Removing my shoes, I step through the cement entrance, attempting to hide my tinge of nervous hesitation. The temperature inside the pagoda is surprisingly cool, refreshing in comparison to the oppressive glare of the sun. Oscillating fans frame the room, undoubtedly the source of my body’s relief, but a bit out of place amongst the massive bronze statue of the Buddha and straw floor mats. The entire room breathes a sense of serenity to which my busy Western mind is not accustomed.

Quietly seated in the corner, the encouraging eyes of Su Minh Tanh pull me further into the peaceful pagoda. While my khaki pants and unsure movements reveal my inexperience in this tranquil environment, Su Minh Tanh’s grey robes and steady hands personify the entire aura of Long Tho Pagoda. Every gesture is slow and sure; she is not simply familiar with the pagoda, but seems to have become part of the scene itself, as perfectly placed as the engraved columns or wafting incense. The contrast amazes me, for Su Minh Tanh had radiated this same level of continuity with her environment moments early in a bustling classroom with more than thirty children. Su Minh Tanh is not only the head nun at Long Tho, but she also supervises a school for disabled children in Hue, Viet Nam.

My conversation with Su Minh Tanh flows steadily. We discuss the challenges of educating the disabled children of Hue with very limited resources, how her religious training has influenced the school’s curriculum, and the various community partners the school works with to stay afloat. Some forty-five minutes later, as I leave the pagoda and slip my sandals back on, I realize that Su Minh Tanh may be one of the most impressive women I have ever met. The work that Su Minh Tanh engages in on a normal basis involves some of the most challenging circumstances; yet she remains determined to help the children of her community.

Many aspects of my month-long research experience in Viet Nam significantly impacted my understanding of the world. Su Minh Tanh is one of many amazing individuals that our group of five Virginia Wesleyan students and two professors was able to meet during our time in Viet Nam in the summer of 2007. Our travels took us from the capital city of Hanoi, through central Viet Nam to Hue, and finally to Ho Chi Minh City. Our trip was supported through a research grant from ASIANetwork, a group of liberal arts colleges that seeks to promote Asian Studies. This experience in Viet Nam represented a truly comprehensive liberal arts experience, as it incorporated the interests of students from various majors and divisions. Dr. Steven Emmanuel’s continued commitment to engage Virginia Wesleyan students in international travel to Viet Nam stands at the heart of the trip. He planned, organized, and orchestrated the many details of both the travel and the grant proposal.

For me, the month I spent in Viet Nam has remained an integral part of my future goals. My interest in international nonprofit work is undoubtedly related to my reflection on Su Minh Tanh’s courage and dedication, as well as the struggles that we witnessed while we were in the country. Since witnessing the creativity and perseverance that nonprofits in Viet Nam have to maintain in order to keep providing services, I have a new appreciation for the strength of the social sector in our own country. Frequently, when I look back on my discussion with Su Minh Tanh I am reminded how much she accomplishes with so little, and I am inspired to be as resourceful in my own endeavors. My interactions with the nonprofit sector internationally have motivated me to expand my future goals.
President’s Farewell

Dear Scholars,

It is regretful that this is my last letter to everyone as your president. However, I know that Miss Jennifer Forbes will do a marvelous job as my successor. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President of the Honors and Scholars Association. I would like to thank each one of you for allowing me to serve you. I would also like to thank Dr. Easter for doing such a wonderful service to this campus as the advisor and leader of this prestigious organization. She is amazing at organizing everything and everyone while trying to make our time here at Virginia Wesleyan as advantageous for us as possible. Please take the time to thank her sometime!

I would encourage each and every one of you to cherish the relationships you have cultivated and the knowledge you have gained thus far at this school and to look forward to many more opportunities to do so. Coming in as a freshman in 2006, I never knew how quickly these three years would fly by. Enjoy your time here because it will be over before you know it. As I leave this campus, I will be applying to medical schools for the fall of 2010, working, taking a few more classes, and shadowing a neurosurgeon, since that is where my passion lies and it is what I intend to pursue for my career. I will look forward to visiting the campus throughout the years to see how it grows and to see the new students walking the same paths that so many did before them. Please make the most of your time here, no matter how long or short it is, and always take advantage of the close relationships that you can have with your professors, who are so eager to help you learn, grow, and excel in life.

