General Education Student Conference
September 28, 2007
Taylor Hall

2:10-3:20 p.m. SESSION I – Concurrent Panels

**Learning, Power, and the Educational System**
Professor Julia Sweeny, moderator

Catie Black, “A Thought Provoking Education: A Freirian Classroom”
Mary Bailey White, “Private Schooling and Freirian ‘Banking Education’: Attending a Fundamental Christian School”
Lauren Kilmon, “Just Another Face in the Crowd: A Call for Smaller Class Sizes”
L. Nell Smircina, “Forget Affirmative Action: Just Teach about Africa”

**The Novel: Its Origins and Possibilities**
Professor Karyn Sproles, moderator

Caitlyn Plotkin, “Literary Kinship: Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* and Coleridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”
Diana Hutson, “First-Person Narratives and the Effects of Social Intervention: *Blind Assassin*, Kelly’s *The True History of the Kelly Gang*, and Little’s *Vernon God Little*”

**Harry Potter in the Classroom**
Professor Elisabeth Gumnior, moderator

Jessica Cabibbo, “Academic Hocus Pocus: Teaching Children Values through Harry Potter”
Alexandra Jaggard, “Moral Reasoning in Children and Harry Potter”

**The Physics of Musical Instruments**
Professor Maria Ioana Niculescu, moderator

Ashley Durden, “The Science and Social History of the Harp”
Tom Fannon, “The Physics of Light and Sound: The Djembe Drum”

**Political Expression Through Traditional and Non-Traditional Forms of Art**
Professor Mary Kay Adams, moderator

Krista Muzikowski, “Weapon of Choice” (photography)
Lee Ann Ward, “Music—the Universal Language? A Look at Music and Its Function During the Nazi Regime” (music)
Robert Bassler, “Spray” (graphic art)
Patrick L. Turner, “Tracing the Path of a Political Nomad: A Literary Analysis of Thomas Paine’s Writings” (writing)
Break: 3:20-3:30 p.m.
3:30-4:40 p.m. SESSION II – Concurrent Panels

The Many Faces of Genocide: Darfur, Germany, and the American West
Professor Cynthia Martin, moderator

Rachel Wheat, “Darfur: A Devastating Genocide”
Donna Leigh Culver, “The Holocaust: An S.S. Officer’s Perspective”
Kristen Johnson, “Vanishing Americans”

This I Believe: Statements about Value, Spirituality, Morality, and Philosophy
Professor Sarah O’Connor, moderator

Seldon Walker, “Religious Faith”
Megan Geddes, “Mothers and Daughters”
Lauren Taylor Greaney, “Teamwork”
Lydia Kim, “A Daily Philosophy”
Judy Kwak, “The Kindness of Strangers”

Singing in the Mennonite Tradition
Professor Pedro Aponte, moderator

Sarah Dugan
Sami Keedy “The Singing of Harmonia Sacra among Mennonite Communities
Caitlyn Plotkin in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County”
Shelby Smith

Selling You “You”: The Impact of Advertisements on American Culture
Professor Kit Murphy, moderator

Samuel Olufemi Uanserume, “Critical Analysis of Junk Food Advertisements Aimed at Children”
Shannon Collins, “Advertising’s Effects on Body Image”

It’s Not Just a Movie: Cinematic Representations of Cultural Values
Professor Annick Conis, moderator

Kate Bienvenu, “The Sarcophagus from Cerveteri in Etruscan Art and Modern Culture”
Julia Solow, “Movie Analysis of Communication Processes in an Intercultural Setting”
Megan Black, “Legally Offensive”

Break: 4:40-4:50 p.m.
4:50-6:00 p.m. SESSION III – Concurrent Panels

**Are You Buying the Clothes or Are They Buying You? Abercrombie and Fitch and Commodity Self**
Professor Dolores Flamiano, moderator

Jennifer Kennard  
Summer Loub  
Ashley McWilliams

**Gay Marriage: A Debate**
Professor Gretchen Hazard, moderator

Kimberly Hancock  
Gina Cavallo  
Caitlin Tracy, “The Importance of Young Love”

**Education, Power, and Society: Trying to Learn in an Era of High-Stakes Assessment**
Professor Lynn Clark, moderator

Kevin Fedkenheur, “Surveys, Evaluations, and the JMU Mission Statement”  
Hilary Page, “Are We Setting the Standards Too High? High-Stakes Testing and Virginia’s Standards of Learning”  
Linda Laarz, “Squeeze into Action: The Effects of No Child Left Behind on Student Physical Fitness”

**Imperialism in an “American” Tradition**
Professor Skip Hyser, moderator

Alyssa Gaughen, “Jane Addams and the Annexation of the Philippines”  
Eric McAleer, “Henry Cabot Lodge and the Acquisition of Spanish Territories”  
Megan Morris, “John Milton Hay and the Annexation of the Philippines”

**Human Rights and the Role of the Individual**
Professor Louise Loe, moderator

Kevin Curry, “Violence Incites Separation”  
N. Lee May, “Guantánamo Bay: Self-Defense or Self-Destruction?”  
Suzanne Lynch, “Human Trafficking: Exploiting Women for Profit”