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**FOCUS ON
SUSTAINABILITY**
Curriculum Emphasizes
Commitment to
Environmental Stewardship

CRISIS LEADERSHIP
in the Financial
Management Profession

LESSONS LEARNED
From Cholera
to COVID-19



PICTURED: Batten Honors College students traveled to Alaska in summer 2019 as part of the course, "Environmental and Cultural Sustainability in Alaska." Read more inside about campus sustainability efforts during the age of COVID-19.

Remember Their Voices

INSIGHT INTO AN INTERNSHIP WITH A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

By Katherine Ramsey

As more and more young people step up to take action in today's political and social climates, social media has played an increasingly valuable role in human rights movements and activism. Social media allows untold, unrecognized, and misinterpreted topics, stories, and movements to be heard and to reach larger audiences. Currently, as part of my college experience and my desire to help other people seek equality, equity, and justice, I am completing an internship with a non-profit organization, Remember Their Voices. Remember Their Voices is a small, social-media-based organization focused on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) rights, especially highlighting instances of racial injustice and police violence and supporting BIPOC communities. Currently, I am the Lead Writing & Editing Intern with RTV, allowing me to simultaneously utilize my



writing skills and my desire to seek change. This experience has been incredibly rewarding, knowing that my work makes an impact, no matter how small, all while being able to learn about unrecognized and underappreciated communities and unlearning underlying biases I may have. With Remember Their Voices, I edit posts regarding victims of police & racial violence, defining unknown or misinterpreted terms & ideas, and telling the stories of unrecognized BIPOC advocates and role models. Additionally, I write monthly blog posts highlighting various BIPOC and human rights issues. Taking a step into the professional world can be stressful, especially as a college senior, knowing that my debut into the "real world" is

quickly approaching, but working with Remember Their Voices has allowed me to express my own individuality, educate others, and take on a sense of responsibility and accomplishment. Remember Their Voices can be found online at www.remembertheirvoices.org and on Instagram at @remembertheirvoices. Younger generations are especially significant to the future of equality, equity, and diversity, as we have the power to make changes both locally, nationally, and abroad. I truly have loved my time with Remember Their Voices and hope that my skills and knowledge gained here can transfer into my daily life to one day see vital changes needed to our social and political worlds.

CRISIS LEADERSHIP

in the Financial Management Profession

By Bianca Atkinson

The coronavirus pandemic has been a troubling time for many people and companies. As a result, manufacturing and services have fallen to unprecedented lows. Stocks lost about one-third of their values from February 20 to March 31, 2020, and there have been business closures. In addition, some companies have been forced to lay off thousands of employees and furlough many others. Over 3.3 million people have filed for unemployment in the week ending March 21, 2020, and an additional 6.6 million people filed the following week. The previous high for unemployment claims in a single week was 695,000 in 1982. With all of the coronavirus uproar, various challenges have arisen for financial managers. These challenges include not

being able to meet face-to-face with clients and an overwhelming amount of new clients they must help. Also, they now have new laws they must take into consideration while advising clients. In the midst of all of these various kinds of financial upheaval, so many people are at a loss as to what their next steps should be. Leaders in the financial management profession are handling the coronavirus pandemic by making themselves available, adapting their services to new circumstances, and keeping communication open with other leaders in the profession.

In responding to the coronavirus pandemic, leaders in the financial management profession are transforming their firms to fit the unique circumstances set before them.

Doreen Remmen, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Institute of Management Accountants, has had her firm begin to use remote video conferencing for meetings with clients and staff. She also implemented online training to make her employees better equipped for doing business online and increased cybersecurity to protect sensitive information from hackers. In addition, Remmen made it a policy to make sure clients affected by the coronavirus know about the Family First Act that the government put into place to give relief to citizens and companies that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. As the leader of her firm, she has altered her company in a necessary way to keep business flowing, as well as keep her clients and employees safe.

Students Research Campus Sustainability and Adapt to COVID-19 Challenges



By Connor Merk

As a member of the honors college, one of the requirements is to enroll in the course HON 110 Complex Global Challenges, which is taught by three professors: Professor of Political Science Dr. William (Bill) Gibson, Professor of Philosophy Dr. Lawrence (Larry) D. Hultgren, and Professor of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences Dr. Elizabeth Malcolm. This is an interdisciplinary course that explores scientific, ethical, economic, societal, and political aspects of contemporary

issues with global environmental impact.

