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Conference-Veterans in Society: Changing the Discourse

Conference Overview

“Veterans in Society: Changing the Discourse”

Sunday/Monday, April 14-15, 2013
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center



Virginia Tech's Veteran and Military Student Support Initiative is pleased to host “Veterans in Society: Changing the Discourse.” The goal of the conference is to call attention to the emerging research and growing need for interdisciplinary efforts relating to all aspects of veterans' experience, from access to higher education, healthcare, and employment; the efficacy of psychological and medical services; veterans' identity, diversity and inclusion; higher education; to veterans' engagement with civil society.

In the 11 years since 9/11, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of veterans, particularly those with combat experience. With Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war in Afghanistan drawing to a close, our troops returning home and finding their places in society. As a result, the topic of veterans' reintegration into society has become both a key priority and a challenge for federal and state governments and educational institutions of all types.

Scholars and researchers conducting research related to veterans' reintegration into society are the intended audience for VSC2013. This audience includes university professors, doctoral students, and researchers affiliated with institutions of higher learning. Research tracks are:

- Depicting veterans through films, memorials, and public discourse
- Listening to and studying language about women veterans
- Healing the wounds of war: motive, motivations, and interventions to assist veterans
- Teaching and learning: pedagogical strategies and programs for veterans
- Integrating veterans: an investigation of veteran-specific needs and policies
- Connecting spheres: veteran engagement with their communities

To date, no other university has convened an academic conference solely focused on veteran related research. The VSC2013 planning committee envisions this conference as an annual event and the first step towards making Virginia Tech the leader in the emerging field of Veterans Studies.

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Sunday, April 14

5:00-7:00 PM	Registration	Grand Hall
6:00-7:00 PM	Reception	Latham Ballroom A
7:00-8:00 PM	Welcome and Keynote Address Keynote Speaker-Dr. Michael Haynie Executive Director and Founder of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University	Latham Ballroom A

Monday, April 15

8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast	Upper Quad
9:00 AM	Welcome Eric Hodges student veteran and instructor, Philosophy Department	Latham Ballroom A
9:15-10:00 AM	Stolen Valor: Supporting and Defending Another's Right to Lie Neysa Slater-Chandler - Virginia Tech	Latham Ballroom A
10:15-11:00 AM	Session 1A-- Veterans and Broadband Access in Virginia:	

Session 1A	<p>Implications for Healthcare Planning and Policy</p> <p>Suzanne Lo and Mary Beth Dunkenberger Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance</p>	Duckpond Room
Session 1B	<p>Session 1B-A Sample of Best Practices to Support Veterans in Attending and Completing Engineering Degree Programs</p> <p>Mary Kasarda – Virginia Tech</p>	Smithfield Room
11:15AM-12:00 PM		
Session 2A	<p>Session 2A-Understanding Veterans Health as a Public Health Issues</p> <p>Pauline Lubens -- University of California-Irvine</p>	Duckpond Room
Session 2B	<p>Session 2B-Defense to Degree: Accelerating Engineering Degree Completion for Military Veterans</p> <p>Don Gruenbacher– Kansas State University</p>	Smithfield Room
12:00-1:15 PM	<p>Lunch/Plenary Speaker Luncheon Speaker-Virginia Senator John Edwards District 11</p>	Latham Ballroom A
1:15-1:45 PM	<p>Salute to Women Veterans Award Recognition</p>	Latham Ballroom A
2:00-2:45 PM		
Session 3A	<p>Session 3A-Moving Words/Words that Move: An Analysis of Discursive Practices Plaguing U.S. Service women</p> <p>Mariana Grohowski - - Bowling Green State University</p>	Duckpond Room
Session 3B	<p>Session 3B-Writing War: Veterans in the College Classroom</p> <p>Alexis Hart, Roger Thompson, Travis Martin</p>	Smithfield Room
3:00-3:45 PM		
Session 4A	<p>Session 4A-California's Women Veterans: Their Needs and Service Utilization Patterns</p> <p>Rebecca Blanton - - California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls</p>	Duckpond Room
Session 4B	<p>Session 4B- Examining the Motives for Veterans Writing Workshops: Clinical, Political, Instructional, or All of the Above?</p>	Smithfield Room

