



RICHMOND matters

A Newsletter for the University of Richmond Community
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Quest IV winner asks "What moves us?"

IN BRIEF

- First-year student Jason Levinn will receive \$25,000 cash prize
- Lectures, programs and courses based on the winning question will begin in fall 2005

"What moves us?"

That is the question Jason C. Levinn of Gladstone, N.J., a first-year student at the University, submitted as part of the fourth Richmond Quest competition, which sought a compelling question the entire university community could explore through a series of lectures, programs and courses. The query and a 1,500-word accompanying essay won Levinn a \$25,000 cash prize.

"We are driven and shaped by forces that are not always obvious, and perhaps it is this aspect of our lives that begs the question, 'What moves us,'" wrote Levinn in his rationale.

As part of Levinn's entry, one of 130 submitted by Richmond students or student groups and reviewed by a panel of judges, he asked, "What moved the masses to volunteer in the wake of 9/11? What moves us to serve others? What moves terrorists to act destructively? What moved the tectonic plates beneath Sri Lanka and Indonesia?"

"The entries indicate that many students are taking this opportunity to ask questions of sufficient depth and breadth to engage the full range of our five academic schools here at Richmond in search of synergies among them," said President Bill Cooper. "Students enjoy opportunities to begin the educational process where it all begins—with a question. They have demonstrated by their questions and rationales that they are able to exercise their creative initiative in a way that will help shape aspects of our curriculum and special programming."

Sixty students, including Levinn, worked with faculty or staff mentors. Dr. Doug Hicks, associate professor of leadership and religion and director of the Center for Civic Engagement, served as Levinn's mentor and will receive a \$5,000 faculty development grant.

Levinn's question could be used as the basis for Quest courses in physics, history, politics, leadership and other areas. "Questioning what moves the populace also has its benefits in the world of marketing and business," wrote Levinn. "If marketing consulting firms know what their consumers are looking for, they can do their job better and, in the process of responding to the needs and wants that move their customers, companies will earn higher profits."

In drama and literature, he said, "emotions associated with movement are brought to light. Without the emotion of an audience or reader, playwrights and authors would simply be writing for themselves. Instead, they must question what will be powerful enough to move people, and this becomes a goal of the work."

Lectures, programs and courses based on the winning question will begin in fall 2005 and continue over the next two years. As part of Levinn's entry, he included suggestions for speakers related to his question, including:

- Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) who could discuss movements within the Democratic party
- Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace laureate from Burma, who could articulate by teleconference or videotape from Burmese house arrest how to move people to act nonviolently in a struggle for democracy and human rights
- Dr. Martha Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, who could lecture on the role of imagination and the passions working for social change
- Dr. Condoleezza Rice, U.S. secretary of state, who could discuss using American diplomacy to create movements for freedom and democracy around the globe
- Tracy Chapman, musical artist, who moves people through song to inspire social change.

The current Quest topic centers on a question about questions. Amy Robin Hoffman, a 2003 graduate, submitted the winning entry, "How do we know which questions to ask?" The first Quest question was, "Is truth in the eye of the beholder?" and the second asked "When does discovery inspire change?"

Faculty have created nearly 50 courses around Quest themes. Past Quest programming has brought to campus more than 75 speakers and events, including Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, Watergate journalist Carl Bernstein, political commentator Molly Ivins and comedian Lily Tomlin. In addition, Quest has funded 30 international research opportunities for students, including research carried out in Prague, Bombay, Russia and Ukraine.

Faculty members receive prestigious grants

IN BRIEF

- Dr. Ellis Bell awarded more than \$300,000 to study enzymes
- Dr. John Gupton will continue cancer treatment research with a nearly \$200,000 grant

Dr. Ellis Bell, Gottwald Professor of Chemistry, has been awarded a two-year \$314,842 grant from the National Science Foundation, and Dr. John Gupton, professor of chemistry, has received an award of \$190,980 from The National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute.

Bell's grant will be used on his research project "The Role of Protein Dynamics in Catalysis and Subunit Cooperativity." He is studying three enzymes that play central roles in protein, carbohydrate and fat metabolism.

The award will provide summer stipends for Bell and undergraduate students involved in the project, both from Richmond and Virginia State University. The grant also provides support for equipment, supplies and travel to professional meetings for the students.

The research project is "fully integrated into the education of undergraduates," Bell said. "Students work on individual research projects, take laboratory courses with the research embedded into the course or take a research-based course for non-science majors."

Students also are involved in designing experiments, conducting research and data analysis, and making presentations. Students beginning in their first year often follow the research for two or three years. They also participate in outreach to area elementary schools.

NSF has approved the project for an additional three years of funding, for a five-year total of \$675,428 depending upon progress on the project and the availability of funds.

