



From the Office of Common Ground

March 2009

Welcome to the latest edition of the Office of Common Ground's eNewsletter. *UR Differences* publicizes diversity initiatives, events, and information to the campus community. [Contact us](#) to submit news or events for publication in future editions. Have a friend who doesn't receive *UR Differences*? Contact [Lisa Miles](#) to join our mailing list. Feel free to forward this e-mail to your friends and colleagues.

In this edition scroll down to find information on [Campus Events](#), [Campus News](#), and [Funding Opportunities](#).

Campus Events

One Book, One Campus

Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights

March 3, 12:30-1:30 pm, Wilton Center Library

March 16, 5-6 pm, Whitehurst Living Room

Pizza is served at the discussions and a limited number of books are available free of charge. Contact [Camisha Jones](#) for more information.

Lecture on Conformity and Civil Rights

Kenji Yoshino, author of *Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*

March 18, 7:00 pm, Alice Haynes Room

[The lecture](#) is free and open to the public. A limited number of books are available free of charge to discussion participants.

Discovering Many Faiths

DMF events include a panel of believers who present aspects of their religious tradition, followed by a break for food and conversation, and a series of small-group interactions between attendees and the panelists. Light food and beverages will be provided. For more information contact [Matthew White](#).

Jainism

March 5, 2009, 6:30 pm, North Court Reception Room

Catholicism

April 2, 6:30 pm, North Court Reception Room

Religion in Public Life Series

Free lunch discussions (pizza and drinks) that explore topics relating to religion in public life with a special emphasis on sexual diversity issues.

Religious Beliefs and LGBT Rights: Part 1 - Gender and Sexual Identity

March 5, 12-1 pm, Wilton Center Library

Religion and the Search for LGBT Rights: Part 2 – Marriage, Civil unions, and Family Policy Issues

April 2, 12-1 pm, Wilton Center Library

Jepson Leadership Forum

Tried by War: Lincoln as Commander in Chief

March 12, 7:30 pm, Jepson Alumni Center

Nationally-renowned historian [James McPherson](#) speaks. Seating is very limited. Tickets are free but required. Call the [box office](#) at 289-8980.

[Lincoln and the South Conference](#)

March 12-14

Top Civil War scholars will convene on campus to discuss the bitter relationship between Lincoln and the South.

Community Board for Gender and Sexual Diversity

Open Meeting

March 16, 10:00 – 11:00 am. Commons 327

International Film Series

Three Monkeys, (Turkey, 2008) March 20 and 22

Brick Lane, (Great Britain, 2007) March 27 and 29

All showings in Jepson 118, Fridays at 3 and 7:30 pm and Sunday at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public.

Burden of Misunderstanding, Future of Hope

The Sylvester Conference on Muslim-Christian Relations

March 20-21, 2009

Free two-day conference with nationally recognized speakers. To learn more or request a registration form, contact [Dina Zhurba](#) or [Matthew White](#) in the Chaplaincy.

In Common: Connecting You with Boatwright Library

In Common is a discussion series cosponsored by [Common Ground](#) that offers shared learning experiences for members of the university community.

“Looking to Latin America: How can the United States learn from previous economic crises in other countries?”

Dr. Jenny Pribble, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Richmond

Thursday, March 26, 12-1 pm and 2:45 – 3:45 pm, Think Tank in the Commons

Women and Tenure Luncheon Series Part 3: Networking, Time Management, and When to Say No

April 1, 12:30pm Richmond Room

Contact [Common Ground](#) for more information.

Campus News

University Offers Bus Passes to Students

To encourage the use of public transportation by the UR community, and to facilitate engagement with the city of Richmond, the University is providing free bus passes to all students. Passes are available now in the One Card office. The Route 16 bus line goes through Carytown, The Fan, within a short walk to UR Downtown and all the way to the State Capital. So if you want to try a new restaurant, get to a service site, see a movie at The Byrd, or explore the fun shops in Carytown, the bus may be your answer. Faculty and staff who use the bus to commute to campus may also pick up their free bus passes in the One Card Office.

ESL, TOEFL, GED, USA – “Do you want to buy a vowel?”

No, this is not alphabet soup. Thanks to cooperative partnerships among staff from Workplace Learning and Performance, the Center for Civic Engagement, and Boatwright Library, new resources are available

for staff who are interested in studying for the TOEFL exams, the GED high school diploma equivalency test or preparations for the US citizenship exam. There are self-paced study materials in both book and DVD format, available for checkout from the library or the Media Resource Center on the second floor of the library through your University One Card. (Please note: The DVD check-out must be done with a staff member's card, not a spouse or family member's card).

There are also a dozen pairs of ESL student tutors from the Center for Civic Engagement, working with university staff members to practice their English speaking skills. Contact [Adrienne Piazza](#) in the CCE for more details.

Office of Multicultural Affairs Takes Students to Asian American and Latino Student Conferences

Jean-Pierre Laurenceau-Medina took eight students to the [East Coast Asian American Student Union 2009 Conference](#) at Rutgers University in February and will also be taking four or five students to the [7th Annual New England Latino Student Leadership Conference](#) at Eastern Connecticut State University in early April.

Call for Participation in 1st Latin@/Hispanic History Month Committee

Interested students, staff, or faculty are asked to contact [Jean-Pierre Laurenceau-Medina](#) at ext.8032 for more information.

UR Police to Help International Students Navigate the DMV

Many international students do not feel comfortable carrying their passports as their primary form of identification. And foreign IDs are sometimes confusing to merchants. What's more, navigating the bureaucracy of the DMV in order to get an official local identification card can be daunting. In a creative response to these problems, Officer Paul Witten of the UR Police Department has begun an ongoing program to help international students secure Virginia ID cards or driver's licenses. Services include transportation to the DMV, consultation on what documents are needed, and provision of necessary forms. Students who participated earlier this semester were impressed with the speed of the process—less than an hour for most—and were able to leave with their VA IDs in hand.

Funding Opportunities

Student Scholarships for Work on Health Messaging to Marginalized Groups

The [American Legacy Foundation](#) seeks applications for the Dr. Alma S. Adams Scholarship for Outreach and Health Communications to reduce tobacco use among "priority populations." Priority populations are those disproportionately targeted by the tobacco industry or which lack the tools and resources to combat smoking in their communities, including Native Americans/Alaska Natives, Hispanics, African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, low socio-economic status groups, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. The scholarship awards a total of \$10,000 annually for up to two undergraduate or graduate students who have demonstrated a commitment to community service or have used the visual arts or media to convey culturally appropriate health messages on behalf of a disadvantaged population.

Deadline: April 15, 2009

For complete information, click [here](#).

“New Leaders” Summer Internships for Students from Under-represented Groups

The Center for Progressive Leadership's New Leaders Internship Program is a paid ten-week summer program in Washington, D.C. for young people from underrepresented communities across the country with a demonstrated passion for progressive change. Each New Leader is matched with a paid internship in a leading progressive organization in DC, including policy and research work, advocacy, organizing, media relations, and on-line communications.

Deadline: March 13, 2009.

To learn more and apply, visit www.cplnewleaders.org.