Students always come back to school in August with a summer’s worth of stories and adventures to share. From internships, research, travel, charter boat fishing, to camp counseling, the Scholars of VWC have had full and rich summers spanning many miles and experiences.

Sophomore Jessica Pittman spent her summer working for her grandfather’s charter boat fishing business in Eastern Maryland. This meant early, 4 A.M. mornings, doing jobs necessary for the boat to run smoothly, and lots of clean-up after the fishing session. Although it could be a smelly business with bi-polar weather, she was able to spend quality time with her grandfather and meet people from all over the East Coast. Jessica was able to spend her summer in the salt water under the sun with family and friends, which sounds like the perfect summer to me.

Britton Hipple, a senior chemistry major, spent the summer in Virginia Beach doing research for Dr. Easter. He researched the Yellow Ball Sponge and tried to extract the organic molecules from the sponge to test for possible antibacterial or antifungal capabilities. Through multiple different extraction procedures, he found that there is a compound extract with organic molecules from the sponge that has antibacterial capabilities. Britt plans to further his research this semester, hopefully isolating and identifying the compound.

In addition to Seth Antozzi’s experience with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (see article on page 6), he and his sister, Sarah, spent time camping, hiking, and experiencing Colorado. They explored the Rocky Mountain National Park and the United Air Force Academy chapel. In addition to the Academy being their father’s alma mater, it is the number one tourist attraction in Colorado. Seth and Sarah also spent time at Mt. Princeton, which is near Aspen, a world-class ski resort. The pictures of Colorado (above and below) are sights and experiences that Seth captured on their trip.

Senior Summer Moore had the opportunity to take middle school kids she had been mentoring all year to YoungLife camp in Northeast Maryland. Together they rode zip lines, tubed, sailed, danced for hours, and sat in the club room while the camp speaker talked about the good news of a risen Savior. Not only did the kids learn a lot and have fun, but as the trip leader, Summer came away with new appreciations and skills gained from the trip. It was a special and rewarding time with the kids that she had been serving throughout the year.

Jennifer Parker, a junior biology major, worked with Dr. Howard, Dr. Schaus, and a few other students on a research project.
studying different bodies of water on campus. The purpose of the project was to study how vegetated mats and plants have an effect on the concentrations of inorganic ions, mainly nitrate and phosphate. They sampled twice a week from the 18 tanks containing different amounts of vegetated mats placed in the 4 ponds and 2 creeks on campus. From the ponds they compared the input and output, and ion concentration to see how each differs. Her research will continue this fall as she studies how the tanks with foam compared to the tanks with vegetated mats spiked in them, as well as observe how the tanks with vegetated mats compare to the tanks that have vegetated mats and mineral spikes.

There are so many other Scholars with fascinating summer stories, and I hope that as you see one another in passing you reconnect and share memories with each other. With the busyness of a new school year, do not forget to be thinking about plans for next summer such as internships or travels! Good luck this semester, and continue making memories and staying involved.

President’s Message

To all of the incoming freshman Honors and Scholars members, let me be one of the first to welcome you to Virginia Wesleyan and into the Honors and Scholars Program. For the returning members, welcome back to campus and to another year full of opportunities. Not only will you have quality academic experiences through H&S, but the H&S Program has exciting events planned out for you to take advantage of and enjoy.

The H&S Program has so much to offer you. As H&S members, you will take advanced classes that put you a step ahead in your education, serve others in unique volunteer opportunities, experience special extracurricular activities, and find people who have similar goals and provide a support system. In addition, there will be guidance available if you have questions regarding your academic career or future possibilities.

As a member of the H&S Program, you have received a great honor. You are a distinguished student at VWC. I hope that you take advantage of all H&S has to offer you, and that you benefit from it this year and every other year spent at VWC. Stay active and engaged in this phenomenal program. Here’s to an incredible year!

~ Gabrielle Freese, ‘17

Leading through Service

My name is Laurissa Senecal and I am a junior honor student double majoring in English and Psychology. Upon my advisor’s recommendation, this summer I worked at a summer camp. My goal in this was to acquire experience in human relations and leadership. I applied for a position at Camp Hope Haven, a unique camp, which offers children from low-income homes a summer camp experience for free. The staff at Hope Haven all volunteer their time because they have a passion to see children enjoy life and have a good time. Although Hope Haven is a Christian founded Camp and does openly advertise as such, it welcomes children from all religious backgrounds and does not discriminate based on faith.

