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The Newsletter of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities | Spring 2003

Understanding War and Its Aftermath

BY KEVIN McFADDEN

Virginians, with the country at large, have witnessed a paradoxical spring. The season so often associated with rebirth and life has been replaced by the anxiety, violence, and death that accompany war.

Many of us have experienced an absence in our lives: separation from loved ones overseas, distraction in our usual routines, even isolation from those around us as viewpoints clash. War affects us all through such a paradoxically palpable absence, and, in the words of poet W. S. Merwin, everything we do “is stitched with its color.”

At the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, we have felt the somber thread of war pass through our lives and our programs. As the ninth annual Virginia Festival of the Book commenced on the same day as the war in Iraq, many guessed that interest in the Festival would diminish—but attendees were grate-

ful for some relief from the grim realities in the media and eager for a chance to meet and participate in a public discussion about issues important to them.

Likewise, the thread was visible in the *Re-Imagining Ireland* international conference recently concluded in Charlottesville, as Virginians and members of the world community came together to discuss a culture that has made great strides toward—and is still very much in the process of—imagining a more peaceful society.

The Institute on Violence and Survival at the VFH, which has dedicated itself to understanding the difficulties of war and its long-term effects, has included in



Belgian refugees walk past a smoldering house and heap of timber during World War II. (Photo by Anthony Potter, courtesy Getty Images)

this issue a summary of findings through scholarship and research in the 10 years of its existence. It is our hope, as we continue to promote programs to bring this thread of inquiry and many others together into focus, that we catch a glimpse of the larger patterns which will help us find peace in our lives and our world.



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A Letter from the Chairman of the VFH Board of Directors

As the VFH Board convenes today [March 14], I am reminded that citizens in every age experience moments that appear bleak and hopeless. Today, we face among other crises the prospect of new war in the Middle East, a continuing AIDS epidemic worldwide, and declining financial markets, over three years of economic decline.

I was born on June 18, 1940, and can't imagine my parents' fears having brought a child into a world where Europe was in flames and the Pacific was boiling. When I graduated from the University of Virginia in 1963 and left for Naval Officer Candidate School, the Vietnam War was escalating daily. I had no idea whether I would survive and return to civilian life.

My conviction is that during times of crisis the humanities have always been the major force for restoring confidence and creating opportunities for progress. The impact that our staff has had on the citizens of Virginia illustrates how the humanities can influence society. For 10 years Roberta Culbertson has worked in the field of violence on ways to address and remediate its root causes. David Bearinger has spent 20 years empowering small groups of citizens who are interested in preserving unique cultural traditions in their part of the Commonwealth and our part of the world. Through the VFH Folklife Program, Jon Lohman has woven a tapestry of music and art, story and craft that illustrate the rich diversity of peoples and traditions that comprise Virginia history and culture. Andrew Wyndham has brought together a most diverse and wonderful group of Irish men and women with Virginians and others from throughout the United States to "Re-imagine Ireland" in light of social, economic, religious, and cultural conflict and change that confronts all nations. Each week on With Good Reason,

Sarah McConnell hosts a statewide radio discourse that brings a multitude of philosophies and perspectives from Virginia's college and university faculties to bear on both current and historic issues; and Susan Coleman directs book and literacy programs that involve innumerable families in the core of the humanities, in the joy of reading and discussion.

Our Board member Lydia Peale's father-in-law, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, had a simple but profound message about the power of positive thinking. The humanities provide the power to restore confidence in ourselves as a civilized people.

Through the humanities, we have the capacity to understand the world, to resolve conflict, and to create a promising future for ourselves and our children.

Richard T. Wilson, III

Chairman, VFH Board of Directors



VFH Rockefeller Fellows Study the Full Cost of War

BY ROBERTA A. CULBERTSON

During the *Re-Imagining Ireland* conference we felt the despair of a civilized nation not so different from our own that has been at war with itself for many years. But we witnessed something else as well, something hopeful.

At the conference, recent enemies came together to discuss how they are finding some road, rocky and narrow, back to trust, respect, civility, and peace, even among those adults who “fell out of the cradle and went to war” and have never known such blessings. Should their efforts succeed, the world will have much to learn from these warriors of peace in the coming years, not about how to fight but about how to stop, which is infinitely harder.

The difficulties of stopping war and easing its long-term effects have been a theme of another program of the VFH, the Institute on Violence and Survival, for some 10 years. Supported by three long-term Rockefeller grants and VFH funding, some 20 resident Fellows from war-torn nations have been digging for the truth of war in the annals of history, philosophy, literature, and religion, and in their own experience. They have faced the most painful facts about themselves in order to combine the wisdom of the past with the hard-earned lessons of their present. Here is, very briefly, what they have found thus far.

