion and debris ends up collecting in a centralized area. Plastic pollution is jeopardizing the health of birds and marine life, as well as human health (because of bioaccumulation occurring in our food supply). Research shows 93 percent of Americans have Bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical component of plastics, in their tissues. Currently, we use landfills to dispose of our plastic products; however, wind transports plastics (e.g., bags) to our oceans. Oceanographers are still researching ways to clean up the garbage patch, but the plastic accumulation continues to increase. As responsible citizens, we should change our behavior of current plastic usage to reduce our negative impacts on the health of humans and the environment.

Keywords: environmental science, plastics, “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” pollution

Effects of Using Chenopodium Ambrosioides as an Anthelmintic

Samantha Harvey, biology  Sponsored by: Ryan Huish

With the increasing use of synthesized chemicals, discovering more holistic and natural ways to cure illnesses has grown in popularity. Using plants reduces the impact of harsh chemicals on the environment and the health of humans and animals. Chenopodium ambrosioides, more commonly known as American
wormseed, is a native plant of North, Central, and South America. Characteristics of this annual are that it is fairly short (40 cm tall), has oval leaves, and small yellow flower clusters. Aboriginals in the Americas have been recorded as using wormseed as an anthelmintic or antiparasitic medicine. The property that allows it to kill intestinal worms is called ascaridole. Although ascaridole is a very effective anthelmintic, in high dosages it can be poisonous. This secondary research presentation explores the possibilities of using Chenopodium ambrosioides as an effective anthelmintic for intestinal parasites even though ascaridole, in large amounts, can be potentially poisonous.

Keywords: botany, anthelmintic, wormseed,

Racism in France: The Intersection between Immigration, Economy, and the Far Right

**Marissa Richerson**, environmental science  
**Sponsored by: Annette Sampon-Nicolas**

I am going to focus my research on rising racial tensions in France in the wake of the ongoing economic crisis and waves of immigration and failed attempts at assimilation. My thesis will address how the weakened state of France has allowed for political parties of the extreme right wing, namely Le Front National, to gain more and more seats in the government even though its founder and main objectives for the country can be interpreted as being overtly racist and anti-Semitic. I will have a short but comprehensive review of the history of immigration and racism in France. I will situate the history with the founding of Le Front National in the context of the economic crises of the ’70s. I will then focus on efforts of antiracism groups to quell rising prejudices as France’s immigrants become increasingly more Arabic and black. I will then take account of the failures of these attempts and focus on current expressions of overt racism and anti-antisemitism, namely toward Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira and antisemitic marches. Finally, I will make reserved suggestions on what could be done to help France’s citizens ease into a new era of immigration while dealing with one of the country’s worst economic crises.

Keywords: racism, antisemetism, France, immigration, economy

Brenda’s Baby’s Got a Gun: Open Carry Activism as a Tool for White Privilege

**Lachelle Roddy**, political science  
**Sponsored by: Jeanette Barbieri**

In the wake of Trayvon Martin’s death, the NRA lobbied multiple states throughout the nation to adopt Stand Your Ground Laws, calling it “vital self-defense legislation.” In this thesis I explore how the rhetoric of the NRA, present in its speeches, blogs, and video talk shows on the NRA’s website, tells or avoids the story of racial bias in open carry activism and gun control laws, which has played a fundamental role in designating people of color as “non-citizens.” I use a discourse analysis through a lens of critical race theory to argue that NRA rhetoric, which claims open carry to be a right for all American citizens, does not reflect reality. In reality, the NRA relies upon criminalized and demonized black bodies to institute a racialized fear among whites through rhetoric that contains implicit racialized words and racialized frames of self-defense.

Keywords: race, gun rights, politics

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3:30 to 4:20 p.m.  
Presentations—Session 3

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301: Exploring Culture through Art and Religion

**Georgina Bellhouse**, studio art  
**Sponsored by: Elise Schweitzer**

My objective is to make portraits in oil paint involving the relationship between color and emotion. By working through this relationship I will further my understanding of how colors make the viewer react
and emotionally respond to the portrait. In my studio I am using techniques learned in the J-Term class Draw/Paint/Sculpt the Portrait, including charcoal drawing, oil painting, color samples, and miniature studies of the portrait before turning it into a final product. My work will be based on life observation as well as photography. By working with glazed black and white portraiture through these methods, I will further my knowledge and practice of portrait painting. My inspiration has been the Fauvism movement with the use of color in conjunction with emotion. At the conclusion of my independent study, I will have five final life-size glazed-oil paintings and 20 charcoal drawings and oil painting studies representing the relationship between emotions and color.

**Keywords:** painting, art, portraiture

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**Shintoism**

**Samantha N. Reid, film**

Sponsored by: **Yasuko Kumazawa**

This project takes a brief look into the world of the Shinto religion practiced in Japan. Several types of festivals, rituals, and the general beliefs are outlined within the presentation. The images are meant to be relatable to experiences and topics familiar to the current generation of college students and hopefully to provoke fond memories and a bit of laughter as well. By informing the general public on this topic, I hope to aid in the understanding and acceptance of those who do not practice Shintoism of those that do.

