

To: Faculty Senate

From: Jennifer Miskec
Chair, University Lectures Committee

Subject: Report of ULC activities for 2010-2011 academic year

Date: April 15, 2011

Committee Members (Faculty)

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

David Geraghty, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy

David Hardin, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

John Miller, Department of English and Modern Languages

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

Committee Members (Student)

Matthew Fife, Health, Athletic Training, Recreation & Kinesiology

Erin Kelly, College of Business and Economics

Jess Trafton, Department of English and Modern Languages

The University Lectures Committee is charged with three goals:

1. Promote and sustain a Faculty Colloquium series
2. Promote, sustain and host the annual Simkins Lecture
3. Apply for the following year's Woodrow Wilson Fellow
- 3a. Host the annual Woodrow Wilson Fellow

We successfully completed goals 1-3.*

*Last year the committee did not apply for a Fellow and so we did not host one this year.

Woodrow Wilson Fellow

We have secured the Fellow for Spring 2012: Joan Bertin, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Censorship and a lawyer who spent many years on the national legal staff of the ACLU. Currently Bertin is faculty member at Columbia University. Bertin will speak about academic freedom and student speech rights, including campus speech codes and the "Academic Bill of Rights."

From the WWF:

Dear Professor Jennifer Miskec:

On behalf of the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows and the Council of Independent Colleges, I am very pleased to report that Fellow Joan Bertin has accepted Longwood University's invitation to be in residence the week of 9 April 2012. Fellow Bertin has suggested that the last week of March (26 March) may be possible. I urge you to contact Fellow Bertin at your convenience and begin discussing the details of her residency. Should you both agree on the earlier date, please let me or Michelle or Veronica (all copied above) know.

We thank Longwood University for hosting Fellow Bertin and we look forward to learning how her visit went.

All good wishes,

Roger W. Bowen
Director

The committee selected our top four choices for the Woodrow Wilson after a careful consideration of all of the available Fellows. While at first we felt overwhelmed and did not know how to choose, Lara Ferguson asked us to consider the Academic Master Plan while selecting, which guided us toward Fellows who discuss Higher Education in the 21st Century.

Faculty Colloquium**

Funds were provided to support two award recipients. Calls for proposals were sent to faculty during the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters.

Fall

Ten proposals were received. The committee selected “*The Lost Boys and Masculinity Found*” by David Magill, Department of English and Modern Languages. Dr. Magill’s smart and funny talk was well attended—more than 100 students, faculty, and community members joined us on Tuesday, November 16th, 2010, in Jeffers Auditorium. The event was followed by a dessert reception.

Spring

Seven proposals were received. The committee selected “*The Mercenary Phenomenon: Wolves, Whores, Heroes?*” by Dr. Steven Isaac, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy. Dr. Isaac’s lively and informational talk was April 14th, 2011, in Hull Auditorium. Roughly 40 people attended, about half of which were students. The event was followed by a dessert reception.

**After Dr. Isaac’s talk, some of us were discussing a possible name change for the Faculty Colloquium. Recently some misunderstanding among students has occurred about the event that it was a colloquium for faculty and not welcoming of students. I have not run it by the committee yet, but we might want to consider changing the name of the program from “Faculty Colloquium” to “Longwood Colloquium.”

Simkins Lecture

2010

The 2010 Simkins Lecture was given by Dr. James Peacock, Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Peacock discussed aspects of his newest book, *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 2010), and how the American South is embracing and has been shaped by globalism.

The Simkins Lecture was incredibly well attended and enriched multiple and divergent students, staff, and faculty.

2011

We are currently in the process of gathering proposals for the Simkins Lecture. The deadline is April 15th. We should have a decision made within a few weeks. The CFP went out three times and highlighted the desired focus of a speaker who would address the issue of Higher Education in the 21st Century.

Future Goals: Improved Publicity and Promotion

For both the Simkins and the Faculty Colloquium Lectures we used the Design Lab to create professional posters to advertise this event. This increased visibility of the scheduled events. However, we would love to receive more proposals from faculty. Last August I participated in the Rapid Resource Exchange and I have worked with Janine Perry to advertise this event on the Faculty Resource page, yet the submissions are low in number (though thankfully high in quality). This committee should work to create an identity system for both the Faculty Colloquium and Simkins Lecture in order to increase visibility and garner even more proposals.