How to return to peace when war has been unleashed is often mistaken for a purely political or social question. It is discussed as a matter of strategy and planning: how to rebuild, establish new leadership, re-train soldiers for peacetime occupations. But the

question of how to bring peace out of war is fundamentally a question of values and meaning, not of infrastructure, which means that it is fundamentally a humanities question. War alters realities much deeper than cement or civic order; it alters the very stuff of any human life and thus of any society: bonds of trust, the lines between good and evil, the possibility of forgiveness or compassion, the nature of truth and belief. So much of what we believe in our souls and hearts after war is in fact destructive of any sort of peaceful life, whether we bask in the glory of victory or bend to the shame of defeat. In the hurry to rebuild, it is easy to forget this fact.

Rebuilding, when it can occur at all, may eventually hide the destruction of war. Entertainments and addictions, always higher in war-torn populations, may hide the pain. But underneath a new and tenuous peace nearly always fester the powerful demons of war: a self-destructive sense of righteousness, an instant fear of the other, and the determination to keep going so as not to feel the losses, even if it means feeling nothing and caring about nothing.

The question of how to bring peace out of war is fundamentally a question of values and meaning, not of infrastructure, which means that it is fundamentally a humanities question.

These submerged beliefs emerge in countless ways: minor disagreements erupt into fights in homes and stores; neighborhoods become divided; children are raised in atmospheres of revenge or silence. Civic life becomes a contest of wills as definitive as trench warfare. Yet these appear to us as peacetime problems, intractable and insurmountable, because we do not see their root. The experience is rather like treating a disease without knowing its cause. The cause in this case is the power of war to change the mind and meaning beyond all recognition, and thus to limit the imagination of peace.

War is not one thing but several, but at the root of them all is the direct and indirect destruction of human beings, which is itself deeply rooted in human behavior. True peace can come only when war is understood not as a side effect of disagreement, but as an unleashing of violence, which is a predictable and destructive set of human behaviors and beliefs in its own right. War is not merely the continuation of politics by other means; it is the succumbing to a very powerful and self-contained system of logic, responses and emotions that, despite an apparent focus on life and survival, actually has death at its core.

Violence replaces language with a sort of primitive proto-language, one that is carried out in and on the bodies of others rather than on paper or in words.



The Rockefeller Foundation sponsored the Postwar Communities, Identity, and Belief Symposium at the VFH. Pictured are VFH President Robert Vaughan and poet Carolyn Forché, whose work has paid tribute to all who have perished in wars and exile.



Instituto de Estudios Peruanos scholar Isabel Coral and former VFH Fellow Kimberley Theidon discuss how the *campesino* population reconstructed daily life in Peru after a decade of brutal internal war and more than 40,000 deaths and disappearances of loved ones.

Continued on page 10

Ireland and Virginia

BY PRESTON BRYANT

When we think of Ireland, we think mostly of conflict. After all, that's what seems to have consumed the Irish people ever since Henry VIII told the largely Catholic population that it's the Protestant church that should rule their lives.

But when Ireland's president, Mary McAleese, showed up in Charlottesville last week, it is not her republic's ongoing conflict with Northern Ireland that she wanted to discuss so much as how the once sleepy island has awakened, progressed, and is now a model for other European nations to follow.

McAleese was in town to kickoff a four-day conference on *Re-Imagining Ireland*, where about a hundred Irish scholars, artists, journalists, politicians, and business folk gathered with hundreds more interested Americans of the same ilk to discuss all that Ireland has been, what it now is, and what it can be. The conference was sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

On hand to greet McAleese for the conference's opening dinner—where some 700 people packed the Omni Hotel ballroom—were Gov. Mark Warner and a respectable bipartisan contingent from the General Assembly. Warner recounted how on the evening of Sept. 11, 2001, with the day's terrorists attacks on our nation so shockingly on our minds, McAleese phoned up the American ambassador and invited him over to her home for some quiet time.

The Republican and Democratic legislators were on hand to show support for Warner, a Democrat, who earlier in the day had discussed with McAleese how Virginia and Ireland might strengthen the already strong economic and cultural ties that bind our state with her nation. Partisanship, you know, stops at the water's edge.

