

# Understanding

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



## BUILDING BRIDGES BRIDGING DIVIDES

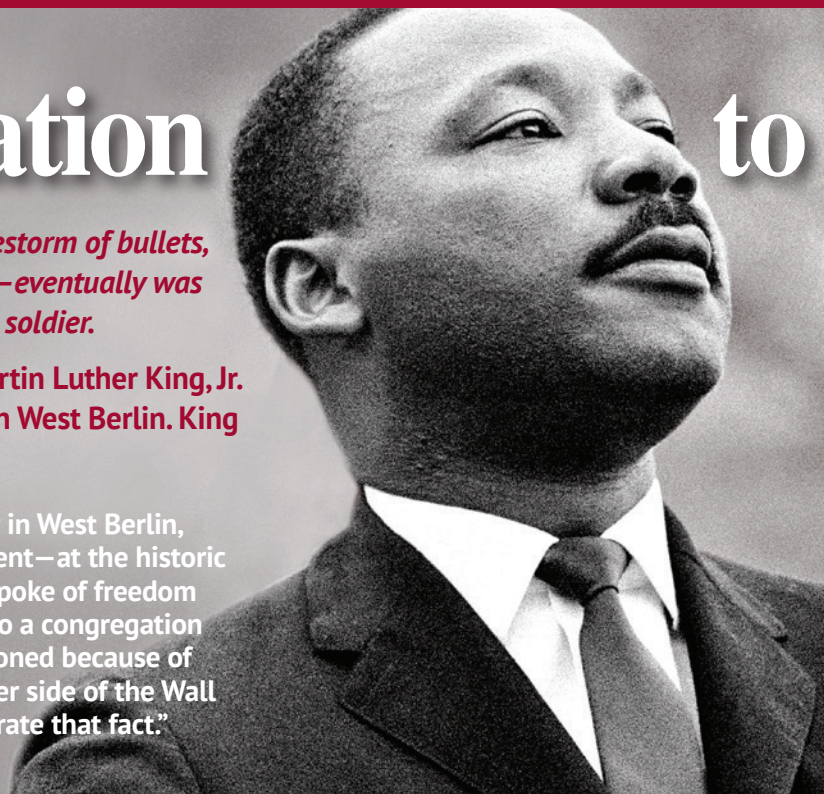


# From Reformation to

*Trying to escape from East Berlin and caught in a firestorm of bullets, 21-year-old Michael Meyer—wounded several times—eventually was pulled to safety, over the Berlin Wall, by an American soldier.*

**The date was September 13, 1964, the day after Martin Luther King, Jr. —at the invitation of the city’s mayor—had arrived in West Berlin. King hurried to witness the scene of the rescue.**

King went on to speak at the Waldbühne amphitheater in West Berlin, but then also—against the desires of the U.S. government—at the historic St. Marienkirche (St. Mary’s Church) in East Berlin. He spoke of freedom and civil disobedience, words particularly meaningful to a congregation whose pastor, Werner Arnold, had recently been imprisoned because of his criticism of the Berlin Wall. King said, “Here on either side of the Wall are God’s children and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact.”



**K**ing’s focus on reform and freedom grew from both classical German and American roots. His German roots can be seen in his own name. His father, Michael King, visited Germany in 1934 and had been so moved by the impact of the reformer Martin Luther, that he returned to the United States and changed both his and his son’s name from “Michael King” to “Martin Luther King.”

Similarly, King was deeply shaped by American principles steeped in the promises of religious freedom. The American journalist Frederick Clarkson writes that the principle of religious freedom has facilitated “every struggle for advances in human and civil rights...King understood this. In his 1963 “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” he acknowledged the source of his movement in ‘the Negro church.’ He wrote, for example, that the students who staged sit-ins in a campaign to desegregate lunch counters in the South were ‘standing up for the best in the American dream and the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage.’ He emphasized that those lunch counter sit-ins took ‘the whole nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the Founding Fathers.’” (*Religion News Service, January 12, 2017*).

As King said in his final speech, “let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation.”