According to Dr. Malcolm, the main goals of this course are to familiarize students with scholarly readings, improve discussion skills, and develop leadership and collaboration skills. Additionally, Malcolm stated, "We are taking an interdisciplinary look at global environmental challenges, as well as local environmental challenges. They start learning how scholarship works in different disciplines and how scholars from

different disciplines can work together and collaborate as well."

As a result of COVID-19, this course followed a hybrid approach, where students would meet in-person in the Joan and Macon Brock Theatre in the Susan S. Goode Fine and Performing Arts Center on one day during the week, but would be online for the other day.

During the fall semester, students enrolled in HON 110 were assigned a group project where they investigated a topic

related to campus sustainability. Their projects were based on the reporting system created by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). VWU does not currently participate in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), but would like to in the next few years. The goals of the assignment include investigating the current practices on campus relating to the specified topic, researching best practices from other institutions, and developing recommendations for VWU.

Freshman Edward McDonald's group researched the vehicles on campus, specifically the Wesleyan Engaged vans, campus security vehicles, and President Miller's car and their effect on the environment. "We got information on the campus cars, their yearly mileage, and their yearly gas consumption from Dr. Malcolm who collects the data for the school's carbon footprint report," McDonald said. "We also researched different types of green vehicles, from hydrogen powered to hybrid and electric."

They concluded that electric cars, opposed to hybrids or hydrogen, would be the best fit for the university. "We recommended that any new cars bought by the school should be electric, and to start the phasing out of gasoline cars by selling the president's car and purchasing an electric

equivalent. This is because the President drives more miles than the entire security fleet combined," McDonald said.

Freshman Breana Mahoney's group was inspired by the Greer Gardens to research the maintenance of VWU's landscaping. "We first gathered some background information on landscaping in America compared to other nations, as well as landscaping on college campuses specifically," Mahoney said. "Then, we interviewed people who we believed were qualified and educated on topics related to our subject, including Marisa Cousins (head of Greer Gardens), Dr. Del-Pozo (an entomologist), Brian O'Neil from Living Landscapes, and Mike Rigby (Assistant Director of Facilities Management)."

Mahoney's group interviewed Cousins to have a better understanding of the plant choice and placement of Greer's

landscaping. They learned that the plants are native and that the pest management is largely free of chemicals. "The plants are native to ensure that they do not impose on our local ecosystem and require little maintenance. Pest management is largely free of chemicals and relies on plants to combat any unwanted pests and sometimes relying on soapy water," Mahoney said. She also added that through speaking with Dr. Del Pozo, her group learned that landscapers are aware that insects often do more good than harm in our environment and understand the role that insects play in helping our ecosystem.

They concluded that VWU does a stellar job with keeping our landscaping sustainable. "We recommended that after Greer's establishment is completed we expand our living landscape style with more native plants throughout our entire campus. With a more engaged campus, including volunteers and members of Marlins Go Green, and collaboration with Brian O'Neil from Living Landscapes, we believe this endeavor could easily become possible."

Regarding the remote working and hybrid model of the course, Mahoney stated that her group was always on the same page since they communicated through a group chat and had a folder on Google Drive where they kept all of their research and notes.



My Senior Seminar final project, entitled Representation Written Wrong, was about how white playwrights, when writing about people of color, tend to caricature the populations they are writing about. I drew heavily from my theatre major as I compared and analyzed three staged plays about people of color written by white playwrights and discussed how, because they were written by white writers, the content surrounding people of color was inauthentic or offensive. Looking at *Miss Saigon*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *West Side Story*, I discussed how each piece relies on harmful stereotypes about Asian, Black, and Latinx populations respectively. I

also offered a simple solution to this problem: white playwrights should leave room for playwrights of color to write about their own communities. If white playwrights were to step away from writing about those communities, it would create space for playwrights of color to properly write about their own people. If a white writer is writing about people of color and it is unavoidable, consulting the communities they want to portray is another way of avoiding caricatures in their writing.

