As scholars, many of us spend the summertime doing research, interning, taking courses, and traveling, but as we all know it is also nice to take time, relax, and enjoy the summer break. Many of our summer experiences are unforgettable and truly worth sharing with our fellow scholars. Therefore a group of scholars submitted information on their summer experiences including their jobs, research projects, internships, travel opportunities and even vacations. Take some time to learn things about your peers’ summer experiences in which you will find the highlight of their summer and what they learned from their experiences as well as fun and interesting information. Enjoy getting to know your fellow scholars through their exciting experiences!

Alexis Doane spent her summer working as a nanny where she learned to take care of kids, which will benefit her when she becomes a parent. The highlight of her summer was taking her nieces camping, and she was also able to enjoy spending time with friends before returning to VWC.

Kristen McGrath spent her summer working at a nursing home in New Jersey, but took some time out to travel to London and France. While working, Kristen gained an appreciation and respect for those who live at the nursing home, as well as those who work there because they are keeping the residents healthy. It was an emotional challenge for Kristen because the residents suffer from dementia and some with Alzheimer’s. However, she still thoroughly enjoyed her job because she was able to serve the residents meals and participate in activities with them. While traveling for two weeks in London and France, Kristen was able to expand on her educational experiences by testing her language skills and immersing herself in French culture. Kristen wishes she could have spent a semester abroad but still enjoyed using what she learned in her French classes while traveling.

Rebecca Driscoll completed an internship at Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation in the On-site Education Department and as a docent in the Jamestown Gallery. Rebecca helped prepare for the summer program, Broadside, which is designed for younger children, and photographed the children participating in the activities. The highlight of her summer was spending time at the Jamestown Settlement and sharing the love of history with the children in the summer program and those who visited the settlement. Although Rebecca wants to work directly with artifacts, she was able to see other aspects of the museum, work directly with the public, and gain more confidence through her internship. Aside from her internship, Rebecca was able to take a few days off traveling to Smith Mountain Lake and spending time with her family, including a cousin that was just born in May. She participated in Scene I Orientation by helping with check in, eating lunch with parents, and serving on the Student Life panel for the parents. Through this experience Rebecca was able to meet new people and work with fellow students.

Sarah Imbesi spent her summer traveling back and forth from different beaches, mission trips, vacations, and visiting good old VWC. The highlight of her summer was hanging out with her best friends who are also going away to school and therefore would not be seeing her for a while. By spending quality time with her (Continued on page 2)
friends she learned to truly cherish her friendships and allow herself to have some fun whenever possible. The most enjoyable aspect of her summer was being able to read some of the books that she has been wanting to read for pleasure for some time, especially since in past years, summer reading assignments have kept her from doing so.

This summer, Melinda Hopper had two very amazing experiences. The first experience was attending Student Training for Environmental Protection, sponsored by George Mason University. In a weeklong training camp, she learned how to form an environmental group on campus to promote sustainability on campus. They even were able to lobby with their senators in Washington. The second experience was an environmental training workshop in Lynchburg consisting of three different wetland classes. The first of the classes was WOW: The Wonders of Wetlands. This class gave a basic overview of why wetlands are fantastic and why they should be protected. The second day was spent on training so that she could become certified to run her own WOW course. As a result, she is considering holding her own WOW workshop on campus to get other students excited about these resources. The last class was POW: The Planning of Wetlands, which taught her how to build a synthetic wetland. Through these two experiences, she was able to grow in her environmental knowledge and now she can not wait to implement that knowledge on campus. She plans to start a composting program that hopefully will roll out this semester.

JC Caldwell was in charge of middle school aged girls as a Girl Scout Camp Counselor. By doing this she was able to work with the girls each day and really get to know them at a different age. From her camp counselor experience, she was able to learn to work with different personalities as well as how to work with people who are socially challenged. Since it was a different dynamic, it really helped her become a better leader. Although she was very busy, JC was able to relax before the public school girls got out of school and camp started. She was fortunately able to catch up on sleep, read some good books, and watch movies she did not have time to see in theatres. JC also participated in Orientation as a peer advisor and had a blast. She is the Resident Assistant for the Creative Self LLC and since she is a Music major and Theatre minor, she was able to meet a lot of residents who have similar interests. From this experience she could already tell that it was going to be an interesting year in Old Hall, and she had a great time getting to know her residents before school even started, which will make the hall community better.