In many respects, Virginia and Ireland have been—and still are—on something of a parallel path of progress. Our state has been transformed over the past half-century from a largely agrarian economy to one that's led by sophisticated manufacturing, cutting-edge R&D, and financial services. Ireland has grown over the past 30 years, according to McAleese, from one of



President of the Republic of Ireland, Mary McAleese addresses Virginia Governor Mark Warner, legislators, dignitaries and conference participants on a new vision for Ireland...via Charlottesville.

Europe's more troubled economies to one of its most stable. The president—Ireland's second female president (her predecessor also was a woman)—proudly proclaimed her nation as arguably Europe's most progressive and her people now among its richest. Ireland, she said, is the world's top exporter of computer software—no, not the U.S. and not India—and today is America's ninth largest trading partner.

All of this was music to Warner's ears. The governor, a venture capitalist-turned-politician, noted



Musical Narrative featuring musician Len Graham and storyteller John Campbell

Whether the future lies before us or behind us is our choice. We have too often ransacked the past for ammunition with which to boobytrap the future.

Mary McAleese, *President of Ireland*

A fellow elevator passenger said as we observed that the people on the elevator with us were noted historians, writers, singers, musicians, etc., "It's like looking at my music collection and bookshelf."

Kathleen Rave, *Milwaukee Irish Fest*

I simply walked around feeling as though heaven should be like *Re-Imagining Ireland*. I can't thank you enough. It was inspiring, galvanizing and magical.

Jacki Lyden, *Senior Correspondent, National Public Radio*



Celtic Music and Dance panel with (from left to right) Nicolas Carolan, Michael O Suilleabhain, Larry Kirwin, and Jean Butler



Poverty Amidst Prosperity panel with Christopher Whelan and Peter McVerry



Abel Ugba speaking on the Multi-Racialism panel



Universe of the Gaeltacht panel with (from left to right) Cathal O Searcaigh, Seosamh O Cuaig, Angela Bourke, Aodan Mac Poilin, and Padraic O Ciarda

that in his former life he backed an IT company that's now thriving in Ireland's western coastal city of Galway. As the governor is now planning a trade mission to Germany and Switzerland, perhaps a swing to Ireland might be in order, too.

The VFH's Irish conference is one of its more ambitious undertakings in many years. Recognizing Ireland's remarkable climb to enviable heights in today's high-tech, high-finance, high-brow world – whether via its software industry or by producing Pulitzer Prize-winning novelists like Frank McCourt (*Angela's Ashes*) – really shouldn't be all that surprising when you think of its people's 1,500 years of successes in industry and culture. They shone in their medieval use of gold and bronze and excelled in early ship-building. And it was Ireland's monastic scribes who preserved early western literature as the continent's barbarians sacked all that was good (and bad) about the Roman Empire and ushered in a couple hundred dark-aged years.

All of that was remembered over the conference's four days as so many of Ireland's leading pols, academics, and artists contemplated how to harness that history and genius and re-imagine it for today's economic, cultural, and political good – a good that certainly could be integral to helping forge the peace that has so long eluded McAleese's Protestant and Catholic islanders.

So interesting it is that in a state whose history is as English as boxwoods there should be such a distinguished gathering and conference that – who knows? – could in some small way lead to a modern, progressive Ireland made even greater by a long-lasting peace.

It also won't be surprising that should a re-imagined Ireland really spring from this conference, it will have been the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities that helped produce it. The VFH for many years has been sowing seeds of hope for a brighter Virginia by employing the humanities and public policy to build bridges between its past and future.



What's been good for Virginia just might also be good for Ireland. We'll see.

Reprinted with permission from *The Roanoke Times*, May 12, 2003 www.roanoke.com

Preston Bryant is a member of the VFH Board of Directors.

The statistic that for me that says it all...is that we have moved from mass unemployment to full employment and I think that is the single most social achievement in Irish history. And I think the peace process is part of that.

Liz O'Donnell, member of Parliament for Dublin South and Chief Whip of the Progressive Democrats

The evening appearances of Mick Moloney's Green Fields of America ensemble followed by De Danann led by Frankie Gavin and Alex Finn on Wednesday night, and Saturday night's farewell event featuring Cherish the Ladies and Solas sent a very strong message that Irish traditional music was in good hands. As documentary producer Alan Gilson said earlier in a panel, "Ireland is like a tune handed down to a new generation and if we have a heart, we can play."