In writing the paper and presentation for this project, I researched the different stereotypes about the aforementioned communities and where they originated from,



and I learned a lot about how many white Americans view entire communities of color. The stereotypes that they see on stage affect how these communities are viewed by white Americans. It is for this reason that I think it is important for playwrights to right the wrongs of those that wrote before them and allow playwrights of color to tell their own stories.

Representation Written Wrong

By Jennifer Vega

Lessons Learned From Cholera in the 1800s to COVID-19 in the 2000s

By Amruta Karkare

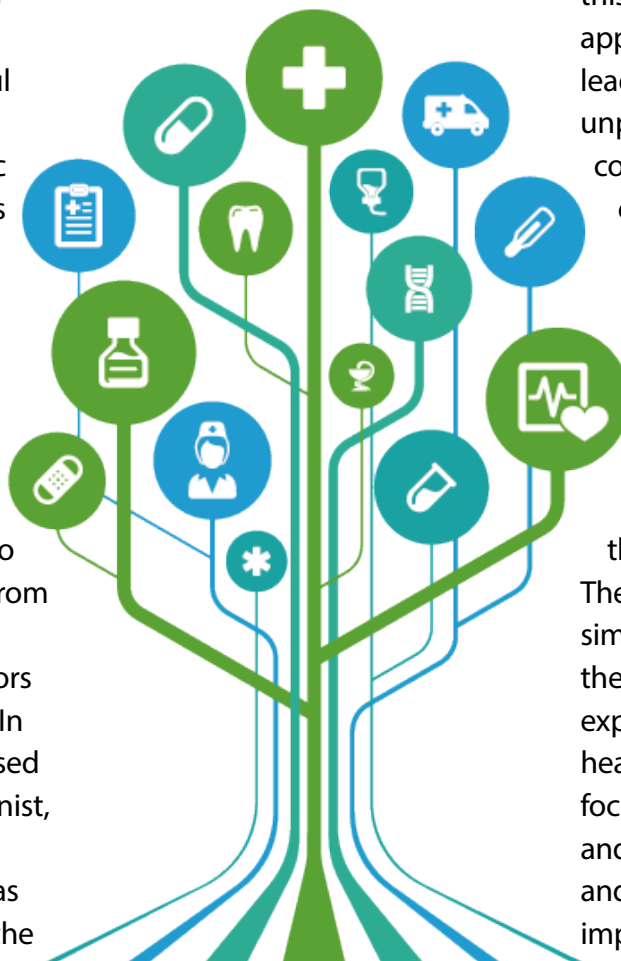
Given the severity of the current worldwide pandemic, the Honors 225 course, Models of Decision Making, was definitely an eye-opening course to participate in this year. The concepts addressed during the course were influential towards my perception of society today. It is no secret that our world has taken a major toll since the outbreak of the coronavirus. Nations across the globe have been diligently working to combat this harmful virus. However, aside from the alarming procedures and tragic casualties, this course served as an essential gateway into the world of public health.

One of my most prominent memories of this course featured the 19th century Cholera epidemic simulation. Each student was tasked with the responsibility to impersonate a representative from the Sanitary Committee of the Board of Governors and Directors of the Poor of St. James Parish. In all, the Committee was composed of three factions: The Contagionist, Anti-Contagionist, and the Intermediates. Each student was assigned a certain member of the

Committee and was instructed to embody the decisions and interests of the representative for their faction. Committee members would then debate over the true cause of Cholera and how to efficiently and effectively control the outbreak. In relation to our current situation with Covid, this simulation was truly informative. Quarrels pertaining to quarantine,

sanitation protocols, testing protocols, etc., were introspective into the decision-making process of our leaders today. At times, our discussions reached a stalemate because a solution only benefited a certain group of people. Therefore, the majority of the solutions developed were case sensitive.

Overall, after completing this course, I have a greater appreciation for the way our leaders have handled the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus pandemic. It is easy to be a bystander to policies enforced by the government and critique their effectiveness. However, having experienced this simulation, I feel there is so much more to controlling the pandemic than is perceived by the public. The lessons learned from this simulation are not limited to the current pandemic, rather it expands our knowledge of public health in general. Public health focuses on the whole population and encourages communication and collaboration with others to improve the quality of life.