Thank you again for the wonderful opportunity that you provided to me. I hope you have a great summer and a wonderful school year in 2009-2010, or if you are graduating, good luck with wherever your life takes you. With the foundations provided to you from this college and this program, I know you will be able to accomplish anything you set your minds to.

Carpe Diem!
Sincerely,

Kathleen Mabry

Incoming President’s Message

Dear Scholars,

I am honored to have been elected as your President for the 2009-2010 academic year.

First and foremost I would like to congratulate all of the graduating seniors and applaud you on all of your hard work and dedication. It is such an honor to have so many of you graduating and fulfilling the requirements for the Honors and Scholars program here at Virginia Wesleyan. I wish you all the best of luck and hope that you continue to excel in your future endeavors.

As for the rest of us who will still be working so hard here on campus, I am excited to have a chance to interact with you all and I know that next year will be a huge success. I hope that everyone can continue to maintain the relationships and connections that are made with fellow students, faculty, and staff. Also, I hope that all of us are able to continue with our academic excellence next year and continue to represent our program so well. In addition to our normal events that we are able to partake in as scholars throughout the year, we will be hosting in April 2010 the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council spring conference, so there is a lot of work and planning ahead of us in the upcoming year.

Lastly, I want to wish you all a fun and relaxing summer because I know that we all need and deserve it. I am anxious for next year and the new scholars that will be joining our program. Please stay safe and enjoy your time off!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Forbes (Class of 2011)
Faculty Spotlight: Garry Noe

Dr. Garry E. Noe, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Physics

Dr. Noe was born on August 18th in Munich Germany. Noe earned his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from University of California, Riverside. Twenty-one years ago Dr. Noe decided to take the position at Virginia Wesleyan because he liked the tough questions that students asked him during his campus interview and has been teaching such inquiring minds ever since.

Those who spend any time in Blocker Hall know that Dr. Noe can be found in Blocker Hall during the late hours of the day, even into the early morning helping students with physics problems (or any other problems they may have) or even just hanging out and discussing just about any topic under the sun that the student might find interesting. Dr. Noe says that his favorite class to teach at Virginia Wesleyan is “Energy and the Environment” because he feels that the problems addressed are important and challenging and also because he feels that today’s students are the ones who will end up finding and implementing sustainable solutions.

Kathleen Mabry

When asked what he could be expected to be doing in his typical daily schedule, he replied, “finding ways to make it an atypical day.” When he is not teaching, Dr. Noe enjoys cycling, art-related activities, working out in the Batten fitness center, and traveling. Research is another passion of his which, according to his favorite quote by Wernher von Braun “is actually what I’m doing when I don’t know what I’m doing.” Well I have to say that Dr. Noe actually does know what he is doing, and we will forever be grateful to him for his service to the VWC community and to the students who are often in need of his support, advice, or help. He is a wonderful addition to this campus and I invite each of you, especially those who have been impacted by his dedication to stop by and thank him for everything he does for his students.

“You don’t want a million answers as much as you want a few forever questions. The questions are diamonds you hold in the light. Study a lifetime and you see different colors from the same jewel.”

~ Richard Bach (1994)

Senior Spotlight: Kat Burchett

Hometown:
El Paso, Texas

Education before VWC:
Irvin High School

Major:
Biology, BS

Minors:
Chemistry
History

What attracted you to VWC:
Nearby family, quiet setting and small class size.

Best memory from VWC:
Getting to know professors both professionally and personally.

What you do for fun:
Work on design projects.