Paul Keating, *Irish Voice*



VABook! 2003 Succeeds Despite War Tensions

New Record Attendance Set at 17,113

When the ninth annual Virginia Festival of the Book commenced on the same day as the American invasion of Iraq, it seemed likely that the ongoing streak of record attendances for the festival would finally be checked. Instead, VABook! continued as planned—“soldiered on” in the words of a Charlottesville newspaper—and managed to pass the 17,000 mark in attendance for the first time, attracting an audience from 38 states.

“We were concerned that the war would keep people from coming,” VABook! Program Director Nancy Damon said. “What we found is that many people came who wanted to be together to talk about what is going on in the world and in our country. And some wanted a break to talk about something else altogether.”

For those interested in exploring the topic of war, there was the program Dreams of War featuring *New York Times* reporter and author Chris Hedges

(*War Is a Force That Gives Meaning to Our Lives*), local author Kate Hudgins (*Psychodrama and Trauma Survivors*) and Roberta Culbertson, director of the VFH Institute for Violence and Survival, who co-authored *Siege* with Nathaniel Howell, the former U.S. ambassador to Kuwait.

Wars past were also remembered during the festival. Two programs on the Civil War were provided by the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, featuring authors Gary Gallagher (*Lee and His Army in Confederate History*), Bevin Alexander (*How Wars are Won*), and local writer Michael S. Zbailey.

Another program featured books that chronicled historical combat artists (*Art of War* by H. Avery Chenoweth, Sr.) and paintings by World War II P.O.W.s (*A Wartime Log* by Art Beltrone). The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression helped organize and present a program on the right to free speech during wartime,



StoryFest sponsored by Motherhead and Fatherhead of the VFH featured storyteller Barbara Lawson, who led songs and yodeling for youth on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall.

featuring authors Robert O'Neil, Henry Abraham, Barbara Perry, and Katherine McNamara. This program was carried live that day on C-SPAN 2's BookTV.

And for those seeking relief from some of war's grim realities, a wealth of talented authors came together to make this year's VABook! one of the most memorable. If you weren't on hand to see Virginia Poet Laureate George Garrett, international bestseller John Grisham, novelist Lee Smith, fiction writer George Singleton, poet Nikki Giovanni, local celebrity Earl Hamner or any of the more than 300 authors who made the event sparkle, you'll have to put March 24-28, 2004 on your calendar now...and plan to join us in celebrating the Festival's Tenth Anniversary.



(above) Poet Nikki Giovanni autographs books for fans at a poetry reading during VABook! 2003.



(right) Keith Caver, author of *Leading in Black and White*, with his audience who attended to discuss colorblindness in the workplace.

A Strong Right Arm

BY AMY MARSHALL

Mamie “Peanut” Johnson hunkered down in front of the seated children like a baseball player—because that’s what she is. “I’m the first and only woman pitcher in the Negro leagues,” she told her Brownsville Elementary School audience during the Virginia Festival of the Book. “When I was 17, I wanted to play in the all-white league, but now I’m glad I didn’t. I wouldn’t be who I am today, but just another lady ball-player. As it is, I’m something special.”

These eight- and nine-year olds all read the book by Michelle Green, *A Strong Right Arm*, that tells the story of the determined woman who loved to play ball, and did, despite the fact that racial segregation in the early 1950s caused the all-white women’s league to reject her.

(“Even though I was better than all of them,” Johnson said, grinning.) Instead, Johnson joined the majority-male Negro League, becoming one of only three women on the team. “How did it feel being on a boys’ team?” asks a curious student. “Real good,” laughed Johnson. “Made me feel

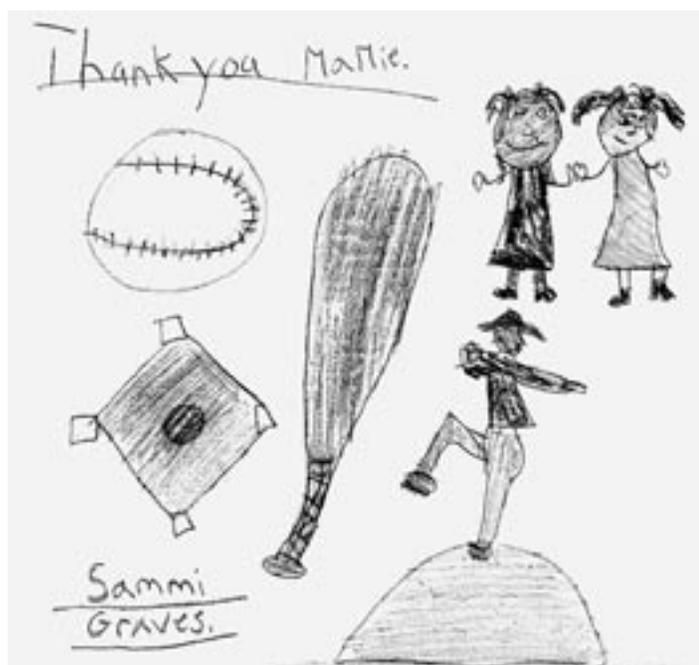
I was good, and they knew it.”