This was my second summer working at Hope Haven. I asked the camp director to give me a position that would challenge me and help me grow as a leader. He asked me to apply to be the Kitchen Lead. In short, my job was to orchestrate the serving of food. Each week I had four to five girls working for me. I worked alongside the cook to serve food to an average of 160 people three times a day. We set tables, poured juice, made tea, scooped out food, baked cookies, counted servings, and above all strove to serve everyone with a positive attitude.

Although some may say that my job was unglamorous and lacking in importance, I came to see that every job is vital. At a place like Hope Haven, it is easy to see the importance of unity and respect for people in other positions. If I didn’t do my job, food wouldn’t be served, no one would eat and camp could not function. If the maintenance team failed to clean up spills, then people could slip and get hurt. If the camp counselors didn’t watch their children, then they would get hurt and not be able to have fun. If the program team didn’t work hard to plan fun activities, then the kids would be disappointed and unhappy. Everyone has a part to play in life and every part is vital for smooth functioning.

My time at Hope Haven taught me about true leadership. I learned that in order to be a good leader, I have to lead by example, modeling the behavior that I expect of my employees. I learned to value each and every one of my workers and to effectively manage their time. I learned that times of rest and reflection are important and that good sleep is absolutely vital. I’m excited to see where my leadership experience will take me and ultimately so thankful that I got to work at a place like Camp Hope haven.
**Student Spotlight: Bella Blackney**

As involved on campus as Bella Blackney is, you have more than likely seen her roaming VWC. While at Wesleyan, she has chosen to major in Classics, French, and International Studies. As of now, her favorite class and one that she would recommend is World War I History. Currently, she fills her time with academics, the Model United Nations, the Marlin Chronicle, the Wesleyan Ambassador Program, and membership with three honor societies. When asked which activities were the most rewarding and demanding, she had a different answer for each. For Bella, the Wesleyan Ambassador Program is the most rewarding because it allows her to help pave a path to VWC for high school students searching for a university. On the other hand, the Model United Nations is the most demanding extra-curricular activity due to all of the work that has to be done in Bella’s free time instead of in class. One of Bella’s recommendations for all students is to get involved in a club or organization that ties in with your major and future career plans. When one is actively pursuing a passion or goal, it gives one’s self perspective into life post-graduation. As an example, Bella is interning as a media assistant for the Panzi Hospital and Foundations, and plans to study abroad in London, Paris, and Amsterdam after finals end in May.

After graduating with the Class of 2018, she plans to attend a graduate school in the United Kingdom to attain a doctoral degree. Her career goal is to become a museum curator at the British Museum, which means she will be travelling the world, discovering artifacts, and designing exhibits. Another one of her interests is soccer, and one of her favorite Brazilian footballers, Neymar da Silva Santos, Junior, said, “Don’t quit. It doesn’t matter if you have a barrier in front of you. If someone pushes you down, saying, ‘you’re not good,’ it happens to everyone, it happened to me. You have to believe in your dreams, what we want. It’s hard, but you must believe if you have a dream.” Bella has taken this quote to heart. Not only is she chasing her unique dream, but her dream will ensure that the rich histories and cultures of the world will not be lost for future generations. Not only does she care for the treasures of antiquity, but she cares about the current treasures, the dreams, of other people who do not have a voice of their own. A lot of her free time is devoted to advocacy for those held captive in human trafficking. She has even organized and held an event to raise funds and awareness to this unfortunate issue that impacts more people than we like to admit. As hard and challenging as her goals are, she has not given up on them, and she has chosen Virginia Wesleyan College as a stepping stone to her future.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Elizabeth Malcolm

Professor of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, Dr. Elizabeth Malcolm joined the VWC faculty in 2004 after being a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Geoscience at Princeton University. Her experience at Earlham College as an undergraduate impacted her decision. She designed her own major in Environmental Science, as they did not have that major yet, which included a semester abroad in Australia, a winter session in the Galapagos Islands, and independent research on chemistry of atmospheric mercury. She enjoyed being a part of a community of scholars and she appreciated that the faculty cared deeply about the learning and intellectual development of their undergraduate student. While earning her PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Michigan, College of Engineering, she decided that she wanted to teach at a small liberal arts institution. Malcolm was excited by the energy and enthusiasm of the VWC faculty, but also the opportunity to develop and add to the Earth and Environmental Science curriculum.