Since the beginning of his project in 2001, Gupton has received more than \$2 million in grant support for his research on developing organic compounds that show significant promise in treating cancer. His latest grant is a continuation of his NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award and will fund his research until the end of 2007, including summer salary, supplies and travel for Gupton and several undergraduate students.

In addition, three chemistry faculty and one biology faculty have received grants from the Thomas F. Jeffress and Kate Miller Jeffress Memorial Trust to fund their summer research. Dr. Jonathan Dattelbaum will receive \$30,000 for research on the rational design of fluorescent protein biosensors; Dr. John Warrick will receive \$29,000 for "CREB-Binding Protein Modulation in a Drosophila Model of MJD and the Role of Chaperones;" Dr. Emma Goldman will receive a renewal of \$10,000 for her study on the synthesis and mechanisms of organometallic reactions; and Dr. Michael Leopold will receive a renewal of \$10,000 for "Biologically Enhanced Metallic Nanoparticles: The Next Dimension of Protein Monolayer Electrochemistry."

Economics professor looks at consumer confidence surveys

Although consumer confidence surveys of various stripes receive extensive media coverage and can move stock markets, a new study by a former Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia vice president reveals such surveys have no value at all in economic forecasting.

"Such surveys might tell you about the mood of people when they're surveyed, but they don't tell you how people actually spend," said Dr. Dean Croushore, professor of economics at Robins School of Business. "People may say they're dissatisfied with the economy, but then they go out and buy a car."

To examine whether a correlation exists between how people say they feel about the economy and how they actually behave, Croushore first uncovered a flaw in the way previous researchers had tackled the problem. He realized that economic forecasters who used consumer confidence surveys as a variable in their predictions were using data that had been revised several times.

The study builds upon expertise Croushore developed during 14 years as an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank

of Philadelphia. From 1990 until he began teaching at the Robins School, Croushore conducted the quarterly Survey of Professional Forecasters, which surveyed a group of 35 economists drawn from academia and the public and private sector for their predictions about the economy.

Those forecasters use variables like past consumption, past income, past changes in interest rates, past returns in the stock market and consumer confidence surveys to conduct their research. It stands to reason, they argue, that consumer confidence, surveyed at about the same time that other key variables are gathered, would significantly boost the accuracy of economic forecasting. Croushore's analysis, based upon "real time data" over 10 years that's superimposed on other key variables, shows nothing of the sort.

"My thought was to line up all the variables being used at a point in time that correspond with when the consumer confidence survey was taken," Croushore said. "My prediction was that people surveyed would know better than a government statistician, what they really were going to be spending. I was completely wrong."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events

Feb. 18

Brown Bag lunch series

12:30–1:25 p.m., Tyler Haynes Commons, Room 201

Brian Daugherity, adjunct instructor of history, will discuss “The Green Light: Fulfilling the Promise of Brown v. Board of Education.” Bring a lunch (dessert provided) to this program sponsored by the Center for Civic Engagement.

Feb. 16

Quest lecture: “How Do the Helping Professions Know which Questions to Ask?”

7 p.m., Jepson Hall, Room 118

Dr. Arthur C. Graesser, professor of psychology at the University of Memphis and an expert on question-asking processes, will speak. A panel of four practitioners representing reference librarianship, psychological counseling, career counseling and pastoral counseling will respond, applying Graesser’s observations to their respective professions. Supported by the Richmond Quest, the program is free and open to the public. A reception in the Jepson Faculty Lounge will follow. For more information, contact Kirsten Stank at kstank@richmond.edu or ext. 8454.

Feb. 17, 18 & 20

International Film Series

Mooladdé (French)

Set in a rural settlement in West Africa, the film tells the story of six young girls who escape the traditional purification ceremony of genital mutilation. They come under a spell that will bring harm to anyone who attempts to hurt them. The result is a face off between tradition and modernization.

Thursday and Sunday showings are at 7:30 p.m. in Jepson Hall, room 118. The Friday showing is at 3 p.m. in Adams Auditorium of Boatwright Memorial Library.

Feb. 21

Appalachian Women’s Alliance

7 p.m., Perkinson Recital Hall, North Court

Back by popular demand, members of the alliance will present a program of poetry, music and talk, exemplifying their work in combating racial injustice, sexism, homophobia and social inequality in Appalachian communities. The program is part of the WILL/WGSS 25th anniversary speaker series.

Feb. 22

Forum on Race Relations

6:30 p.m., Moot Court Room

This open forum is sponsored by the Black Law Student Association as part of “Celebrating Black History.”

Feb. 22

The Edward C. & Mary S. Peple Lecture

7:30 p.m., Robins Pavilion, Jepson Alumni Center

James Srodes, author of *Franklin: the Essential Founding Father*, will present the Edward C. & Mary S. Peple Lecture, sponsored annually by Friends of the Boatwright Memorial Library. A reception will follow in Ukrop Gallery.