Other than participating in transfer orientation at VWC, Sonya Hall took the summer off and spent time with her children. By taking time off from her normally busy summer, Sonya was able to learn that sometimes slowing down is really nice, especially when she was about to embark on a new adventure. As a wife, mother, and older student, she found that being a full-time student at TCC was challenging, but she is sure that her time at VWC will be more challenging, yet more rewarding. Therefore she felt it best to take time off to refresh and relax before starting her time here at VWC.

Katharine Goode traveled to North Myrtle Beach for a week with family and friends, where she had a blast, and then spent time in Virginia Beach with friends. Also, she spent four days at a 4H camp that she has been attending since she was 9. During her trip to Myrtle Beach, Katharine realized how much her family and friends truly mean to her and how much they have influenced her life for the better. Between her work and free time, she discovered that she can lead a great life full of fun yet still be her own person and live up to her own values. The most enjoyable aspect of her summer was spending quality time with her friends and making memories that will last a lifetime.

Liz Maxwell spent her summer at a Buddhist monastery in Taiwan doing research for a project on human rights. During her two months in Taiwan, Elizabeth learned about humanistic Buddhism first-hand at Fo Guang Shan monastery in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. The first month was spent participating in the Woodenfish program in which she learned how to meditate, chant, and do things that monks or nuns do. After that program she was invited back to do more research on her project and to work in the art history department translating Buddhist art texts. During her stay she was able to visit a human rights museum and two prisons, and also interviewed Venerable Master Hsing Yun (founder of Taiwan’s Humanistic Buddhism). Her research is not yet completed but her time was well spent and very busy in Taiwan. Through her experience she learned that many things can happen in two months. She learned how to translate Buddhist art texts, overcome her fear of interviewing people, and survive 102-degree weather with 85% humidity. The highlight of her stay at the monastery was spending 7 days in a silent meditation retreat (photo on page 6), which made her more aware of how many noises affect our lives and how little space and time in our is saved for silence. Her most enjoyable activity was a foot/neck massage costing only $6 at a night market in Taipei.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sally Shedd

Professor of Theatre
Chairman of the Humanities Division

Dr. Shedd earned her PhD in Theatre and Film in the cognate area of Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Kansas. She serves on the KU Department of Theatre Advisory Board and remains a HUGE Jayhawk fan. Shedd earned her Master in Arts in Drama from the University of Arkansas and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Music Performance (flute) and Speech and Theatre from Arkansas Tech University.

Shedd was most attracted to VWC because of the people -- everyone from students to faculty and staff. When she arrived on campus in Fall 1999, she said it felt like coming "home," which was good because her family lives halfway across the country in Arkansas.

Her favorite thing about teaching at Wesleyan is the fact that she can get to know each and every student in her classes. For Shedd, watching her students grow through a series of classes or productions is quite rewarding. She invests in her students and says that it is rewarding to see them invest in themselves through commitment to a quality education. Shedd learned from her mother that education is the one thing that no one can take away from you. Shedd, therefore, advises “Your thoughts, your intellect … nurturing and valuing the life of the mind … to me, it makes life work living. We weren’t put her to squander our gifts. Engage and invest! There’s no time to waste.”

Shedd recently published Theatre Lives, an introductory theatre textbook. The mission of which is to challenge the divide between theatre history and theatre practice. Shedd is motivated and engaged by both and she wants theatre students to have that experience as well. She thinks that, too often, teachers and students foster a disconnect between historical knowledge and experiential knowledge. Some of the most important developments in art have been created via awareness of the interconnectedness and interdependence between them.

Shedd dislikes the amount of paperwork and meetings that come with being a Division Chair, as well as the fact that occasionally you have to tell people things they don’t want to hear but it’s your job to say. In contrast, Shedd likes the opportunity to work closely with not only Humanities Division faculty but valued colleagues from across campus. In fact, she gets to interact with people that, in her life as a theatre professor, she would seldom interact with. And in Shedd’s own words, “We have some real gems here at Wesleyan.”

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Clayton J. Drees

Professor of History
Chairman of the Social Sciences Division

Born in East Orange, New Jersey, Clay Drees ventured to California where he earned a Bachelor of Arts from Santa Clara University, a small Catholic liberal arts school whose professors took a personal interest in the students. He came to love that school and hoped he would someday find an academic job at a place just like it. After earning his Masters of Arts from California State University - Los Angeles in 1987 and Ph.D. from The Claremont Graduate School in 1991, Drees returned to the East coast when he joined the VWC faculty in 1992. One of the reasons Drees took the position here is that he appreciates the freedom to teach specialized courses, such as Medieval Islamic World and European Heresy and the Witch-Hunt. He also enjoys being able to get to know and work closely with students, both in the classroom and student organizations.