Favorite courses:
Methods of Biochemistry and Organic Chemistry

Professor who inspired you:
Dr. Joyce Easter
Dr. Garry Noe

Favorite Quote:
“If you’re going to think anyway, you might as well think BIG.” ~ D. Trump
Senior Spotlight: Amanda Daywalt

Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Education before VWC: Green Run High School
Major: Psychology
What attracted you to VWC: The campus was smaller.
What you do for fun: I like to go to shows, play video games, and go to the beach.
Future plans: I would like to attend graduate school to become either a clinical or forensic psychologist.
Favorite course: Psychology and the Law, a combination of my two favorite subjects.
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Frank because she encouraged me to pursue my own interests and was an amazing mentor.
Favorite Quote: “Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.” — Oscar Wilde
H&S underclassmen advice: Do not stress about the small things.

Senior Spotlight: Amanda Ford

Hometown: Chesapeake, Virginia
Education before VWC: Tidewater Community College
Majors: Earth and Environmental Sciences
What attracted you to VWC: Small class sizes & personal attention by professors.
Best memory from VWC: Geology and the Mountain Belts field trip.
What you do for fun: Mercury research, play with my puppy Jenn-A, ride on the back of a motorcycle, go fishing, climb mountains, float on rafts in the middle of Lake Gaston, spend time with friends and family, and take long naps.
Future plans: Retirement (just kidding!) - work as a civil servant for the US government.
Favorite course: Global Environmental Cycles
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Elizabeth Malcolm
Favorite Quote: “A human being is a part of a whole, called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest...a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness...a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” — Albert Einstein
H&S underclassmen advice: Make all of your decisions like you are 35 that way you are focusing on the success of your future.

Senior Spotlight: Melissa Fowler

Hometown: Warwick, Rhode Island
Education before VWC: Toll Gate High School
Major: Communication
Minor: Business
What attracted you to VWC: Small class sizes.
Best memory from VWC: There are too many to count, but one of them is working on deadline nights for the Marlin Chronicle.
What you do for fun: Go out with friends and watch movies.
Future plans: Earn a Master in Production for Film and Video at American University.
Favorite courses: Persuasion and Media
My senior animation class
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Kathy Merlock-Jackson
Dr. Bill Ruehlmann
Favorite Quote: “Anything worth doing is worth doing with excellence.”
H&S underclassmen advice: Always do what you want to do and never compromise what you believe.
Senior Spotlight: **Ryan Gillespie**

Hometown: Seaford, Delaware  
Education before VWC: Seaford High School  
Major: Political Science  
What attracted you to VWC: Location  
Best memory from VWC: Fraternity life.

Future plans: Pursuing a Master in Public Administration on graduate school assistantship at the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration.

Favorite course: Experimental Film  
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Gibson

What you do for fun: Athletics, photography, film, and ceramics.

Favorite Quote: “I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.” — Mark Twain

H&S underclassmen advice: Your stay here is short; take time to enjoy this part of the journey.

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Senior Spotlight: **Kuong Huynh Lam**

Hometown: Fitchburg, Massachusetts  
Education before VWC: Fitchburg High School  
Majors: Communications, Spanish  
What attracted you to VWC: The location attracted me, but it was the faculty that led me to stay!  
Best memory from VWC: My best memory is also my biggest achievement. Fall semester of senior year I was crowned Homecoming King, did an independent research project in Spanish, and earned a 4.0 GPA that semester for the first time in college.

What you do for fun: Relax! Something I do not get to do often. I love to watch movies, eat out, and drive with sunglasses on.

Future plans: Apply for an internship position at a law firm this summer and pursue a law degree in International Law at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. In the future, I would love to earn an MA and PhD in Media Studies.

Favorite course: Probably the toughest course in the major, Dr. Merlock-Jackson’s Theories of Mass Communications.

Professor who inspired you: Dr. Velasco. She has shown me how important language & communication is in this millennium.

Favorite Quote: “Whatever you are, be a good one.” — Abraham Lincoln

H&S underclassmen advice: Academics are very important but so are having a social life, meeting new people and having fun. They say 80% of jobs come from networking, many of which are people you meet in college. Work lasts forever; college does not.