Srodes will speak on “Franklin and His Internet, His Greatest Invention,” explaining that Franklin created a uniquely American culture that made independence from England inevitable. His “Internet” involved combining the printing press with the vastly improved postal delivery service through the colonies and the use of a uniquely American language.”

Srodes spent 40 years as a financial journalist and broadcaster, covering White House economics and writing for United Press International, *Forbes* magazine and *Financial World*. He also is author of eight books, including a biography of Allen Dulles. The lecture is free and open to the public. Contact Kirsten Stank at ext. 8454 or kstank@richmond.edu for further information.

Feb. 23

PETE luncheon

“Discussion Boards: Choices on Technology and Ideas for Use”

12:30 p.m., Tyler Haynes Commons, Room 331

Discussion boards are commonly used by faculty across the disciplines. Sue McGinnis and Betsy Miles, ATS liaisons, will describe a few different technologies that are available for running discussion boards and how each supports slightly different pedagogical goals. Reserve a lunch by contacting Pat Schoknecht (ext. 6689; pschokne@richmond.edu).

Feb. 23

Jepson Forum: “Critical Choices for the Next Administration: Activism and Participation”

7 p.m., Jepson Alumni Center

Donna Brazile, political strategist and Al Gore’s 2000 campaign manager, will speak. Brazile has worked in behind-the-scenes leadership posts with every Democratic presidential ticket since Carter-Mondale in 1976. She will address the state of the Democratic Party, the tenor of the 2004 election and how to boost citizens’ participation in the electoral process. The program also is part of “Celebrating Black History.”

Feb. 23

eighth blackbird with Blair Thomas & Co.
and Lucy Shelton

7:30 p.m., Camp Concert Hall, Modlin Center for the Arts

An ensemble of strings, winds, percussion and piano characterize eighth blackbird concerts. The University’s ensemble-in-resi-

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dence, eighth blackbird will be joined by Blair Thomas & Co. Puppet Theater, a chamber puppet company dedicated to puppet-based visual theater. The program also features soprano Lucy Shelton, a highly acclaimed interpreter of new music.

Feb. 24

Brown Bag lunch and program

12–1 p.m., Lora Robins Gallery of Design from Nature

Maren Reiner, director of biological laboratories, will discuss “Endangered Species: The Impact of *Silent Spring*” Bring your thoughts and your lunch to this informal program open to the public. Soft drinks and dessert will be provided.

Feb. 24–27

University Dancers 20th annual spring concert, “Reflection: Then and Now”

Alice Jepson Theatre, Modlin Center for the Arts

In honor of the 20th anniversary of University Dancers, Myra Daleng, artistic director, invited alumni to choreograph, perform and design lighting. The theme will explore the 20-year history, with many pieces from past years restaged. A gala Saturday night performance will include many alumni as performers and audience members. The repertoire blends ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop and modern. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 25 and 26 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 27. Contact the box office at ext. 8980 for ticket information.

Feb. 24, 25 & 27

International Film Series

***Nói* (Icelandic)**

This feature-length film follows 17-year-old Nói, who dreams of escaping his remote community in the west fjords of Iceland. After he is kicked out of school for cutting class and setting up clever pranks, he spends his days searching for a way out. When he meets a gas station attendant named Iris, he wants to include her in his escape plan. Everyone in the film is slightly off-kilter, which adds humor to the otherwise dismal situation in Nói’s life. Thursday and Sunday showings are at 7:30 p.m. in Jepson Hall, room 118. The Friday showing is at 3 p.m. in Adams Auditorium of Boatwright Memorial Library.

Feb. 25

**Installation of Dr. Marshall A. Geiger
as The Joseph A. Jennings Chair in Business**

4 p.m., Jepson Hall, Room 118

All are invited to this installation ceremony and reception that will follow in the Heilig-Meyers Lounge. Please r.s.v.p. by Feb. 18 at ext. 8900 or at <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/business/> and click on “News and Events.”

Feb. 25

BSA Harlem Renaissance Ball

10 p.m.–2 a.m., Tyler Haynes Commons, Pier

The ball was born out of a desire to celebrate the richness of the black experience and bring together students of all ethnicities and nationalities in a positive and uplifting atmosphere. The Harlem Renaissance era represents a time of incredible black expression in all modes of creativity, intellectual movement and social progress.

March 2

Lunchtime Forum

11:30 a.m.–1:20 p.m., Richmond Room

Co-sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences and the University Club, the forum will be held March 2. Dr. Leslie Keiler, assistant professor of education, will discuss “The Role of Race in Magnet High School Admissions.” All faculty and staff from any academic school or administrative unit, including retired faculty and staff, who wish to attend are invited to pick up a free lunch in the University Club between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., take it to the Richmond Room and enjoy lunch and conversation until 12:30 p.m. Keiler will speak for 20 minutes, no more, about her scholarly work. A half-hour of questions, comments and discussion will follow, with the proceedings being brought to a close at 1:20 p.m.

