

OCT. ONLINE EVENT CONNECTED STUDENTS WITH HR RECRUITERS

Internships, entry-level positions, and “how-do-I-apply” were among the primary topics which college students raised with HR recruiters from major corporations in the VFIC’s online CAREER15 Corporate Connections Week (CCW) October 6 – 10.



Sandy Gorman and Allison Bradley

“The VFIC live blog is such an amazing idea. It allows Wolesey as a company to reach more students at one time than just a career fair. It was innovative and easy and we can’t wait to participate again!”

Sandy Gorman, Recruiting Coordinator,
Eastern US, Wolesey North America

Fourteen top companies -- from Norfolk Southern and GEICO to Bank of America and SunTrust - participated in CCW - each with its own separate two-hour online discussion session to interact students from all 15 VFIC colleges and universities.

“The CAREER15 Corporate Connections Week was a remarkable success,” said VFIC Career / Workforce Committee Chair Michael Fraizer, Chairman and CEO of Genworth Financial, which also

participated in the program. “It was an innovative, time-efficient and cost-efficient way to connect VFIC college students directly with HR recruiters from major corporations who don’t have the time, personnel or manpower to visit all 15 of Virginia’s leading private liberal arts colleges individually. It’s a great service the VFIC is providing to the colleges and to the corporations.”

“The feedback from both students and employers was very encouraging,” noted Doug Banks, whose CAREER15 office at the VFIC planned and implemented the initiative. While noting that both groups gave the program high marks for opening the door for students to meet employers, Banks said that “we also heard good things about the format which eliminated geography and expenses as factors. No one had to spend time on the road or pay for gas -- employers and students could participate from anywhere – desk, office, campus or beach, for that matter, from anywhere, as long as they had internet access through their computer.”

The following companies participated in CAREER15 Corporate Connections Week:

Advance Auto Parts, Bank of America, BB&T, Dollar Tree, GEICO, Genworth, Goodman & Company, Harris IT Services, Norfolk Southern, Owens & Minor, SunTrust, Witt Mares, Wolesey North America, and Philip Morris USA, an Altria Company which also helped sponsor the career connections event.



Kearston Comegys

“I thought the Corporate Connections week was a great opportunity to talk to various companies in an easy, accessible, and comfortable way. I not only got my questions answered within minutes, but I got to read other people’s questions which also helped me formulate more questions. Overall, I found it to be a very worthwhile experience using the Corporate Connections on Career 15.”

Kearston Comegys
Virginia Wesleyan College



If you would like to register as a student or corporation, go to www.vfic.org/career15.html



ETHICS BOWL TO CELEBRATE ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN FEBRUARY



with Mary Baldwin College back as defending champion.

For more information on this program, please contact Jenni Booker, Director of Programs and Communications at (804) 288-6609 or jenni.booker@vfic.org.



Margaret Warner, Senior Correspondent with The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, serves on the 2009 Ethics Bowl Planning Committee

The reigning championship team from Mary Baldwin College will defend its title at the upcoming Ethics Bowl, February 8-9.

This will be a very special year for the Ethics Bowl as the popular high-energy event celebrates its tenth annual competition. The topic – *Ethics & Journalism* – will be the theme for the **2009 Wachovia Ethics Bowl**, set for February 8-9, 2009 at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. The Ethics Bowl features student teams from the VFIC's 15 private colleges and universities in round-robin debates on case studies involving ethi-

cal dilemmas. These case studies address real-life issues, with judges drawn from the leadership of Virginia's corporate, academic and professional communities.

Co-Chairs for the event are Roger Mudd, retired journalist for CBS and The History Channel, and Ken Garren, President of Lynchburg College. Wachovia Bank will return as signature sponsor for the popular statewide collegiate debate this year



Former VFIC Board Chair Elected to U. S. Senate

November 4, former VFIC Board Chair Mark Warner (D – Va) was elected to the United State Senate. Senator-elect Warner, who was VFIC Board Chair in 1999-2000, was elected to succeed Senator John Warner (R-Va), who is retiring. Senator-elect Warner served on the VFIC Board from 1996 to 2002, when he was elevated to two offices: Honorary-Life Trustee of the VFIC and Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, an office he held through 2006.