The day after that speech, King was assassinated. Martin Luther King, Jr. died on April 4, 1968, exactly fifty years ago. Last semester the Center celebrated Martin Luther and the 500-year anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Our programs acknowledged the continued need to be vigilant in protecting religious freedoms. This semester many of our programs recognize the hopes and the continued legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Just as Martin Luther paved the way for many Christians to have what they saw as a more personal connection to God, Martin Luther King, Jr. paved the way for people of all ethnicities to be in relationship with each other.

But, like most dreams, this one is far from realization. Edmund Winston Pettus was a former Confederate Brigadier General and Grand Dragon of the Alabama KKK. When King marched from Selma to Montgomery over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, part of what he was seeking to do was use a divisive name as a bridge to the future, just as the Berlin Wall ultimately could not keep Michael Meyer from finding freedom.

## What does it mean for us to build bridges?

*Join us this semester, as we think about race, reconciliation, and freedom, and as we seek—through King’s legacy—to “have an opportunity to make America a better nation.”*

# RACE

“...and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

- From “I Have a Dream” Martin Luther King, Jr.

## How to Be Less Stupid About Race: Racism and Anti-racism in Our Classrooms and Communities

JUSTINE L. NUSBAUM LECTURE

Monday, April 23 | 7-8 PM | BLOCKER HALL AUDITORIUM



In this preview of her forthcoming book, **Dr. Crystal Fleming** illustrates why Americans of all ethnicities are ignorant about race. She highlights how institutions and patterns of thinking systemically reinforce racial ignorance on all sides of issues, and shows how—if we are to be less “stupid” about race—we need to take concrete steps toward deeper understanding.

Monday, April 23

## Confronting White Supremacy: A Workshop for Students of All Backgrounds

WORKSHOP FOR VWU STUDENTS ONLY

In this interactive workshop open only to VWU students, Dr. Fleming discusses how U.S. citizens of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are socialized to be ignorant about race. This workshop offers practical steps for removing barriers created by assumptions and misconceptions and provides a roadmap for building a more civil and inclusive community.

Dr. Crystal Marie Fleming is Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at SUNY Stony Brook. She is an award-winning writer, speaker, and educator, committed to empowering individuals and communities with the conceptual tools needed to understand, confront, and challenge white supremacy.

Her forthcoming book—*How to Be Less Stupid About Race: The Essential Guide to Confronting White Supremacy* (Beacon Press, 2018)—combines rigorous engagement with interdisciplinary research, no-holds-barred social commentary, memoir, and humor to debunk common misconceptions about racism.

*Sponsored in partnership with Student Activities and the President’s Council for Inclusive Community at Virginia Wesleyan University*

Saturday, March 3

RACE: LET’S TALK ABOUT IT TOWN HALL

## Creating a More Civil Society: Is M.L.K.’s Legacy Just a Dream?

2:30 – 4:30 PM | BOYD DINING CENTER

Moderated by **Barbara Hamm Lee**, host and executive producer of *Another View* radio program.

From divisive political rhetoric to racial tensions, America seems increasingly at a crossroads. While the civil rights movement achieved legal equality for people of all races, King’s vision of a beloved community is yet unrealized. How did King inspire a movement that both did not denigrate others and held people accountable to their—and America’s—highest ideals? A panel helps to guide the discussion, but the conversation belongs to those in the audience.

The discussion begins on **Another View** on **Friday, March 2**, from 12-1 PM on WHRV 89.5 FM

*Sponsored in partnership with WHRO Public Media and the City of Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission*



# RACE

## IN LIGHT OF RELIGION

# RELIGION

## IN LIGHT OF RACE



**Issues of race divide Americans and people of faith in a variety of ways.**  
*NEXUS this semester focuses on racial issues that too frequently go undiscussed.*

**Monday, March 19** 7-8:30 PM

BATTEN STUDENT CENTER | PEARCE HOSPITALITY SUITE

## Slavery, the Holocaust, and Stories that Shape Us

The Holocaust was over 70 years ago, yet memories of that horrific past continue to shape the Jewish people and influence on-going efforts to educate and heal. Over 150 years ago, slavery was officially abolished in the U.S., but unhealed memories and inequality continue to cast a dark shadow on race relations in America. How can we begin to understand deeply formative experiences that we ourselves may not have experienced? And how can we begin to communicate the deepest of impulses within us, in ways that lead to understanding and healing?