Ms. Johnson invited a volley of questions at the outset, because “you are all too young to know anything about black baseball. But don’t feel bad; adults don’t know anything either.” The students, insatiable for every detail of her life, fired away: “Did you ever break anything?” “Did you ever hit a home run?” “How fast could you throw?” “How long did you play when you were a woman?”—at which the adults in the crowd giggled.

The answers? She threw 85 miles per hour. She struck out some of the greatest players in history—Jackie Robinson or Willie Mays—and befriended them to boot. For the youth of Brownsville Elementary, the worlds of books and real-life came together remarkably in her visit. The VFH donated a copy of *A Strong Right Arm* to the school library and they got to meet a “real live hero”—and her message to them was as straightforward as any pitch she threw: “Do what you want to do...and perfect what you want to do.”



Featured in the book *A Strong Right Arm*, Mamie “Peanut” Johnson participated in a VABook! program on Negro Leagues baseball and was on hand to throw out the first pitch at a UVa Cavaliers’ baseball game.



Mamie Johnson’s visit to Brownsville Elementary inspired this art by Sammi Graves.

'All America Reads' Selects Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees*



“I have been afraid of putting air in a tire ever since I saw a tractor tire blow up and throw Newt Hardbine’s father over the top of the Standard Oil sign.” So begins Barbara Kingsolver’s *The Bean Trees*, the 2003 selection for All America Reads, produced by the VFH.

The Bean Trees was selected by a volunteer team of teachers who cited the novel’s compelling characters, its cross-cultural themes, and its interdisciplinary possibilities for teaching. One teacher noted the novel’s “humor will appeal to even the most reluctant readers.” Another wrote that *The Bean Trees* “would speak penetratingly to adolescents who are also searching to find their place in the world.”

Originally published in 1988, *The Bean Trees* appeals to educators, students, and book clubs. It has never been out of print, and in 1998 HarperCollins published a special Tenth Anniversary hardcover edition. Already a popular book club selection, the novel explores the notion of family and community and examines the sense of belonging, freedom, resiliency, and humor.

The hub of the All America Reads project is its website at www.allamericareads.org. Educators and reading groups can access free information on the book and author; extensive lesson plans and curriculum materials; reading guides and resources; interactive chat rooms and on-line novel discussions, and can participate fully with others across the country in this unique shared reading project.

Resources and materials focusing on *The Bean Trees* will be available in Fall 2003. In the meantime, the first All American Reads novel, *Wish You Well*

by David Baldacci, will continue to be featured on the website. The lesson plans and other materials for *Wish You Well* will remain accessible, along with the new material on *The Bean Trees*.

The Barbara Kingsolver Bookshelf

Barbara Kingsolver is a contemporary writer of fiction and nonfiction, essays, and poetry. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, she was reared in eastern Kentucky, St. Lucia in the Caribbean, and Central Africa. She graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University, and then studied biology and ecology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. As a child, she was the storyteller as her parents listened. It was not until after the birth of her first child, however, that her first work, *The Bean Trees*, was published. Barbara’s entire body of work reflects her fascination with language and landscape and her interests in social justice and the importance of community.



A selected bibliography of Ms. Kingsolver’s works:

- The Bean Trees* (HarperCollins 1988, with a special 10th Anniversary hardcover edition in 1998);
- Holding the Line: Women in the Great Arizona Mine Strike of 1983* (ILR/Cornell University Press, 1989, 1996);
- Homeland and Other Stories* (HarperCollins 1989);
- Animal Dreams* (HarperCollins 1990);
- Pigs in Heaven* (HarperPerennial 1993);
- Another America: Otra America* (Seal Press 1992, 1998);
- High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now and Never* (HarperPerennial 1995);
- The Poisonwood Bible*, (HarperPerennial 1998), National Book Prize of South Africa, finalist for the Pulitzer and PEN/Faulkner awards, and an Oprah’s Book Club selection;
- Prodigal Summer*, (HarperPerennial 2000);
- Small Wonder* (HarperPerennial 2002).