Malcolm uses her liberal arts education and finds inspiration around her to teach her students important lessons. She has used this quote by John Muir, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." in a book chapter she wrote about the environmental cycle of mercury. It evokes the complexity of environmental systems and the idea of scales. In her research and courses she looks at environmental problems from the molecular scale all the way to the global scale. To explain how mercury emitted from a power plant in the US or China ends up in a fish in the Pacific Ocean, we need to understand transformations of mercury on a molecular scale.

Malcolm values students working on honors projects as they can really take ownership of a project and investigate their topic or interest in-depth. Some of her most successful classes have been the result of the H&S students encouraging each other to be inquisitive and excel.
Go big. Go small. Go home. Go away. Go internship. Whatever your major, VWC has connections that allow you to pursue internships each summer in a variety of fields. With these connections at your fingertips, there really isn’t a reason not to go find an internship in an area you love.

In May, as I was looking for summer jobs as a rising freshman, knowing that, many of the large businesses were looking for upperclassmen, I got a phone call from my cousin, Monica. Monnie and her husband, Reed, are two of the four owners - and my bosses this summer - of a nail polish company based in southern New Jersey called Revel Nail. Phon and Keeli Malone, good friends of Monnie and Reed, are the other two owners. This team of four has taught me most of the business knowledge I have gained so far, all on the job.

Having never been to New Jersey nor applied nail polish before, I began my internship totally clueless. In the first four days, not only did I learn the difference between gel polish, dip powder, acrylic systems, and more, but I also had the opportunity to fly down to Orlando to work the Premiere Orlando International Beauty Show – talk about a quick start to the internship. At this point, four days into an internship with no prior experience, I was already interacting with major figures in the beauty world – heads of companies, distributors, and salon owners - all while gaining valuable sales experience.

Revel Nail is a small company, committed to manufacturing high quality products (http://www.revelnail.com). This is not easy for such a small company. With four part owners and myself, I was able to really get a sense of what owning a business is like – from the ground up. In any given week, I had projects that ranged from creating and editing documents and presentations in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to speaking with customers over the phone, creating a social media marketing campaign (check Revel Nail out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!), representing the company to potential distributors, shipping orders, creating price estimates of products/packaging, and even helping to categorize and create new products and colors for some of the company’s various product lines.

This is the inherent beauty in working at a small company: you have opportunity to see each and every aspect of working in and owning a small business today. This is such an amazing opportunity: not only can you learn and expand your experience in one of the many avenues of business, you can become a well-developed and experienced job applicant to future businesses, or more knowledgeable business owner yourself. Whether or not you go to a big or small business, a business near by or far away, find an internship. Whether you use resources at Career Services or find an internship on your own, go do it!

How I Came to Love a Moss

This summer, I was given the incredible opportunity to do ten weeks of research on Physcomitrella patens (a species of moss used as a model organism) with Dr. Eric Johnson. The overall purpose of my research was to determine if a certain calcium-binding protein (a centrin) was present in the sperm-producing tissue of the moss we worked on. As such, I was responsible mostly for harvesting tissue from the plants Dr. Johnson had on hand to make DNA, running PCR using that DNA, and analyzing the results. Towards the end of the summer, when we had the results we needed, we even started working on cloning!

While today I know that research is an absolute blast and an incredible experience, I didn’t know that at the start. Before I got into lab and started my ten weeks, I didn’t really know what to expect. I kept thinking to myself, “what’s it going to be like? Will I be in lab from 9 to 5? Will I be all alone in lab from 9 to 5?

What if I hate lab work? What exactly am I going to be doing?” The most important question, however, was “will I get the results I need?”