**Monday, April 30** 7-8:30 PM

BATTEN STUDENT CENTER | PEARCE HOSPITALITY SUITE

## Are Religious People More Racist?

Eleven o'clock on Sunday morning is said to be the most segregated time in America. It's true that most U.S. churches are racially homogenous, but does that make them racist? In what ways has interpretation of scripture helped to perpetuate racism? How do we look at ourselves, and our faiths, self-critically and then find a way to the future?

*The Nexus Interfaith Dialogue series is sponsored in partnership with the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities.*

*This semester, the Nexus series is also in partnership with HUBB (Hands United Building Bridges), a multi-faith clergy group which was launched in May of 2015 by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz (Congregation Beth El) and Dr. Antipas Harris (Urban Renewal Center).*

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM in the Classroom

**Friday, April 20** | RECEPTION 11:30 AM -1:30 PM

CLARKE HALL | CSRF OFFICE SUITE

A liberal arts education brings students to see connections between classroom learning and real life issues. In encouraging that, the CSRF regularly creates project-based partnerships with VWU courses in order to help students recognize how religious freedom issues not only run through the curriculum, but also have broad impact at local, national, and global levels.

This semester the CSRF is working with ART 204 *Digital Art* students as they create artistic representations of significant quotes that focus on building bridges, serving others, or reconciliation. In addition, students in three sections of COMM 222 *Public Speaking* develop persuasive speeches about healing racial divisions.

*Judges determine the two best artistic representations and the two best speeches, and the respective students are recognized and receive an award at a reception at the CSRF on Friday, April 20. Please stop by to congratulate the winners.*

there's  
something  
about  
**mary**  
...and archangels  
...and saints

**Faith and Culture behind the *Highest Heaven***

**Saturday, March 31**

A HOLY SATURDAY PROGRAM

10:30-11:15 AM | CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART, NORFOLK

How does culture change the representation of faith? What happened when Spanish and Portuguese colonists brought their faith to the high plains of South America? Why do the Virgin Mary, archangels, and saints play such a large role within this art? Join VWU professors, Drs. **Mavel Velasco** (Hispanic Studies) and **Craig Wansink** (Religious Studies), as



they explore these questions, and then visit the Chrysler's exhibition *Highest Heaven: Spanish and Portuguese Colonial Art from the Collection of Roberta and Richard Huber*.

*The "Highest Heaven" exhibition will be at the Chrysler from March 2 – June 3.*



2013 PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAY by **Ayad Akhtar**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, is the opening day for the Virginia Stage Company's run of **Ayad Akhtar's** Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Disgraced*. The play sits you at a dinner party hosted by a Pakistani-American lapsed Muslim and his Caucasian wife, and attended by his African-American law partner and her Jewish husband. The conversation turns to race and religion, and then becomes intense. *Disgraced* makes the audience wince, frequently with self-recognition, and frequently in offense.

**Disturbing *DISGRACED***

Discussing Race, Religion, and other tense issues in a Post-MLK World

**Wednesday, April 4**

BROWN-BAG LUNCH | 12-12:50 PM

WELLS THEATRE | 108 TAZEWELL STREET, NORFOLK

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, is also the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a day for reflecting on his legacy and on unfinished business.

In anticipation of *Disgraced's* run at the Wells Theatre (April 4-22), please join **Barbara Hamm Lee**, host of *Another View* radio program, and **Dr. Craig Wansink** in the Wells Theatre lobby, for a brown-bag discussion highlighting key issues raised by the play: How do we as Americans become more aware of deep tensions and fundamental differences, how do we recognize the ways religion and race shape us, and how do we develop the skills to have more productive conversations and relationships with others?

*Free and open to the public. Beverages provided.*

**DISCUSSIONS with the CSRF and VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY**



*The CSRF and Virginia Stage Company join together to discuss what happens when "polite dinner conversation" turns into direct confrontations, and what can be done to create different endings to those conversations.*

**TALK BACK PANEL DISCUSSIONS\***

**April 8 & 15**

WELLS THEATRE

Immediately following the 2:00 p.m. Sunday matinee performances of *Disgraced* on April 8 and 15 are Talk Back Panel Discussions.