As Division Chair, Drees splits his time between his teaching, advising students, and administrative duties, especially meetings. He likes being Division Chair because he enjoys being involved in the decision-making process for our academic program and mentoring his colleagues. Drees has found that evaluating all the faculty members in the Social Science Division each year is the most challenging part of being chair. Off campus, Drees enjoys collecting stamps, reading history, watching NFL football, and running for fitness.

“The only thing we ever learn from history is that humankind never learns anything from history.”

G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831)
Minority Network Internship

This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in a summer internship through the Quality Education for Minorities Network. During the 10 week internship, I worked at the National Science Foundation. This was an enlightening experience for me. I had the opportunity to meet various professionals in many of the STEM fields. I particularly enjoyed conversing with students who are already pursuing their graduate degrees. I am motivated to continue my education and become a professional in Mathematics myself. I believe interning at the National Science Foundation was a great opportunity for me to determine whether or not I wanted to continue studying Mathematics.

As an intern in Division of Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS), my objectives were to assist in designing and developing a web-based application that can be updated throughout the workday to pinpoint the locations and activities of staff members in IIS. Aside from actually creating the application, I started conducting research on various applications now online that function similar to the application I am prototyping. I did not particularly enjoy finding references, but I was interested to learn about different software that programmers are creating to make social and work life more balanced. With my research and the information gathered from interviews I conducted, I examined the reasons to adopt applications that have short messaging, instant message, and micro-blogging services; the information these applications must display; and the possible implications from using such applications in the workplace.

The professionals at the National Science Foundation were very encouraging and willing to give advice and encouragement for future study. My mentors, Drs. Mary Lou Maher and David McDonald, were encouraging and extremely helpful. Because both of them were interested in the project, I was able to get good feedback from them. More importantly, their enthusiasm helped me remain focused and motivated to keep working at producing a working prototype. I look forward to further developing my application project with their help. I am very interested in further investigating the future implication of the progression social computing in the workplace.

In addition to the opportunity to learn more about my field and the graduate school process, this internship was conveniently located in Washington, DC with much to see and do. Despite my workload, I was still able to enjoy myself. I definitely encourage other minorities to partake in this opportunity.

Experiencing Journalism

Before I embark on my senior year, I made sure to fill my summer with great experiences and fond memories. I completed an internship with the editorial staff of Hampton Roads Magazine. I also continued my job at a law firm as an administrative assistant. I worked two jobs this summer so that I can afford the Maui to Moguls trip during Winter Session. Even with my busy schedule I managed to travel to Pittsburgh, Melbourne, and New York City. My favorite get-a-way was Pittsburgh. I had never been there before and certainly did not know that Pittsburgh has more bridges than any other city in the world – including Venice! Fascinated with the beautiful city, I enjoyed taking a river cruise, visiting several amazing museums, and seeing Heinz Stadium.

The highlight of my summer was interning at Hampton Roads Magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the editorial staff and contributing my work to two of their monthly issues and one of their Bridal magazines. I had to conduct several interviews and obtain images in order to have my four stories published. The best experience was when I interviewed Norfolk Sentara’s Nightingale staff. Not only was I able to capture a neat story, but I had the opportunity to do a ride-along. I flew in their helicopter to an accident scene and witnessed the entire procedure. It was an exciting and riveting experience that has made a long-lasting impression. I worked right under the assistant editor and helped with pitching story ideas and assisting with several photo shoots. I compiled their ongoing datebook, which consists of organizing press releases into categories, such as special events, museums and historic houses, music, stage and sports, and writing a description for each event that included the date, time and place. The datebook runs throughout the entire magazine and is a very useful resource to many of their readers. The internship was a tremendous experience. The assistant editor has encouraged me to continue submitting ideas and stories. I also am looking forward in the near future to attending a fashion show that the magazine is hosting.

I anticipate a very busy and productive senior year. I plan on doing another internship in the spring for credit and I know it will be another worthwhile experience.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. J. Chris Haley

Hailing from Leesburg, Virginia, Chris Haley earned his Bachelor of Science in 1979 from Washington and Lee University and in 1986 his Ph.D. in Geology from The Johns Hopkins University. Haley joined the VWC faculty in 1997. His undergraduate experiences at W&L convinced him that the educational opportunities at small, liberal arts colleges are unparalleled. The focus to help a young individual reach his/her potential at schools like ours is a mission in which he believes. During his interview in 1997, the president told him that W&L is a model for what VWC wants to be, which immediately struck a chord with him. Even the job advertisement seeking a broadly trained geologist rather than a specialist fit his experience. More importantly, it was clear to him that he would have freedom to evolve as a scholar and teacher in the Wesleyan environment.