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Senior Spotlight: **Julie Maggioncalda**

Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey  
Education before VWC: Cherry Hill High School  
Major: Health & Human Services  
Minor: Political Science  
What attracted you to VWC: The great relationships that the students have with the professors, and the opportunities that those relationships create.

Best memory from VWC: Traveling to Viet Nam with Drs. Emmanuel and Minnis.

What you do for fun: Go to the beach, volunteer, travel, and go running.

Future plans: Work in international non-profit organizations.

Favorite course: Homelessness in America

Professor who inspired you: Professor Payne

Favorite Quote: “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined!” —Henry David Thoreau

H&S underclassmen advice: Take advantage of every opportunity presented to you while you are here.
Senior Spotlight: Jackie Ochs-Gregory

Hometown: Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Education before VWC: Penn Manor High School
Major: Psychology
Minor: Sociology
What attracted you to VWC: Coach Bowers.
Best memory from VWC: Beating W&L in the Elite 8 game to make it to the Final Four for Women’s Soccer!!
What you do for fun: Running, painting, biking, soccer, anything outdoors, and relaxing in hammocks.
Future plans: Graduate school for a PsyD in Health Psychology and work with cancer patients and their families.
Favorite course: Cognitive Development
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Rita Frank
Favorite Quote: “All moments are key moments and life itself is grace.” - Frederick Buechner
H&S underclassmen advice: Be passionate about everything you do!

Senior Spotlight: Mallory Offner

Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Education before VWC: Kempsville High School
Major: Biology - BS
What attracted you to VWC: Individual attention and small class sizes.
Best & worst VWC memory: Trinidad trip the summer after my junior year was one of the hardest, yet most rewarding, experiences. Hiking all day in the humid forests and being eaten alive by mosquitoes was no picnic, but saving some baby leatherback sea turtles made all the suffering worth it.
What you do for fun: Boogie board at the beach, read, go for walks, and there’s no greater stress reliever than playing with the rabbits at the SPCA.
Future plans: Vet School! I want to specialize in exotic pets, so I have chosen University of Florida where I will receive more experience.
Favorite course: Microbiology - it is fascinating to learn about all the microorganisms in our world and the diseases they cause, plus it is relevant to what I will be doing in the future.
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Bartol has been great to work with both in and out of the classroom as I have completed my research and pre-reqs for vet school.
Favorite Quote: “It’s our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” - Albus Dumbledore
H&S underclassmen advice: Take advantage of summer internships and research opportunities, which are excellent experiences for gaining hand-on skills, and something employers and graduate school love to see.

Senior Spotlight: Sarah Tytler

Hometown: Cortland, New York
Education before VWC: Cortland High School
Major: International Studies
What attracted you to VWC: The professors!
Best memory from VWC: All my travels.
What you do for fun: Wear aviators.
Future plans: Peace Corps.
Favorite course: All of them - how can you ask me to choose?
Professor who inspired you: Dr. Laura Landolt
Favorite Quote: “Ob-la-di, ob-la-da, life goes on.” - Paul McCartney
H&S underclassmen advice: Find opportunities to make your own, and take advantage of every program you can.
Senior Spotlight: **Shawon Reyes**

**Hometown:**
Frederiksted, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands

**Education before VWC:**
St. Joseph High School

**Major:**
Criminal Justice

**What attracted you to VWC:**
Small size and welcoming atmosphere.

**Best memory from VWC:**
My first road trip to DC for a concert with my roommate and friends freshman year. Coming from an island that’s only 28 miles long, the ride to DC was a mini adventure for me.

**What you do for fun:**
Play the guitar, write music, and play Xbox 360.

**Future plans:**
I would like to work as a law enforcement agent for the federal government.

**Favorite course:**
Criminal Investigations and Criminal Law. In both, I genuinely learned valuable information that I had not known before and a mindset better suited for what I want to do in life.

**Professor who inspired you:**
Professor Liverman. He’s been very helpful, keeping me on track for graduation and with my job hunting. Additionally, I feel he has proven that he knows the meaning of keeping one’s nose to the grindstone.

