

To: Faculty Senate

From: Anna Cox
Chair, University Lectures Committee

Subject: Report of ULC activities for 2009-2010 academic year

Date: April 14, 2010

Committee Members

Peggy Agee, Department of Social Work and Communication Sciences and Disorders

Anna Cox, Department of Art

David Hardin, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Mark Lukas, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy

Jake Milne, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Studies

Jennifer Miskec, Department of English and Modern Languages

Linda Wright, College of Business and Economics

The University Lectures Committee was charged with three goals:

1. Promote and sustain a Faculty Colloquium Series
2. Promote, sustain and host the annual Simkins Lecture
3. Host the annual Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Residency

We successfully completed two of the three goals. Due to budgetary constraints, Goal three was not met.

Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Due to increased fees for the Woodrow Wilson program and committee budgetary constraints, the University Lectures Committee did not fund a Woodrow Wilson fellow for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Faculty Colloquium

Funds were provided through the office of Dr. Wayne McWee to support two Faculty colloquium. Calls for proposals were sent to faculty during the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters.

Fall

Five proposals were received. The committee selected *Buy American: Toyota and Citizenship in the NASCAR Nation*, by John Miller, Department of English and Modern Languages. Dr. Miller's talk was well attended, but more importantly it garnered publicity for both Dr. Miller and Longwood University. John was interviewed on WFLO radio, in the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* (Va. *Professor studies the culture of NASCAR*, Karin Kapsidelis, Tuesday, December 1, 2009.) Dr. Miller was also contacted by the Vice President of Marketing for the Charlotte Motor Speedway (Charlotte, NC)—a prominent NASCAR venue.

Spring

Six proposals were received. The committee chose, *Hands-On and Minds On: Cooperative Learning Done Right*, by Dr. Gena Southall, Department of English and Modern Languages. Dr. Southall's talk was informative and well attended.

Improvement in publicity/promotion

As chair of the University Lectures Committee, I wanted to improve the quality and consistency of publicity and promotion for all committee events. To meet this goal, I worked with the Art Department Design Lab—an upper-level graphic design course. The Design Lab is currently creating an identity system for the Faculty Colloquium series and the Simkins lecture.

Simkins Lecture

2009

The 2009 Simkins lecture was *The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour* sponsored by the Concord Coalition. This proposal was submitted by Anna Cox*, (Art), and David Shoenthal, (Mathematics and Computer Science.) *The Fiscal Wake-Up Tour* is an urgent, bipartisan call for changes to America's fiscal policies. Their mission, as stated on their website, is to "...cut through the usual partisan rhetoric and stimulate a more realistic public dialogue on what we want our nation's future to look like..." The members of the tour represent a bipartisan who's who among leading political thinkers. Participants included David Bixby, CEO of the Concord Coalition and senior fellows from The Brookings Institute and The Heritage Foundation.

The Simkins lecture was co-sponsored by the American Democracy Project. It was extremely well attended (420 people) and involved students and faculty from very different areas: art, economics, business, and political science.

*Anna Cox was not the chair of the University Lectures Committee when she submitted the Simkins proposal.

2010

The committee received seven submissions for the 2010 Simkins lecture. The committee

chose a proposal submitted by Dr. David Magill and Dr. John Miller, both from the Department of English and Modern Languages. Their proposal is to host Dr. James Peacock, Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Their proposal states:

Dr. Peacock, Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a recipient of the Boaz Award from the American Anthropological Association, has recently published *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 2010). In this landmark work, he examines how the American South, which has long asserted its singularity and has been perceived as an insular, tradition-bound region, is embracing and has been shaped by globalism. Dr. Peacock's book (and the author himself) speaks to a variety of outcomes that include not only demographic and economic change, but also the effect that globalism has on "Southern" identity and culture.

This topic would be apropos given our community's past, present, and future. Situated in a locality that stubbornly clung to traditional racial identities and structures of power until forced to forgo them, Longwood now eagerly looks to integrate itself into the world community, as witnessed by the growth of the campus's international affairs program. At the same time, with the impending opening of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in Farmville, we are still a witness to the unresolved issues associated with global migration and policies. Not only, then, would a presentation by Professor Peacock be likely to attract a sizable and diverse audience, this distinguished scholar and teacher could potentially participate in a variety of courses across campus.

2009-2010 was a successful year for the University Lectures Committee. The Faculty Colloquium continues to be a vital series for sharing faculty research. The 2009 Simkins lecture was incredibly well attended and enriched multiple and divergent students and faculty.