To Haley, teaching at VWC is first and foremost about relationships, both the close collaborations between faculty and the interactions between faculty and students. Haley worked for three years in the oil industry and although he developed friendships, the environment was so competitive and so negative (it was in the mid-eighties and oil was $13 a barrel) as to be toxic at times. He particularly enjoys participating in the evolution of people’s lives during the critical period between 18 and 22. He changed in permanent and positive ways more at college and between those ages, than during any other period. Haley sees similar evolution in the lives of his students. Haley never tires of the rush of helping a person who arrives as a nervous or disinterested freshman develop a purpose in life, the confidence to pursue his/her goals and ideals, and become ready to be a contributing adult in society. While Haley enjoys teaching geology every fall and spring, the greatest strides in his own evolution as a scientist and educator take place during the summer when he has gobs of time to pursue any line of inquiry that he feels worthwhile. Except during the Tour de France, summers tend to be his most productive time of year.

Haley enjoys reading Shakespeare and contemporary writers who think deeply about the important issue of our day and can convincingly and passionately articulate right-minded principles. While Haley loves mountains, our location has caused his passion for skiing and mountain biking to shift to sea kayaking, which of course is even more fun along a coast that has mountains! His relatively new interest is digital photography, but he also enjoys learning how to use computer visualization tools in his teaching of geology.

As Division Chair, Haley gets a kick out of being in a position to help shape the direction of the college, particularly the NSM Division, at this really pivotal point in VWC history. Haley finds pleasure in working with the young and productive science faculty, and as a result finds himself really motivated to try to help them. Among his least favorite duties as chair are leading faculty meetings and evaluating faculty, as the hardest part of his job is doing these well.

President’s Message

Welcome back Scholars!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and that you all were able to take some time and relax before the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year. This year there will be many activities planned and I hope that all of you will participate and become involved in many of them. As scholars, I have complete faith that you will do honor to our identity and our organization by focusing on academics and excelling as you all have done in the past. With so many beneficial events, programs, and clubs on campus, each of you should become as involved as you can and make a difference here at Virginia Wesleyan! Remember to take some time to have fun, however keep your priorities straight and continue to do well in all that you do. I hope that as an organization we can work together this year with events, especially the Spring Honors Conference in April, and have a great time doing so.

Good luck to everyone as you all begin your year here at VWC and I will see you all around campus and at events.

-Jennifer Forbes ’11
Each spring, Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) sponsors an Honors Conference, which is an excellent opportunity for Honors students to present their research and artistic talents in a professional forum. Scholars from public and private institutions throughout West Virginia and Virginia gather on the host campus for two days each spring.

Last year, Ina Solms-Baruth presented her political science research about Germany’s attitudes toward immigrants at the VCHC Spring Conference at George Mason University. H&S President Kathleen Mabry was also in attendance representing VWC at the conference. Both Kathleen and Ina were excited to have had the opportunity to interact with scholars from other campuses. On the drive back from George Mason, both were adamant that each of their fellow scholars should attend and present at the VCHC conferences in the future.

VWC will host the Spring VCHC conference on April 16 & 17, 2010. H&S President Jennifer Forbes, Anna Sims, and Nikki Bernard will be attending the Fall VCHC to represent VWC in planning the spring conference. Hosting the meeting will be a campus-wide effort, so we hope many of you are interested in assisting with this effort.

Elizabeth Maxwell
Taiwan

Mark Your Calendars: Fall 2009 Honors & Scholars Co-curricular Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadway Across America: Grease</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 30</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Chrysler Hall, Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day trip to Solar Decathlon &amp; museums</td>
<td>Saturday, October 17</td>
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<td>National Mall, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Halloween Festival (Haunted Hayride)</td>
<td>Sunday, October 25</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Hunt Club Farm, Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>Harry Potter Tour —Virginia Symphony</td>
<td>Sunday, November 8</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Sandler Center, Virginia Beach</td>
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<td>Norfolk Admirals vs. Binghamton Bears</td>
<td>Tuesday, November 10</td>
<td>7:15 pm</td>
<td>Scope Arena, Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Christmas Carol</td>
<td>Friday, December 4</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Wells Theatre, Norfolk</td>
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