AN INTERMISSION OF LEADERSHIP

By Phoebe Cox

Broadway and musical theatre seems to be an entire universe in and of itself. With the distinctions between plays and musicals, Broadway and off-Broadway, fans and professionals, there seem to be limitless opportunities to find fulfilment, purpose, and emotion through this unique expression of creativity and perspective. Because of the wide influence this culture has, there is a lot of potential for leadership since so many people look up to the professionals working in the industry. During this COVID-19 crisis, many actors, actresses, directors, and stagehands have stepped up to the plate, demonstrating admirable leadership qualities and serving as shining examples for how we should be responding.

A method by which actors and actresses are serving as leaders right now is by helping people discover the hope they can have in life's goodness by using their social media accounts to share encouraging messages and simply serve as beacons of positivity. Eva Noblezada, who

plays the role of Eurydice in the Tony and Grammy award winning musical *Hadestown*, is one such person. Throughout this time of quarantine, Eva has filled her Instagram with vulnerable posts revealing her long-term struggle with anxiety and depression and how she's coping with the intensified feelings of isolation and hopelessness. She encourages her followers and fans to see the bright side in things, embrace the small, happy moments, and be ok with simply existing for yourself. She acknowledges that it's ok to not be ok sometimes, and

We are only in intermission right now. The best act is yet to come.

her overall down-to-earthness and acknowledgement of tough issues that often go undiscussed is comforting and inspiring to many people.

Izzy McCalla, lead actress in the semi-recently closed musical *The*

Prom, has taken a similar initiative on her own Instagram account. From encouraging people to stay positive and hopeful through her posting of old pictures from previous shows to taking goofy selfies of her finding enjoyable activities to do during this time of quarantine, Izzy has been a source of comedy, comfort, and joy.

Another way by which members of the Broadway community are being leaders is by motivating people to donate money towards charities like the Actors Fund (an organization that helps financially support those in the entertainment industry who need assistance with medical costs) and Feeding America (a nonprofit that supports food banks nationwide). Just because normal life has paused for the time being, normal living expenses have not, and there are thousands of people employed by theatres nationwide who still have to provide the funds necessary for those expenses. By leaders taking action and relaying the information about that necessity to the world, people are able to give back to those in

the musical theatre industry who have already given up so much of themselves.

An intermission is defined as “an interval between the parts of an entertainment” or “the state of being ceased for a time.” All Broadway shows have this brief period of about 20-30 minutes in between the two acts to serve as a time for the actors to relax and for the audience to take a break from the intensity of watching and paying attention. Upon return from the intermission, actors and viewers alike are regenerated

and at a fuller capacity to either perform or watch the show than they would have been without taking the time to reflect and decompress. A popular Internet trend currently being promoted by the Broadway community on social media is to call this quarantine time an intermission; it is an intermission during which we can all focus on bettering ourselves and the world around us by focusing on positive change and doing what we can in the moment to help the greater good. Although life may be on

pause for the time being, and it's not what we originally intended or wanted for ourselves, the various leaders in the Broadway community are encouraging us to take advantage of this precious time we have to do things like bettering ourselves and connecting with and caring for each other in more appreciative ways. They give us the hope that we will emerge from this crisis more united and fit to approach the world's problems. We are only in intermission right now. The best act is yet to come.



Sophomore Experiences Virtual Inauguration Program

By Charlotte Weinstein



The Osgood Center's Gene Alpert Presidential Inauguration Program took place on Jan. 11 and lasted until Jan. 22. Students from America, Jordan, China, and other countries came together to listen to speakers in Washington, D.C. about a variety of topics. There were two main components to the speaker's presentations--they discussed some of the experiences they went through in their careers, and they also offered insights and advice to aspiring international studies students. The speakers came from

a wide variety of fields ranging from healthcare to criminal justice to international relations.

The two most talked about issues were US-China relations and the January 6th insurrection on the Capitol. All of the speakers that approached the topic of the insurrection agreed it was a negative stain on the image of America. Many of the speakers, such as Dr. Jeremi Suri of the University of Texas-Austin, discussed how this was the first attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812 over 200 years ago.