On April 8, the Center facilitates discussion with panelists—who represent the diversity portrayed in the play—who share their perspectives and insights on issues raised in the play. Members of the audience are encouraged to respond.

**FACILITATED SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS\***

**April 13, 14, 20 & 21**

WELLS THEATRE

If you are more interested in Facilitated Small Group Discussions, please note that on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 13, 14, 20, and 21, immediately following the 7:30 p.m. shows, trained facilitators lead small groups in discussion about important issues raised in the play.

*\*Purchase of Performance Ticket*



# BUILD THAT WALL

## A DEIST PRESIDENT, CONNECTICUT BAPTISTS, AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**Saturday, April 7**

PRESENTATION BY **DR. CRAIG WANSINK**

1-2 PM | HISTORIC ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

14477 BENN'S CHURCH BLVD., SMITHFIELD, VA

No American president would claim to be against "religious freedom" per se, yet some ways in which they have understood that concept seem to have undermined basic meanings of the expression.

In better understanding religious liberty and American politics today, we need to return to October 7, 1801 and January 1, 1802, to a letter correspondence between the Danbury Baptist Association of Danbury, Connecticut, and the new American President, Thomas Jefferson. Together, these odd bedfellows led America to see a "wall of separation" between religion and government as a critical starting place for reflecting on the unique religious identity of the American experiment.

“...make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

*Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 1, 1802*

*Excerpt from Jefferson's Letter to the Danbury Baptists*

(NOTE: Although all CSRF-sponsored events are free, the Center is not sponsoring this event. Tickets are \$15 a person and go to support Historic St. Luke's Church, a very worthy cause. This 17th-century church is both the oldest church in Virginia and the oldest brick construction church in British North America.)

## LIFE Matters

In "Life Matters," members of the Wesleyan community offer autobiographical reflections on their emotional, intellectual, and spiritual experiences. These deeply personal talks create meaningful opportunities for greater understanding and connection, encouraging each of us to think about what has shaped us and given our own life meaning.

*Please feel free to bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch in the dining center.*

The series is sponsored in partnership with the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning (INTEL) at Virginia Wesleyan University.



**Thursday, February 8**

**Joanne Renn**, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics  
12-12:50 PM | SHAFER ROOM  
BOYD DINING CENTER



**Thursday, March 22**

**Ehsan Salek**, Professor of Management/Business/Economics  
12-12:50 PM | SHAFER ROOM  
BOYD DINING CENTER

# WHEN GOD ISN'T GREEN



## A World-wide Journey to Places where Religious Practice and Environmentalism Collide

**Tuesday, February 27**

**ON-DECK SERIES EVENT | 11 AM – 12 PM | BLOCKER HALL AUDITORIUM**

*Law professor and humorist **JAY WEXLER** writes that...*

In NEW YORK, MIAMI, AND OTHER LARGE U.S. CITIES, Santeria followers sprinkle mercury in their apartments to fend off witches, poisoning those homes for years to come. In CENTRAL AMERICA, palm frond sales to U.S. customers for Palm Sunday celebrations have helped decimate the rain forests of Guatemala and southern Mexico. In ISRAEL, on Lag Bomer, a holiday commemorating a famous rabbi, Jews make so many bonfires that the smoke can be seen from space, and trips to the emergency room for asthma and other pulmonary conditions spike.

These are only three examples of Wexler's exploration around the globe, in his asking "Can religious practice and environmentalism coexist?" Join us as he addresses that question at Virginia Wesleyan.

Jay Wexler is a professor at the Boston University School of Law, where he's taught church-state law and environmental law since 2001. He's the author of five books, including *The Odd Clauses: Understanding the Constitution through Ten of Its Most Curious Provisions* (2012)

and *Holy Hullabaloo: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars* (2009). Prior to teaching, Professor Wexler worked as a lawyer at the United States Department of Justice and as a law clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the U.S. Supreme Court.