Looking back now, I can say it was a bit silly to be so terrified. As it turns out, I was not thrown into a lab all alone and forced to work for 8 hours a day, every day, for 10 weeks. Dr. Johnson was the absolute best, and he helped guide me through everything I needed to know. As the weeks flew by and I started getting comfortable with PCR and the ilk, I found I was a lot more confident in myself and didn’t need to rely as heavily on Dr. Johnson to double-check me at every step. But of course, the second I thought I knew what I was doing, disaster would always strike! Contamination reared its ugly head multiple times during the summer, and it was always a mad scramble to find the source of it so that we could push onwards. But if it wasn’t contamination, it was funky results, or a machine got cranky and stopped working properly. Luckily for me, Dr. Johnson was always there to help me figure it out, and to encourage me when I got frustrated. Thanks to him, we always managed to get back on track and keep moving forward. And at the end of it all, we got the results we needed! I’m excited to see what more comes out of Dr. Johnson’s project, and I’m thrilled to give my presentation on my small part of it this spring!
When people asked where I was going to study abroad and heard India, they would be rather shocked and surprised. They would make this face that spoke of utter confusion and question my sanity (the are you crazy?! question). However, truth be told when they listed their reasons for not choosing such a place (like sanitation, no drinking water, different language, etcetera), I didn’t refute them because in reality I didn’t know what India was like. I lived in the fourth largest city in India called Hyderabad, in the newly formed state of Telangana. My school was one the oldest in India, 2nd only to schools in Delhi, called University of Hyderabad. The university itself is actually a Graduate school only, however through CIEE and the fact that Indian Undergraduate schools are only three years long, American students are permitted in entry level classes. The classes I took were geared mostly through CIEE hired professors or direct enrollment within the humanities, though I did have one biology class. Classes were taught in English, and while some accents were hard to pick out, the majority were fairly well spoken and the information could be articulated. Most Indians either speak their local language to each other or in English (English and Hindi are national languages). The reason for this is that there are over 250 languages spoken in India, mostly separated by state or culture, and to talk to each other they only have the English medium to communicate. Thus, it really wasn’t very hard to get around.

If there’s one thing I want to say about where I lived, it is the incredible people I met and the most beautiful places I’ve gotten to see. My best friend in the International Hostel, where my residence was, was Iranian and we had such a diverse group of people that we hung out with and shared ideas with. I learned so much listening to each of them tell how they ended up in Hyderabad, where they were going, their hopes and dreams. We had far more in common than any one of us realized before and the perspectives gained were once in a lifetime. Once my roommate, Sammy, and I got invited to have a welcome dinner under a large tree in the middle of campus. The two men that had invited us were PhD students from Palestine. Sammy is Jewish and I am Christian, but we went (probably because they said they were making humus). To hear them talk in dialogue about Israel and share their personal perspective between us made me gawk at the amazing quality of the moment. And don’t think that these interactions didn’t happen with Indians as well. Prem and I had Sociology of Education together, and we used to talk all the time about politics, history, and of course food. Or even Tanvi, the daughter of a Telugu professor that is my sister’s age, where we used to sit some afternoons and watch Hindi cartoons like Chota Beem. Looking back, these people are really what made me love India. Sure the place was beautiful and the country amazingly diverse in culture, but it was the people that made me really believe like this was a second home. I could go on and on about some of the amazing experience I had in this country but I want to leave you with the solace that perhaps you too will go somewhere new and exciting, off the beaten path to discover the extraordinary.

NOAA Hollings Scholars Orientation Week

My name is Seth Antozzi, a junior at VWC. I spent the week after Memorial Day in Silver Spring, MD, which is in the D.C. area, attending an orientation week for Hollings Scholars. Hollings Scholars receive an internship and scholarship funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Every day, starting Tuesday, along with the other 150 Hollings scholars, I attended presentations from NOAA staff and researchers about NOAA’s different areas of research and NOAA’s six line offices. I got to hear from the second-highest ranking official at NOAA, Vice Admiral Mason Brown.

After the presentations were done, we spent our evenings in D.C. We went to the National History Museum and the Air and Space Museum, at which we saw the original Wright Flyer, the Apollo 11 capsule (see picture to right), which was the mission that first landed humans on the moon, and the Spirit of St. Louis, the plane that Charles Lindbergh piloted in the first air crossing of the Atlantic. But my favorite part of the Air and Space Museum might actually have been the WWII aircraft that I got to see, because I was a WWII enthusiast as a kid.
"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be ignited."

~ Plutarch