	Skip Morris - - Pittsburgh State University	
3:45 PM	Closing	Latham Ballroom A

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Our presenters hail from several different institutions and will speak on a variety of topics. We received presentations that can be categorized under the following sub-themes:

- Depicting veterans through films, memorials, and public discourse
- Listening to and studying language about women veterans
- Healing the wounds of war: motive, motivations, and interventions to assist veterans
- Teaching and learning: pedagogical strategies and programs for veterans
- Integrating veterans: an investigation of veteran-specific needs and policies
- Connecting spheres: veteran engagement with their communities

Themes and Presentations

Depicting Veterans Through Films, Memorials, and Public Discourse

Examining the Motives for Veterans Writing Workshops: Clinical, Political, Instructional, or All of the Above?

Skip Morris Pittsburgh State University

My presentation will examine these motives in an attempt to understand the problems English faculty at any college might face when they try to extend the borders of their discipline beyond the instructional into the clinical or political. Specifically, what led to low turnout for a veterans' writing workshop and changes that can lead to success.

Listening To and Studying Language About Women Veterans

California Women Veterans

Rebecca Blanton California Research Bureau

This paper is a summary of the findings about who women veterans in California are and what they say they need at the time of transition and now. Data was collected by asking open-ended questions about their needs to eliminate currently held assumptions on meeting the needs of women veterans and predictions of future needs.

Moving Words/Words that Move: An Analysis of Discursive Practices

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Plaguing U.S. Service women

Mariana Grohowski Bowling Green State University

Through a rhetorical analysis of three terms commonly used in military culture to describe service women, this paper aims to inform instructors of the influence repeated exposure to visual/verbal practices (Fleckenstein; Sheridan-Rabideau) can have on female student veterans.

Healing the Wounds of War: Motive, Motivations, and Interventions to Assist Veterans

Understanding Veterans Health as a Public Health Issue

Pauline Lubens University of California-Irvine

This presentation will discuss health issues facing veterans and their families as a public health issue. The framework for the material will be the three major differences between OEF/OIF and past, extended U.S. armed conflicts:

- The multiple deployments
- The all-volunteer military
- The increased deployment of women in combat roles

Teaching and Learning: Pedagogical Strategies and Programs for Veterans

Writing War: Veterans in the College Classroom

Alexis Hart and Roger Thompson Virginia Military Institute

Travis Martin Eastern Kentucky University

As writing classrooms may be the primary locations where students' military experiences are shared, writing instructors bear special ethical responsibility when teaching veterans.

A discussion of research conducted with the support of a Conference on College Composition and Communications (CCCC) Research Initiative Grant, investigating the demographics of Post-9/11 military veterans who are entering college writing courses.

A Sample of Best Practices to Support Veterans in Attending and Completing Engineering Degree Programs

Mary Kasarda Virginia Tech

This paper describes some sample best practices identified by three institutions to support the recruitment, transition, and retention of veterans to engineering degree programs. Best practices presented here include a website to co-locate veterans' campus resources virtually, a slide show "video" to highlight the mechanics of graduate school and finding the right program, models to help institutions give military veterans academic credit for military training, results of a regional institutional networking workshop on veterans issues, and strategies to better attract and recruit veterans to engineering degree programs.

Defense to Degree: Accelerating Engineering Degree Completion for Military Veterans

Don Gruenbacher Kansas State University

co-authors: David Soldan, Noel Schulz, William E. Hageman, Blythe Vogt, and Rekha Natarajan

This paper will focus on the accelerated track for military veterans into bachelor's degrees in engineering by using on-line tools to assess the veterans' current understanding. The importance of utilizing the skills veterans' have obtained while in the military to place them in the correct engineering sequence will be discussed.

Integrating Veterans: An Investigation of Veteran-specific Needs and Policies

Veterans and Broadband Access in Virginia: Implications for Healthcare Planning and Policy

Suzanne Lo and Mary Beth Dunkenberger Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance

The paper summarizes results and ongoing research into the implication of broadband access and utilization as a means to improve veterans' health care services and coordination.

