

Memorandum

To: Faculty Senate

From: William Thomson
Chair, University Lectures Committee

Subject. Report of ULC activities for 2008-09 academic year

Date: 16 April 2009

Members of this year's University Lectures Committee were:

- Anna Cox, Department of Art
- David Hardin, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Brett Hursey, Department of English and Modern Languages
- Mark Lukas, Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy
- Michelle Norman, Department of Social Work and Communication Sciences and Disorders
- William Thomson, Department of Health, Recreation, and Kinesiology

This year the University Lectures Committee (ULC) was charged with three main goals: (1) to promote and sustain a Faculty Colloquium Lecture Series, (2) to continue to host the annual Simkins Lecture, and (3) to continue to host the annual Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Residency Week. The ULC was successful in each of these areas.

Funds were provided through the office of Dr. Wayne McWee to support two Faculty Colloquium award recipients. Calls for proposals were sent to all Longwood faculty during both the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. Twenty proposals were received for the Fall lecture event, and the committee selected the proposal authored by Dr Chris Moore of the Department of Chemistry and Physics. His talk, entitled "An active ingredient found in sunscreen could kick-start a sustainable hydrogen economy while revolutionizing video games" was well attended and well received. Seven proposals were received for the spring Lecture event, and the committee chose the proposal coauthored by Dr. Jennifer Miscec and Dr. Chris McGee of the Department of English and Modern Languages. Their talk, entitled "My Scars Tell a Story: Self-Mutilation in Young Adult Literature" was also well received.

The Fall 2008 Simkins lecturer was Dr John Mebane, whose visit was proposed and supported by Dr Michael Lund. Dr Mebane met with Geoff Orth and the Executive Committee of the Honors Students Association as well as two classes in the English department. His formal presentation, "Christianity, Pacifism, and Principles of Justice in Warfare" was delivered to an audience of overflow capacity at the Simkins Lecture on Monday, October 6, 2008 in the auditorium of the Hull building.

The most extensive event of the year was the Woodrow Wilson Fellow Residency Week, which occurred during April 6-10, 2009. Author/activist Ms. Janisse Ray was this year's Wilson Fellow, and she shared her expertise in the area of Sustainability with faculty, staff, students, and administrators throughout the week. Her meetings and appointments included President Cormier, Longwood Sustainability Coordinator Kelly Martin, a Student Affairs staff meeting, eight different university classes taught by seven different Longwood faculty members, and an interview with the WVHL radio station. The culminating event of the week was the Wilson Lecture and Reception, given in Hull Auditorium to an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. An extensive debriefing conducted prior to Ms. Ray's departure indicated she both enjoyed and was very impressed with her Longwood experience. Several ideas were exchanged to enhance the week's experience and will be passed along to next year's committee.

In summation, this has been a challenging but rewarding year. The Faculty Colloquium series is again well established, while the Simkins and Wilson lecture series have been supported and continue to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,
William C Thomson, Ed.D.
Chair, University Lectures Committee