[Source: www.kingsolver.com]



All America Reads (AAR) is a nationwide, comprehensive reading project designed to encourage reading and discussion. AAR is used in schools; in civic, statewide, and

regional community reading programs; in libraries and bookstores; by literary and literacy organizations; and by individual readers.

The Virginia Foundation is grateful to AAR Founder Deborah Hocutt and to the team of teachers who assisted in the book selection process:

- Susan Erno**, Charlottesville Public Schools–Adult Education, VA
- Jean Hamm**, Chillhowie High School, VA
- Sandy Harris**, Lee-Davis High School, VA
- Linda Nicholson**, Highland Spring High School, VA
- Cynthia Richardson**, Heritage High School, VA
- Susan Sheets**, Morristown High School, IN
- Pat Seward**, Newport News Public Schools, VA

Letters About Literature Program Connects Youth to Reading

“**T**he *Fighting Ground*...showed me that people really do die in wars. Sometimes even people you know or children nine or ten years old got caught up in the violence and chaos of war,” wrote Matthew Rowe of Jefferson Davis Elementary School in Richmond.

Matthew was one of three statewide winners in Letters About Literature, a program of the Virginia Center for the Book. Students across the Commonwealth were invited to write letters to authors about books that had made a difference in their lives. This year students read aloud their winning compositions at the opening ceremony of the Virginia Festival of the Book in March, sharing the spotlight with Virginia Poet Laureate George Garrett. In addition, they received cash prizes and certificates from Center for the Book Program Chair JoAnn Hofheimer.

The middle school winning entry was Jennifer Ohashi of Daniel Morgan Middle School in Winchester. Jennifer, whose grandmother traveled from Pennsylvania to attend the ceremony, selected Lauren Lee’s *Stella On the Edge of Popularity* because she was inspired by Stella’s search to be proud of oneself knowing that “it’s more important to be friends with someone for their support than to be friends with someone for their status.”

Charlottesville High School student Brittany Dick chose *Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen and thanked Kaysen noting that “your words helped me to heal myself.” Brittany revealed that she has read the book at least six times exploring depression and one’s path through that dark world.

Letters About Literature is an annual event sponsored by the Virginia Center for the Book at the VFH and in cooperation with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.



Winners in the Virginia Center for the Book Letters About Literature statewide writing competition. Pictured are (left to right) Program Chair JoAnn Hofheimer, Brittany Dick from Charlottesville, Matthew Rowe from Richmond, and Jennifer Ohashi from Winchester.

The Virginia Center for the Book Joins the VFH

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities is pleased to announce that as of June 1, 2003, the Virginia Center for the Book will be relocated to the VFH. When considering this move, the board of the Virginia Center for the Book cited the Foundation’s 30-year history of promoting and supporting book-related programs and activities.

Created in 1987 in Roanoke, the Virginia Center for the Book moved to the Library of Virginia in 1994, where it remained until 2002. This past fall, the board of the Center for

the Book opened discussions with the VFH about moving the Center’s operations. Both organizations saw the advantage of uniting with the common mission of promoting reading, books, literacy, and the literary heritage of the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Center for the Book at the VFH will now include the Virginia Festival of the Book, a five-day celebration of books and literacy; Motherhead and Fatheread, a family-based literacy program; All America Reads, a national reading and book discussion program; Letters About Literature, an an-

nual national writing contest for children in grades 6 through 12; VABooks!, a book review column which appears monthly in papers around the state; Virginia Arts of the Book Center (VABC), a center and workshop on printing and design of hand set, single-sheet printing; and statewide literature discussion programs.

As we begin this partnership—and our new affiliation with the national Center for the Book at the Library of Congress—we reaffirm our longstanding commitment to supporting and promoting the literary culture of Virginia.

Correction

In the Winter Issue, we made an error in the expansion of LINK in our article on the Motherhead and Fatheread program in Hampton Roads. The agency’s name is Living Interfaith Network.



The Buckingham Lining Bar Gang's video is available through the VFH. Filled with commentary from Lining Bar Gang participants and footage of their many demonstrations, this film captures the colorful personalities and rich history that have attracted large audiences throughout the country to the group's many performances.

The Buckingham Lining Bar Gang Documentary Video Available at VFH

Functional and expressive, insightful and inspiring, African American worksongs are a vital part of Virginia's cultural heritage. The Virginia Folklife Program, together with the Rivanna Film Group, has produced a documentary video of the Buckingham Lining Bar Gang: a group of re-enactors steeped in the worksong and occupational tradition of Virginia's railroad workers.