# Is Bipartisanship Dead – or Even Worth Saving?

## An Historian Pleads for Moderation using Health Care and Israel as Test Cases

**Tuesday, March 13**

11 AM – 12 PM

BLOCKER HALL AUDITORIUM

**American presidential historian GIL TROY makes the case that moderates make the best presidents, and what moderation means in relation to Israel and U.S. health care.**

As Kirkus says of Troy's research, "Those sick to death of extremist rhetoric should be assured by Troy's conclusions." The New York Post says, "It's a good time to start getting passionate about moderation." Join us as we see more clearly how history informs politics today, and in particular, U.S. policy on Israel and health care.

*Sponsored in partnership with the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater*



An author of ten books, and editor of two, Dr. Gil Troy is Distinguished Scholar of North American History at McGill University, and Research Fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute's Engaging Israel Program. His books include *The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland* (2018), *Moynihan's Moment: America's Fight Against Zionism as Racism* (2012), *The Age of Clinton: America in the 1990s* (2015), *The Reagan Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (2009), *Hillary Rodham Clinton: Polarizing First Lady* (2008), *Morning in America: How Ronald Reagan Invented the 1980s* (2007), *Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple Since World War II* (1997), and *See How They Ran: The Changing Role of the Presidential Candidate* (1996).



# FROM CONFLICT TO PEACE IN MODERN ISRAEL

## *Challenges in Daily Life*



### LUNCH WITH STUDENTS

*Please feel free to bring your lunch and join students as they present on challenges and questions raised as they studied abroad.*

**Thursday, February 15**

**Virginia Wesleyan Students, with Dr. Craig Wansink, Kelly Jackson, and Greg West**

VWU STUDY-AWAY PRESENTATION

12-12:50 PM BOYD DINING CENTER, SHAFER ROOM

Why have Christian priests viciously attacked each other in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher? Why are Bibles not allowed on the Temple Mount? Why do some ultra-orthodox Jewish men throw chairs at women who pray at the Western Wall? What is so controversial about where the U.S. embassy to Israel is located? What constitutes "Jewishness" and who determines that? Is Israel a democratic state, a religious state, or both, and what difference does that make? What are outsiders supposed to make of Israeli-Palestinian tensions?

*Supported by outside donations and led by the CSRF, fifteen VWU students took a course on "challenges in ancient and modern Israel," which culminated in a ten-day trip to Israel. Join us as they share their research on the challenges of this fascinating country.*



# Ethical Issues in a Multicultural Society

Thursday, February 8

ETHICS BOWL DEMONSTRATION | 7-8:30 PM | MONUMENTAL CHAPEL

A person from Illinois recently noted that when he was growing up, the most intense ethical arguments in his hometown were between the German Lutherans and the Swedish Lutherans, groups that might have been seen – by anyone outside that town – as fairly homogeneous. Culture – sometimes in the form of ethnicity, race, or religion – shapes us. Differences in values can exist, for instance, between Catholics and Congregationalists, between Californians and Utahans, Filipino-Americans and Italian-Americans, and between those who live in rural and urban areas. How do we recognize and negotiate those differences? That is the focus of this 90 minute session.

Coordinated by VWU Professor of Communication Dr. Kathy Merlock Jackson, the Virginia Wesleyan 2018 VFIC Ethics Bowl team members are: **Alex Powers '21, Kelsi Robins '18, Sheril Steinberg '18, Brianna Sandy '21, and Ruta Habtemariam '18** (alternate).

*The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges' (VFIC) annual Ethics Bowl competition brings together student teams from each of the 15 VFIC member institutions for lively debate and consideration of applied ethics – real world dilemmas that affect people's lives in increasingly complex ways. As the Virginia Wesleyan Ethics Bowl team prepares to compete at the VFIC Ethics Bowl, the CSRF hosts a debate demonstration, with the audience having the opportunity to interact, critique, and discuss. Please come to help students prepare for the VFIC competition, hosted this year by Hampden-Sydney College on February 11-12.*



Thursday, February 22

Riley Conrad '18

VWU STUDY-ABAY PRESENTATION

12-12:50 PM

BOYD DINING CENTER, SHAFER ROOM

*Riley Conrad, Class of 2018, majors in Religious Studies and International Studies, and has recently returned from studying in Granada, Spain.*

Granada, Spain, is a beautiful city filled with a unique history of religious diversity. Islamic culture from the Arab World dominated the Iberian Peninsula for 800 years, with Granada as the final stronghold. After highlighting this background and culture, Riley explores the false narrative she carried to Granada when she first arrived there (for a semester of study abroad), highlights what she learned while there, and illustrates how this history continues to impact Spain today.