THIRD ANNUAL “MAKING CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP” HOSTS NATIONAL SPEAKER

For the third year in a row, and as a part of a strategic initiative to assist member colleges in enhancing the success of minority and first generation students, the VFIC hosted its “Making Connections” Workshop for VFIC student affairs professionals and their lead student peer mentors from all 15 Member Colleges.

A highlight of the workshop was keynote speaker, **Dr. Scott Swail**, President and CEO of **The Educational Policy Institute**, a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to policy-based research on educational opportunities for all students.



Workshop speaker Scott Swail and Hampden-Sydney College student and peer mentor, Charles Wesley

In this session on improving student success in private colleges and universities, Dr. Swail hosted a dialogue with participants about what works, what doesn't, and what to do to increase the retention and graduation rates of students at private institutions. “Most institutions do most of the right things for student success,” according to Dr. Swail. “However, whether they do them well



College Student Affairs Staff Leaders at VFIC Workshop

or target appropriate resources to the students who need them the most is usually the real issue for institutions to consider.”

Of particular interest this year, the student peer leaders and staff representatives engaged in a discussion about a potential collaborative grant, led by Jeri Suarez, the VFIC Liaison and Associate Dean of Cultural and Community Engagement at Hollins University.

“We continue to give each of the

colleges grant money each year to advance their orientation / mentorship programs which allows them to take the next step beyond where their current budgets allow,” noted Ned Moore, VFIC President “however, more resources are always needed and the VFIC can play an integral part in raising more funds for this program through collaborative grant writing, which could take our member institutions orientation/retention programs to the next level and on to a level equal to national program models.”



College Student Peer Leaders at VFIC meeting

NOTABLE GIFTS & EVENTS

VFIC/BEAZLEY FOUNDATION VISIT WITH HOLLINS UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS



Judge Richard Bray, President of the Beazley Foundation, and his wife Dawn with Hollins' Beazley Scholars

In October, the VFIC arranged a special campus visit for the President of the Beazley Foundation. Over the years, the Beazley Foundation has been one of the most generous supporters of the VFIC, with grants that have benefited hundreds of students from Southeast Virginia through the VFIC's Beazley Foundation Scholarship Program.

The Beazley Foundation was created through the philanthropy of Fred W. Beazley (1892 - 1974), a leading businessman in Portsmouth, VA.

The Hon. Richard Bray, President of the Beazley Foundation, and his wife Dawn, joined VFIC President Ned Moore for a tour of Hollins University, one of the VFIC Member

Colleges, and had the opportunity to meet with the institution's president, Nancy Gray, and the current Beazley Scholars at Hollins:

- **Keli Apple** - English & Theatre major, Virginia Beach
- **Nicole MacLeod** - International Studies major, Virginia Beach
- **Danielle Ranger** - Undeclared major, Chesapeake
- **Elizabeth Northington** - Undeclared major, Virginia Beach
- **Sarah Johnson** - English major, Hampton
- **Ashlee Oliver** - Economics & Women's Studies majors, Hampton

VFIC RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND CAREER15

Citing the importance of the new CAREER15 initiative to the Virginia's corporate sector and workforce development, as well as to the VFIC Member Colleges and their students, the **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** has granted \$250,000 to the VFIC to strengthen and expand the Career15 program.

In addition to providing funds to enhance the career services programs of the colleges, the grant will support the addition of a second staff member to handle the website, event planning and other internal operations for CAREER15, freeing the director, Doug Banks, to spend more time on the road visiting the VFIC campuses and developing and maintaining CAREER15 partnerships with major corporations in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region.

"Once CAREER15 was up and running, we found that if we were to reach full potential, we would need someone inside handling operations, and someone outside making essential contacts. Try as he might, Doug Banks could not be in two places at once," notes Ned Moore, President of the VFIC. "We are truly grateful to the **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** for its generous support and for its vision in recognizing CAREER15's potential impact on our colleges and on Virginia's statewide workforce development."



Presenting a generous check to support several core VFIC programs is Altria's Katie Fessler (center), flanked by VFIC trustee Thurston Moore (left) and VFIC President Ned Moore.

NEW HARRIS IT SERVICES CORP. SCHOLARSHIP

The VFIC is pleased to announce that Harris IT Services Corporation, based in Chantilly, Virginia, has created a new Brighter Futures Scholarship with this private college consortium. The program will fund one Harris IT Services Scholarship on each of the VFIC's fifteen campuses, supporting students with financial need and academic promise.