The video documents the ways railroad tracks were aligned and maintained before the advent of mechanized devices in the 1950s and 1960s. Central to the execution of this hard work was a call-and-response style of singing. These songs or "calls" served to unite the workers' efforts and to help pass the time.

The 35-minute documentary provides a stirring look at the Buckingham Lining Bar Gang and follows their somewhat unforeseen emergence as celebrities of the rail-fair circuit, where they have delighted audiences from California to North Carolina. To order a copy of the video, contact the Virginia Folklife Program at 434-243-5523, or e-mail folklife@virginia.edu

The Full Cost of War

Continued from page 3

There is not much that can be said by the pidgin of violence except: I am stronger; fear me; be ashamed. There are precious few gradations in its lexicon. There are only two colors: black or white, for or against. When such limited words begin to substitute for the civic dialogue of a society we can say we are no longer in charge of our thoughts, but subject to our deepest, primal instincts to kill or be killed, protect, and defend.

Violence begins nearly always as self-defense. But it quickly sets up a feedback loop intimately connected to all our primal urges for self-preservation, including sex. Out of this loop come blood lust, revenge, torture, and the numbed-out killing games of war.

Still the Fellows at the VFH give us hope. They show that through the centuries human beings have been accumulating wisdom about the dangers of violence, just as they accumulated wisdom about steam power and relativity that eventually allowed breakthroughs like the steam engine and space travel. They suggest that we are beginning to reach a breakthrough point in our understanding of the high costs of war. We are coming to understand how war twists basic human behaviors to overwhelm even the best intentioned. We are even succeeding in the terrible task of making war less deadly, for the simple reason that people have become less willing to suffer the costs we are beginning to see that war exacts. Fellows at the Institute envision a world not in which there is no more war, but in which the full costs of war are understood and weighed in the balance with other possibilities. We must learn to do the proper accounting if we are to avoid squandering the wealth of peace, always so hard-won.

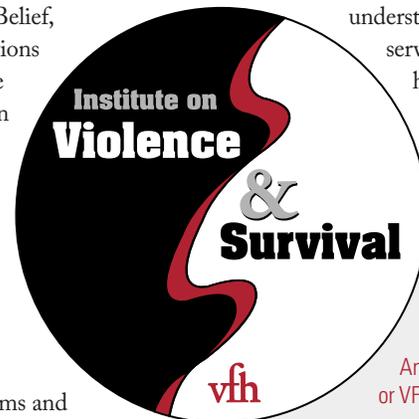
Institute on Violence and Survival

Since the early 1990s, the Institute on Violence and Survival has supported 20 Fellows in Residence, a major global seminar on Postwar Culture, Identity, and Belief, and a series of publications with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and private donors.

In the past two years, the Institute has moved from pure research into educational programming, including professional in-service training in hospitals, social programs and clinics, and publications geared to a high school reading level.

Such work is not always considered "the humanities." To be effective, we have joined with other organizations in the violence field. As just one example, in late 2002 the VFH funded a pilot program called Action Against Trauma (AAT). The grantee was Therapeutic Spiral International (TSI), a Virginia nonprofit organization that combines classic mental health models with the humanities to help community leaders address traumatic events. VFH staff also helped TSI to find humanities scholars, develop themes, and locate humanities texts for the program. AAT brought together twenty-one selected teachers, mental health professionals, social workers, and academics from every part of the Commonwealth.

They studied, practiced, and wrote together for eight days, learning how trauma affects social life and individuals, and how history, theory, and cultural analysis can help us understand this better. A list-serve and several programs have kept attendees in contact with one another and expanded this new model.



For more insight into the Institute's work, check out the following publications, available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or VFH:

Joyce Allan: *Because I Love You: The Silent Shadow of Child Sexual Abuse* (former Fellow): an account of social silence and five generations of incest.

Roberta Culbertson and Ambassador Nathaniel Howell: *Siege: Crisis Leadership and the Survival of U.S. Embassy Kuwait, 1990*: an account of war and peacemaking.

Sacred Bearings: A Journal About Surviving: for survivors of trauma; HS reading level

Tough Times Companion (forthcoming) to be distributed free of charge to shelters, sexual assault centers, hospital lounges, and other venues across the Commonwealth: Enlarged version of *Sacred Bearings*.

Should you wish to find more about the program, please visit our website violenceandsurvival.com.