# OUR SHARED CHALLENGE

***Incivility. Partisanship. Political, racial, and religious tensions.***

*They are not waning in American society, and the expression “e pluribus unum” (out of one, many) increasingly feels like it might be better articulated as “ex uno plures” or “ex uno multi.”*

*A natural and normal response to incivility and partisanship is for individuals to retreat into their own familiar camps. At the Center we try to wade right into the middle of these kinds of tensions. If we do not discuss tense issues in a respectful manner, breaching divides is impossible. We try to remind students, community members, and others of the values of American citizenship that are represented in America’s first freedom, values such as inclusion, democracy, community, and respect.*

*A helpful symbol for us is part of Virginia Wesleyan’s new logo. The lighthouse reminds us of our purpose: the importance of high-lighting paths of safety, of pointing beyond ourselves, and of being eyes in the darkness. But lighthouses belong to communities. That is where they find their meaning.*



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We are so grateful for our partnerships in Coastal Virginia. This last semester we established a Lifelong Learning Institute at Westminster Canterbury, where VWU faculty offer courses for the members there. A generous donor has given our students financial grants that have enabled them to travel abroad, this year to Israel. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has been a longtime partner for the Nexus Interfaith Dialogue series. The Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater regularly provides us with excellent speakers. Barbara Hamm Lee and WHRO Public Media have been important partners in our creating community dialogues. And this semester we are fortunate to partner with the Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia Stage Company, Historic St. Luke’s Church in Smithfield, the City of Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission, and HUBB (Hands United Building Bridges), a regional multi-faith clergy group.

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

As we continue to develop as a center, we have created two advisory groups, each of which is composed of visionary leaders and servants who, we hope, will help us see opportunities to be more effective and creative in sharing what we know is a vital message for a fractured society.

Our Faculty Advisory Council consists of Dr. Leslie Caughell (political science), Dr. Joyce Easter (chemistry), Dr. Terry Lindvall (communication and religious studies), Dr. Travis Malone (theatre), Dr. Timothy O’Rourke (political science), and Dr. Kathy Stolley (sociology). Our Community Advisory Council consists of Dr. Tahani Amer, Steve Baggerly, Rev. Tammy Estep, Rabbi Michael Panitz, Rev. Dr. Sharon Riley, and Teresa Stanley. What we are so grateful for are the broad perspectives of these individuals and their desire to make sure that good things happen in the world.

*In addition to all of these blessings, we are grateful for you. Your participation, advice, support, and financial contributions help us share an important message.*

*Thank you for helping us promote values so important for today,*

*Craig and Kelly*



## FEBRUARY

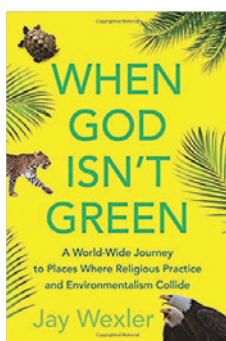
8 **LIFE MATTERS: Joanne Renn**  
Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics  
Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
Boyd Dining Center, Shafer Room  
*Sponsored in partnership with VWU Chaplain's Office and INTEL*

8 **Ethical Issues in a Multicultural Society**  
ETHICS BOWL Demonstration  
Thursday, 7-8:30 PM  
Monumental Chapel

15 **From Conflict to Peace in Modern Israel: Challenges in Daily Life**  
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Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
Boyd Dining Center, Shafer Room

22 **Islamic Culture in Spain**  
VWU STUDY-AWAY PRESENTATION  
**Riley Conrad '18**  
Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
Boyd Dining Center, Shafer Room

27 **When God Isn't Green**  
ON-DECK EVENT  
**Jay D. Wexler**  
Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law  
Tuesday, 11 AM-12 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium



## MARCH

3 **Creating a More Civil Society: Is M.L.K.'s Legacy Just a Dream?**  
RACE: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT TOWN HALL  
Moderated by **Barbara Hamm Lee**, host of *Another View*, 89.5 WHRV-FM  
Saturday, 2:30-4:30 PM  
Boyd Dining Center  
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13 **Is Bipartisanship Dead—or Even Worth Saving—An Historian Pleads for Moderation Using Health Care and Israel as Test Cases**

**Dr. Gil Troy**, distinguished scholar of North American History at McGill University, and Research Fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute's Engaging Israel Program  
Tuesday, 11 AM-12 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium  
*Sponsored in partnership with the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater*

19 **Slavery, the Holocaust, and Stories that Shape Us**

NEXUS INTERFAITH DIALOGUE  
Monday, 7-8:30 PM  
Batten Student Center, Pearce Hospitality Suite  
*Sponsored in partnership with Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and Hands United Building Bridges*

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Professor of Management/Business/Economics  
Boyd Dining Center, Shafer Room  
Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
*Sponsored in partnership with VWU Chaplain's Office and INTEL*

31 **There's Something about Mary...and Archangels...and Saints: Faith and Culture Behind the Highest Heaven**

VWU Professors **Dr. Mavel Velasco** and **Dr. Craig Wansink**  
Saturday, 10:30-11:15 AM  
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk  
*Sponsored in partnership with Chrysler Museum of Art*

## APRIL

4 **Disgraced: Discussing Race, Religion, and Other Tense Issues in a Post-MLK World**



Moderated by **Barbara Hamm Lee**, host of *Another View*, and CSRF Director **Dr. Craig Wansink**

Wednesday, 12-12:50 PM  
Wells Theatre, Norfolk  
*Sponsored in partnership with Virginia Stage Company*

7 **Build That Wall: A Deist President, Connecticut Baptists, and Religious Freedom\***

**Dr. Craig Wansink**, CSRF Director  
Saturday, 1-2 PM  
Historic St. Luke's Church, Smithfield  
*\*\$15 donation*

8 **Disgraced: Talk Back Panel\***  
Sunday, 3:30-4:30 PM (following the matinee)  
Wells Theatre, Norfolk  
Moderated by **Dr. Craig Wansink**, CSRF Director  
*\* Performance Ticket Purchase*

20 **Speech, Art, and Social Justice**  
SALAD ON FRIDAY CELEBRATION  
Friday, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM  
Clarke Hall, CSRF Office Suite  
*Sponsored in partnership with VWU Digital Art and Public Speaking Courses*

23 **How to Be Less Stupid About Race: Racism and Anti-racism in Our Classrooms and Communities**  
JUSTINE L. NUSBAUM LECTURE  
**Dr. Crystal Fleming**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at SUNY Stony Brook  
Monday, 7-8 PM  
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23 **Confronting White Supremacy: A Workshop for Students of All Backgrounds**  
WORKSHOP FOR VWU STUDENTS ONLY  
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30 **Are Religious People More Racist?**  
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Monday, 7-8:30 PM  
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ALL CSRF EVENTS ARE FREE\*  
AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*\* unless otherwise noted*

## Understanding RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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(NEWS & EVENTS)

## *Escape from* **NORTH KOREA**

It is a crime to leave North Korea. Yet every year a small number of desperate North Koreans escape their closed country by traveling along a secret route known as the *New Underground Railroad*.

Journalist-author **MELANIE KIRKPATRICK** describes their perilous journey and the rescuers—many of whom are Christian—who help them reach free countries.



## **THEY SAY WE ARE INFIDELS**

*On the Run from ISIS with Persecuted Christians in the Middle East*

From Syria into Iraq, Christians are being brutalized and killed by Islamic State fighters (ISIS). Journalist **MINDY BELZ** has spent more than a decade reporting from the ground in the Middle East and has seen first-hand the stark reality of this escalating genocide. Based in part on those personal experiences, Belz explores the complex dynamics at play in war-torn Iraq and Syria and shares stories of Christians who refuse to abandon their faith—even in the face of losing everything, including their lives.