The paper also aims to better understand program and policy context that enables or limits utilization of broadband to meet veteran health needs. The project provides critical linkages to how Broadband may be utilized as a foundation in veterans' health care. Moreover, the research identifies needs required to promote program and policy action necessary to leverage and maximize broadband resources to support Virginia veterans' wellbeing.

Stolen Valor: Supporting and Defending Another's Right to Lie

Neysa Slater-Chandler Virginia Tech

The United States Supreme Court's recent decision (plurality) in *U.S. vs. Alvarez* (2012 U.S.

Lexis 4879) has met with derision in some circles and support in others. The Court stated, "content-based restrictions on speech have been permitted only for a few historic categories of speech" and emphasized, "absent from these few categories is any general exception for false statements."

Before the ink was dry (or the bits settled), and even in anticipation of the decision, veterans groups, elected representatives, and other public and private figures were already considering redrafting the statute. This paper will review the Supreme Court's decision, the public discourse underway before, during, and after the decision, and proposals that will affect both veterans and non-veterans with an eye towards providing keys to encourage discourse on this emotional subject while "making democracy work in a constitutional republic."

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Keynote Speaker

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Dr. Mike Haynie

Executive Director and Founder

Institute for Veterans and Military Families
 Syracuse University



The Barnes Professor of Entrepreneurship at SU's Whitman School, Haynie completed his doctoral degree in the field of entrepreneurship and business strategy at the Leeds College of Business, University of Colorado at Boulder. His academic research is focused on decision-making, identity and entrepreneurial thinking, and has been published in many of the leading entrepreneurship and business journals. He serves on the editorial review boards of the *Journal of Business Venturing* and the *Journal of Management Studies*. Before beginning his academic career, Haynie served for 14 years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Trained in logistics and acquisition, he was stationed throughout the U.S. and around the world in both operational and staff assignments. Prior to joining the faculty at Syracuse University, Haynie was assigned as a professor of management at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Shortly after he arrived at SU, Haynie founded the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) program, an initiative designed to offer world-class training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post-9/11 veterans disabled as a result of their military service. More than 500 veterans have received EBV training since 2007, and the program is now being offered by a network of world-class schools across the country. In 2009, the EBV was recognized as a 'National Best Practice' by the Secretary of the Army for serving soldiers and their families, and in 2011 the editors of *Inc.* magazine selected the program as one of the '10-Best' college-based entrepreneurship training programs in the U.S.

Haynie is a sought after advisor and speaker on issues related to business, veterans and entrepreneurship. His work empowering veterans through business ownership has been

featured nationally on the ABC Evening News with Diane Sawyer, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC and Fox News, and also in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Inc.*, the *Wall Street*

Journal, *Forbes*, *Fortune* and *Entrepreneur*. He currently serves on the external advisory committee of the Center for Integrated Healthcare at the Syracuse Regional Veterans

Medical Center, on U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand's veterans' advisory working-group, and is an appointed member of the U.S. Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans'

Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach. Haynie is a steering committee member of the Military Child Education Coalition's "New York Living in the New Normal Public

Engagement Initiative" and in 2011 was appointed by New York State Gov. Andrew

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Cuomo to the NYS Council on Returning Veterans and Their Families.

Haynie has received numerous awards for his community engagement, scholarship and teaching, including the U.S. Air Force Academy's prestigious Snyder Memorial Award

(2004), the Gutttag Research Fellowship (2007-09), the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Award for Research Excellence (2007), the Michael Mescon Award

for the Best Empirical Research in Entrepreneurship (2007) and the McGraw-Hill/Irwin Award for Innovation in Entrepreneurship Pedagogy (2009). Syracuse University honored

Haynie with the Oberwager Prize in 2007 for his efforts to make a difference in the lives of young people outside of the classroom, and with the Chancellor's Citation for Excellence

Award for Engaging the World in 2010.