**Keywords:** Shintoism, religion, beliefs, Japan

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**Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art: The People’s Museum**

**Allison Schmitt, art history and history**

Sponsored by: **Genevieve Hendricks**

The Berkshires in Massachusetts are filled with cultural gems of American society, including places such as the Norman Rockwell Museum and Tanglewood Music Center. The area was not always on the cusp of artistic endeavors; however, it was always exemplary of current events in America. Community members were typically middle to lower class and worked in blue collar professions for the factories or mills. The people in the town of North Adams were irrelevant in the artistic community; the local places of artistry were slated for tourists. However, the place of the blue collar worker within the artistic realm changed in the 1990s when the private and public sectors worked together to create something new to rejuvenate the depressed city. In 1986, during a high point for contemporary art, Thomas Krens, the director of the Williams College Museum of Art, proposed the reformation of an old mill complex to establish the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. North Adams, a small town trying to be a big city, deserted by industry and left with a floundering economy, became the new home of the largest contemporary art museum in America. The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art allowed the dejected city of North Adams to move out of the 20th century and into the 21st. By tracing its sociohistorical development, I found North Adams to be a city with the ability to use and renew its local resources, allowing it to remain relevant in contemporary times.

**Keywords:** contemporary art, architecture, historical development, economy, marxis

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**302: Exploring Questions in Math and Science—Poster Presentations**

**Glass Dining Room, main level**

**Dafachronic Acid Regulates Infectious Larvae Development in the Parasitic Nematode Strongyloides Stercoralis**

**Mennatallah Albarqi, biology**

Sponsored by: **Jonathan Stoltzfus**

I will present about how dafachronic acid biosynthesis regulates the third-stage infectious larvae as well as the post-parasitic first-stage larvae in the parasitic nematode Strongyloides stercoralis. Strongyloides stercoralis is a parasitic nematode that infects 30 to 100 million people worldwide. The life-cycle of S. stercoralis is unique in that the infectious form of the parasite is a developmentally arrested third-stage larva (L3i). The larvae of the free-living nematode Caenorhabditis elegans go through a similar arrest
stage called dauer under unfavorable conditions. In C. elegans, dauer entry and exit are controlled by
dafachronic acid (DA) steroid ligands, which regulate the nuclear hormone receptor DAF-12. We
hypothesized that endogenous production of DA is essential for L3i activation in S. stercoralis. To test
this hypothesis, we used ketoconazole, a cytochrome P450 inhibitor, to inhibit the biosynthesis of DA and
thus prevent the activation of the nuclear hormone receptor Ss-DAF-12. Ketoconazole inhibited L3i
activation by biochemical host-like cues in S. stercoralis at 75 µM (17.1 ± 3.1% L3i feeding) compared to
80.6 ± 6.0% L3i feeding at 0 µM (p ≤ 0.01). We used exogenous ∆7-DA to rescue the L3i inhibited by
eketoconazole; 400 nM ∆7-DA partially rescued the L3i larvae inhibited with 75 µM ketoconazole (50.1 ±
9.7% L3i feeding, p ≤ 0.01). Also, we have shown that ∆7-DA can regulate the developmental decision
between the homogonic pathway in which the post-parasitic larvae (PPL1) develop directly into L3i and
the heterogonic pathway in which the PPL1 molt four times and develop into adult males and females.
Keywords: larvae, parasite

Arthroplasty in Ambulatory Surgery Center

Ashani Davidson, biology

Arthroplasty is a surgical procedure to restore the integrity and function of a joint. Patients that undergo
arthroplasty in a traditional hospital setting tend to have a longer recovery period for in-hospital stay than
those who undergo arthroplasty in an ambulatory care setting. The aim of this study is to understand how
the length of stay after total hip and knee replacement affects the recovery process of the patient and if
there are any major consequences from a shorter length of stay after surgery. The study also aims to
determine how comfortable patients are with being discharged so soon after surgery. Previous studies
suggested that there was no statistical difference between length of stay and patient satisfaction in either
the total hip or total knee group when both the fast-track and traditional in-hospital stay groups were
compared (Husted H., et al., 2008). In this study, results show that short admission protocol is as safe and
effective for patients as longer admission protocols.
Keywords: health, surgery, modern medicine

Applications of Abstract Algebra: Symmetry in Spanish Arab Tile Patterns

Caitlin Orzechowski, mathematics

There are precisely 17 two-dimensional groups of symmetry, or wallpaper patterns, which can be
generated by rotating, reflecting, or glide reflecting a base image. In this project we investigate these
patterns in the tiling of Spanish-Arab structures such as the Alhambra in Córdoba and the Real Alcázar in
Seville, Spain. First we will show the characteristics of each pattern, and then make a table to represent
how we can travel from one cell of the pattern to another. Next we define each pattern according to its
point group and create a diagram to represent the elements of each group. We examine through abstract
algebra the similarities between patterns with equivalent point groups, yet distinct characteristics, and
why they can both be interpreted as the same group. Finally we use this information to create our own tile
patterns using GeoGebra (free software for geometry and more). Through this process we will describe
the connections among distinct wallpaper patterns and communicate the beauty of visual mathematics to
non-specialists.
Keywords: mathematics, abstract algebra, patterns, design

Closing Comments/Awards

4:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Closing Comments/Awards