The fact that it was perpetuated by domestic terrorists makes the situation infinitely graver for American politics. The polarized nation often finds it hard for either side of the political spectrum to speak to the other. Steven Olikara, founder of the Millennial Action Project (MAP), warns about this polarization, saying "death or dialogue. It's radical hate or radical love." In a time in which the nation is more divided than ever before, the implications of the president inciting the violence poses a huge issue for the beginning of the Biden administration, many of the speakers agree. All of the speakers mentioned that the insurrection was absolutely disgraceful and should most definitely be taught as such in future American History classes.

China seems to be a huge concern for the U.S. under the Biden administration. Given the years of heightened

tension between China and the U.S., particularly regarding trade deals, much has to be done



to deescalate tensions and establish a healthy interoperable relationship with China. Robert Daly, arguably the United States' resident expert on China, discussed how China has progressed from its failures from the Great Leap Forward society to the industrial powerhouse it is today. With the U.S. focusing on the idea of isolationism over the past four years, it has lost some of its international standing while China has gained it. There has to be a move towards repairing that damaged reputation first to regain the international standing the U.S. had, a few of the speakers argue. Some predictions were made about what steps the Biden administration might take within the first 100 days to remedy this, but this problem is so complex that it seems near impossible to fix in just 100 days.

Many of the speakers also had advice to give to the aspiring students. Arguably the most resonant came from Dr. Robert Osgood himself, as Dr. Shelton Williams, the founder of the Osgood Center, shared with us Osgood's advice to him years ago--"find out what you love, and get someone to pay you for it." Most of the students, myself included, are worried about choosing the right path and finding the right experiences to guide us to our chosen paths. Dr. Williams shared with us his story

of finding what he wanted to do and how Dr. Osgood helped him throughout his career. He stressed the importance of finding a mentor, hopefully understanding that he himself is a mentor for all of the students who attended the Program. Olikara, also offered a motto to us students as we go throughout our careers: "respect, empower, include. REI." While this is the approach the MAP takes to its mission, it is also applicable to our careers. As we begin to gain career experience while in college, we can take it upon ourselves to practice REI so that we are, as Olikara says, "people who want to do something" rather than "people who want to be something." It is important to retain our individuality and our values instead of sacrificing our morals to get ahead. The quote "it's who you know and what you know" from last year's Osgood Center program was subconsciously reiterated in this year's program. It addressed our concerns about not immediately having a "way into" our dream career, reaffirming the fact that our focus on school now is the most important thing we can do to prepare ourselves for the future. These valuable lessons were well received by all of the students, and will truly help the students who attended grow and understand the complex situations of the ever changing world around us.

Question:

What is your favorite thing to eat from Boyd Dining Center?

Chicken Nuggets

Eddie McDonald '24

Curly Fries

Alysia Kelly '24

Caribbean Chicken Bowl

Brooke Underwood '24

Crispy Orange Chicken

Connor Merk '23

Pad Thai

Grant Morgan '22

Mashed Potatoes

Jackie Carmines '22

Pad Thai

Alex Powers '21

Potato Wedges

Quinton Nace '21



Applying Mathematical Modeling to Public Health Decisions

By Abby Peterson

In Models of Decision Making, I learned more about how math correlates with public health decisions. Of course, there are moral dilemmas and government initiatives involved with public health decisions, but the statistics behind decision-making help people outline their options and make more informed decisions. We used the techniques we learned in class and applied it to the 1976 Swine Flu Epidemic incident, which was a historical public health disaster in which people got vaccinated for a disease that never hit the United States.

After modeling this situation as a game, we were able to determine the outcomes with the highest benefit to both the U.S. government and U.S. population; this showed that our highest outcome correlated with what actually occurred in 1976 when the government rushed out a vaccine. Using the historical context of the

swine flu and the content from Models of Decision Making, we were able to quantify the effects of government decisions and better understand how the U.S. public views health decisions. This is extremely important in the wake of COVID-19 and other difficult health decisions the U.S. will face.



10 Essential Public Health Services