**Favorite Quote:**
“Better to die quick fighting on your feet than to live forever begging on your knees.” –Lamb of God

**H&S underclassmen advice:**
The only way you will ever achieve anything in life whether in school or outside of it is through a combination of ambition and hard work. We live in a world where wanting it simply isn’t enough. Go out and make waves.

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Senior Spotlight: **Ina Solms**

**Hometown:**
Leonardtown, Maryland

**Education before VWC:**
Leonardtown High School

**Majors:**
German
International Studies

**What attracted you to VWC:**
The professors, hands down!

**Best memory from VWC:**
Relaxing with friends in the grass on beautiful days.

**What you do for fun:**
Watch foreign films, decoupage, cooking, painting, and going on adventures

**Future plans:**
Traveling the world, going to graduate school, and becoming the next Christiane Amanpour.

**Favorite course:**
European Union in World Politics with Dr. Heindl

**Professor who inspired you:**
Dr. Alain Gabon

**Favorite Quote:**
“Keep in mind that it might not have occurred to all the puppies that there might be something better outside of the box.” –Melissa Solms

**H&S underclassmen advice:**
Turn off MTV, read Advertisers, and get out of the United States, at least once.

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Senior Spotlight: **David Weirich**

**Hometown:**
Petoskey, Michigan

**Education before VWC:**
Scored 100% on the GED in Virginia and received a letter from the governor.

**Majors:**
Mathematics
Music

**What attracted you to VWC:**
All the beautiful ladies ;-)  

**Best memory from VWC:**
My senior composition recital

**What you do for fun:**
Eat Waffles!

**Future plans:**
Attend graduate school at University of New Mexico to pursue an MS in Math.

**Favorite course:**
Real Analysis

**Professor who inspired you:**
Dr. Clayton

**Favorite Quote:**
“Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.” –Aristotle

**H&S underclassmen advice:**
Don’t procrastinate. I’m serious.
Wesleyan Scholars at Norfolk Admirals

Among the groups welcomed on the digital screen at the Norfolk Admirals game on Friday was Virginia Wesleyan Honors & Scholars. Students and friends had the opportunity to watch a local ice hockey team on a winning night.

“I had a really good time,” said junior Devin Crosby. “I had never been to a hockey game before, but I will definitely go again. I like the fast pace action and, of course, the fighting. It was also nice that they won,” The Norfolk Admirals beat the Rockford IceHogs with a score of 5-2. It was the first home win of the season for the Admirals.

Attendance for the game was counted at 4,004, leaving empty seats but maintaining the atmosphere of an ice hockey game. Sales people traveled the aisles selling beer and cotton candy. All around the arena, fans purchased Admirals merchandise, hot dogs, and funnel cakes.

A few energetic fans attempted to start “the wave,” but did not receive enough crowd response for it to be successful.

Before game time, during warm-ups the Admirals and the IceHogs got into the first fight of the night. Then, barely two minutes into the game, another fight excited the fans; one player from each team began throwing fists.

“The hockey game was very exciting because of the atmosphere and the intense fights we were able to witness,” said junior Nick Raiford. The opening fight set the tone for the rest of the game. Each slammed hockey player into the side of the rink made the fans “ohhh” in anticipation of a possible fight. With 13:26 left on the clock for the first period, the IceHogs scored the first point.

Fans were kept entertained during the breaks. One of the mascots went out on the ice to rally up the fans to determine which sections wanted to catch a free Admirals T-shirt the most. The camera crew filmed people dancing and put them up on screen.

Sophomore Nina Ruiz joined in when fans threw orange hockey pucks out on the ice and tried to get the closest to a target to win a prize.

In the 3rd period, the Admirals kept their cool as the game became more intense. A player for the IceHogs had to be escorted off the ice after receiving a stick to the face. He left behind blood on the ice. The game went on. Both teams scored more and the Admirals pulled ahead to their winning 5-2 ratio. The game concluded with two more fights within the last minute on the clock. During one, when three IceHogs went after an Admirals player, team members from both sides jumped in quickly as the refs tried to break them apart.