Leaving A Legacy

BY SHERYL HAYES
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Legacy: a tangible or intangible thing handed down by a predecessor

The desire to leave a legacy for others is a distinctively human trait. As parents, we pass down family heirlooms to our children and grandchildren as a legacy of the past. We also seek to pass on to our children those values and associations that we hold most dear. The VFH is fortunate to have been the beneficiary of such a legacy through the Laws and Reveley families.

When **Constance (Connie) Laws** of Norfolk and **Dr. Walter Taylor Reveley II** of Lexington joined the board of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities—Connie in 1982, Taylor in 1974—they began a tradition of service to this organization that their children, **Page Laws** and **Taylor Reveley III**, would later follow.

As the only mother and daughter to have served on the VFH board thus far, Connie and Page share a passion for education and for the public humanities, which has helped to shape the Foundation and its programs for more than two decades. Throughout her public service career, Connie has worked professionally and as a volunteer on issues ranging from public health to senior citizens concerns, from affordable housing to accessibility for the handicapped. She currently serves on the Board of the Alison J. and Ella W. Parsons Foundation of Norfolk.

Connie's legacy of service has been carried forward by her daughter Page, a professor of history and director of the Honors Program at Norfolk State University. Throughout her career as a college professor and public lecturer, Page has shared her passion for learning with thousands of students and with community audiences in Norfolk and statewide. Page served as a VFH Board member from 1997–2002. Both Connie and Page were members of the Board's Executive Committee during their terms of service.



Thanks to a BIG check from Wal-Mart, Charlottesville, literacy programs at the VFH are stronger than ever. When Althea Brooks, VFH Associate Director of Development, got a call to pick up a check from Wal-Mart, she had no idea that she might need help in getting it into her car. The large check shown in the photo was presented by store manager Jade White (left).

Wal-Mart's Literacy Foundation, of which VFH Board Member David Baldacci is the national chair, supports literacy efforts nationwide. Each local store receives funds to donate to a local literacy organization. Susan Coleman (right), VFH Director of Reading and Literacy Programs, said "The VFH is proud to be the 2003 recipient of the funds and is grateful to Wal-Mart for their commitment to reading."



Connie Laws



Page Laws

Walter Taylor Reveley II

W. Taylor Reveley III



As an ordained Presbyterian minister, a former Army chaplain, a professor of religion, a football and baseball coach, and President of Hampden Sydney College, Walter Taylor Reveley II brought many talents and a wealth of experience to his service on the VFH board. His son, W. Taylor Reveley, III, (VFH Board 2001–present) also brings a broad range of talents and skills to our work, having practiced law at Hunton & Williams in Richmond and served as managing partner of the firm for nine years. Taylor is currently Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. He is also a current trustee of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the Virginia Historical Society.

Two generations and two families with shared commitments to the humanities and to education in Virginia have established a legacy that has helped set the course for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, benefiting all Virginians who have attended VFH programs, received VFH grants, or participated in Foundation-sponsored projects.

How Can I Create a Legacy for the Humanities in Virginia?

The VFH—with your help—is passing on a tradition of scholarship and heightened public debate on issues of vital interest to our citizens. You, too, can create a legacy in any of the following ways. Some will help the VFH immediately; others are deferred and are useful for financial and estate planning. Such gifts may be made with cash, certificates of deposit, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, or real estate and can provide significant tax benefits as well as a lifetime income for you and your family. All will ensure that the VFH can continue to set a standard of excellence in public humanities programs.

Create or enhance an endowment that will generate resources for VFH programs in perpetuity.

A Bequest: a will bequest made to the VFH is deductible for federal estate tax purposes and may result in additional savings on state inheritance and estate taxes.

A Gift Annuity: a gift of cash or securities to the VFH may be made in exchange for a guaranteed income for the life of one or two beneficiaries, along with significant tax benefits. Or the income can be deferred to provide supplemental retirement income in the future while receiving an immediate income-tax charitable deduction.

Life Insurance: A gift of life insurance through a new or existing policy offers a cost-effective way to make a significant gift to the VFH.

These are only a few ways you can join us in ensuring a legacy of public humanities programs in Virginia. Please contact your financial advisor or call the VFH Development office at **434-924-6562** to discuss these or other methods of leaving a legacy.



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for the Humanities

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Re-Imagining Ireland

Highlights Inside



Appalachian-style
dancer Amy Fenton-Shine
accompanies the Green
Fields of America in the
opening concert.



World-renowned Irish musicians Tommy Sands
and Mick Moloney play together for the
Re-Imagining Ireland audience.



Novelist Roddy Doyle and professor Ronit Lentin discuss
the challenges of a multi-racial Ireland.