

**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*”

**Erin McGurk**, “Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* and the Origins of the Novel”

**Harry Potter in the Classroom**

Professor **Elisabeth Gunnior**, 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  
in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County”

**Caitlyn Plotkin**

**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”