Sign up in advance for the free lunch at the University Club or through Rosa Garcia of Dining Services, (rgarcia2@richmond.edu or ext 8511) by noon Feb. 25. Anyone who wishes to bring his or her own lunch, or not to have lunch, will also be welcome.

The last speaker in the series, Dr. Terryl Givens (English), will share his ongoing research “Trailing Clouds of Glory: Conceptions of Premortal Life in Western Thought” on April 6.

March 2

Urban Practice and Policy Forum

“The University and the Global Community: When Do We Know When We’ve Asked the Right Questions?”

7:30 p.m., Jepson Hall, Room 118

Speakers for this second program of the series include Dr. Terence P. Dolan, associate professor, Department of English, University College in Dublin, Ireland; Dr. Uliana Gabara, dean of international education; and Kathryn Monday, vice president for information services.

Meetings and Deadlines

Feb. 17, March 17, April 21 (if needed)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

1 p.m., Dean’s Conference Room

Boatwright Administrative Wing, Room 4

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All faculty contemplating research on animals are reminded that the federal government requires that such research be cleared by the University IACUC. Applications for proposals are available at oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/grad_a&s/forms/indes.html.

Proposals should be submitted well in advance—at least two to three weeks—to be considered at a scheduled meeting of the IACUC. Federal regulations also require that the University provide training and education for all individuals working with laboratory animals. To comply with those regulations, the IACUC is requiring that all individuals—faculty, staff, lab assistants, and undergraduate and graduate students—working with laboratory animals view the film *Animal Care Matters* before beginning work. Copies of the film are available in the biology and psychology departments, the Media Resource Center and the Graduate School Office.

Feb. 21, March 21, April 25 (if needed)

Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Participants (IRB)

12:45 p.m., Dean's Conference Room

Boatwright Administrative Wing, Room 4

Please remember that research involving human subjects may not begin before approval is received. Though some applications can be processed quickly through expedited review, others must be considered by the entire committee at the next scheduled meeting. To avoid delay, please submit your application to the IRB well in advance—at least two to three weeks—of the planned starting date for your research. Applications are available online at oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/grad_a&s/forms/index.html.

Around Campus

The George M. Modlin Book Award

The Modlin Book Award was established by the faculty in 1971 to honor Dr. George M. Modlin upon his retirement as president of the University, promote a scholarly interest in books and the development of personal libraries and to encourage undergraduate students to accumulate collections pertaining to some particular area of interest. Collections are eligible for the award only during the student's *senior year*. Students should submit to the University librarian by Friday, April 1, 2005, a list of not more than 50 entries from the collection. This should include a full bibliographical citation for each entry and a one-to-two page rationale for the collection's theme. The award will be a check for \$500. In case of a tie, the award will be shared, and each winner will receive a check for \$250. The recipient's name will be inscribed on a plaque in Boatwright Memorial Library and will be acknowledged in the commencement program. A display from the winning collection may be shown in the library. An award may not be made in a given year if not merited.

James W. Jackson Award for Excellence in Library Research

The library committee is pleased to announce the annual James W. Jackson Award for Excellence in Library Research. The award recognizes and encourages excellence in the use of library research skills in the social sciences. Upper-division students are eligible, *based on a research project completed during the spring of 2005 or during the calendar year 2004*. Papers previously submitted are ineligible. The winning paper should demonstrate a depth and breadth use of research materials in the social sciences and clear evidence of thoughtful command of these resources. Excellent research projects, which *do not* make significant use of library research materials (e.g. experimental projects) unfortunately, cannot be considered.

Students must be nominated by a faculty member. Each faculty member may nominate one or two students by submitting the research paper(s) *by noon on Friday, April 1, 2005*. Please send papers to Jackson Award Subcommittee, University Librarian's Office, Boatwright Memorial Library. The award will be a check for \$450. In case of a tie, the award will be shared and each winner will receive a check for \$225. The recipient's name will be inscribed on a plaque in the library and will be acknowledged in the commencement program.

Build It fundraising week

Build It 2005 needs your muscle and your money. The student-driven initiative to blitz-build a Habitat for Humanity house and enhance three Henrico County public schools during the week of April 4-9 has set an on-campus fundraising goal of \$10,000 from students and \$5,000 from faculty and staff. Committee members will set up a table in Tyler Haynes Commons Feb. 21-25 to solicit donations to the community service project during a fundraising "blitz." A giant poster will track each day's contributions. For more information, contact Maggie Place at maggie.place@richmond.edu.

University Communications publishes *Richmond Matters* every two weeks during the academic year.

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Feb. 21 is the deadline for submitting news and announcements for the March 2 issue. Send information to rmatters@richmond.edu.



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