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Luncheon Speaker

John Edwards Virginia Senate District 21



John S. Edwards, born October 6, 1943 in Roanoke, Virginia, attended public schools in Roanoke, graduating from Patrick Henry High School. He was the first president of the student government, state pole vault champion and voted "most likely to succeed." In 1966 Edwards graduated from Princeton University with honors majoring in history. He attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City on a Rockefeller Brothers Theological Fellowship. In 1970, he graduated from the University of Virginia Law School where he was a member of the Virginia Law Review.

Edwards served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Captain/JAG Officer in the early 1970's. Before returning to Roanoke in 1976, he practiced law with Sidley and Austin in Washington, DC, where he also worked as a volunteer for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law.

In 1980, President Carter appointed Edwards as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. During his term, Edwards' office achieved several milestones. The Roanoke Times & World News reported that he had one of the "perhaps most successful tenures of any federal prosecutor in recent years." Among other community and professional activities, Edwards has served as Chairman of the Virginia Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and Chairman of Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc., which operates the Brandon Oaks retirement community in Roanoke.

In November 1993, Edwards was appointed to fill a vacancy on Roanoke City Council and was elected to a four-year term, and as Vice-Mayor in 1994.

In 1995, Edwards unseated a Republican incumbent to win a seat in the Senate of Virginia, representing the 21st District. Edwards was re-elected in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011. He serves on the Commerce and Labor, Courts of Justice and Privileges and Elections Committees in the Senate.

He also serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the Virginia War Memorial Foundation and the Virginia Code Commission, which he chairs. Legislation which Edwards has successfully sponsored include: establishing the Roanoke Higher Education Center (which he chairs), requiring Character Education to be taught in the public schools, establishing the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and adopting Rules of Evidence in Virginia courts.

Senator Edwards has been honored for his legislative leadership by, among others, the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for the Aging, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Virginia PTA/PTSA, Virginia Association of Family and Consumer Services, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Equality Virginia, Child Health Investment Partnership, Military Officers Association of America (Virginia chapter), the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia, the Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition, Planned Parenthood, and Virginia Law Weekly as a 2012 "Leader in the Law."

Edwards practices law in Roanoke and is an adjunct professor of law at the University of Virginia Law School teaching trial advocacy.

Edwards is married to Cathye Dabney Edwards and the couple has three children and four grandchildren. They are members of Christ Lutheran Church in Roanoke.

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<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/reg/vis/>

Hotel

The Inn at Virginia Tech (host hotel)

<http://www.innatvirginiatech.com/>

Please call to make the reservation. Make sure you mention you are here with the “Veterans in Society” Conference.

Driving

GPS address:
 901 Prices Fork Road Blacksburg, VA 24061

From:
 Washington DC: approx. 4.5 hours
 Charlotte, NC: approx. 3 hours
 Richmond, VA: approx. 3.75 hours

Flying

The Roanoke, VA airport is the closest airport and is serviced by US Air, United, and Delta. From Roanoke it takes approximately 1hour to reach the Virginia Tech campus by Car. Residents of Blacksburg and Roanoke often fly out of Charlotte for cost effectiveness and ease.

Other options for transportation to and from the airport include:

SmartWay Commuter Bus

The [Smart Way Commuter Bus](#) is a commuter bus service that links the city of Roanoke with the town of Blacksburg, Va., with numerous stops in between. The cost is \$4 one-way (in exact change). Please check the bus schedule before traveling (there is no bus service on Sundays).

Taxi

You may also take a taxi to campus, although this can be quite expensive and is not always available at the airport so please book ahead.

Blacksburg Taxi: 540-552-6671
 Christiansburg Taxi: 540-382-8037

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Blacksburg Hooptie Ride: 540-449-3748

Rental Car:

The Roanoke Airport is serviced by the following Rental Car providers:

Avis

<http://www.avis.com>

540.366.2436

Budget

<http://www.budget.com>

540.265.7328

Enterprise

<http://www.enterprise.com>

540.563.8055

Hertz

<http://www.hertz.com>

540.366.3421

Alamo/National

<http://www.alamo.com>

<http://www.nationalcar.com>

540.563.5065 or 540.563.5050