

**Jamestown 2007 and
The Invention of
America:
Reality and Fiction**

**Virginia Humanities
Conference
March 29 – 30, 2007**



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The Invention of America:
Reality and Fiction**

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Conference
March 30 – 31, 2007**

The 2008 Virginia Humanities Conference will meet at Radford University on April 4 – 5 under the presidency of Kim Kipling. The conference theme will be “Voices and Visions: Humanities in the Third World.”

The 2009 Virginia Humanities Conference will meet at Virginia Commonwealth University under the presidency of Kirk Richardson.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Registration & Coffee

2ND floor David Student Union

Lobby

10:00 – 10:20 a.m.

Welcome to the Conference

Washington Room,

David Student Union

George Hillow, VHC President and Dr.

Douglas Gordon,

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Session 1A: Artistic Interpretations

Washington Room,

David Student Union

Chair: Kirk Richardson, Virginia

Commonwealth University

**“The Art of the Age of Discovery –
The Art of the 16th & 17th Centuries as a
Backdrop of Jamestown”**

- David F. Alexick, Christopher
Newport University, Department of Fine
Arts & Art History

**“If Only Columbus Had Been An Artist:
A Poetic-Philosophical Reflection”**

- Kim Kipling, Radford University,
Department of Philosophy & Religious
Studies

**“Pocahontas, John Smith and Terrance
Malick’s *The New World*: A Synthetic
Illusion”**

- Jay Hansford C. Vest, University of North
Carolina at Pembroke, Department of
American Indian Studies

**Session 1B: America at Work
and Play**

Madison Room, David Student Union

*Chair: Chris Foss, University of Mary
Washington*

**“Corporate Engagement: A Service
Learning Proposal They Can’t Refuse”**

- Mary Best, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Communication
Studies

**“Games and Contests as Mirrors of
American Character: The Case of the
Scots-Irish”**

- Gilmer Blackburn, The University of
Virginia’s College at Wise, Academic
Affairs

“America and Global Technology”

- George Teschner, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Philosophy

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1st Floor David Student Union

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

Session 2A: Literary Perspectives
Washington Room, David Student
Union

*Chair: Mara Scanlon, University of
Mary Washington*

**“1708 to 1978: American Horizons in
Philip Levine’s ‘You Can Have It’”: A
Literary Analysis of a Poem Situated in
300 Years of American Horizons”**

-Lee Campbell, Valdosta State University,
English Department

**“A Passage from the Journal of Esther
Edwards: The Invention of Colonial
America in Modern Public School
Textbooks”**

- Randolph Covington, Bridgewater College,
English Department

**“The U.S. Immigrant Experience for
Women”**

- Constance Smith, University of Mary
Washington, English Department

**Session 2B: Philosophical and
Religious Perspectives,**
Madison Room, David Student Union

Chair: George Teschner

**“Smith’s Narrative on the Discovery
of Virginia: a Justification Analysis”**

- Jeffrey Carr, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Philosophy &
Religious Studies

**“Myth and Reality in America
‘Sacred’ Landscapes, Related to the
Founding of Yellowstone National
Park”**

- Kip Redick, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Philosophy &
Religious Studies

**“Witchery in the New World:
Religious Ideologies and their Legal
and Social Heritage**

- Lori Underwood & Dawn Hutchinson,
Christopher Newport University,
Department of Philosophy & Religious
Studies

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

Session 3A: Literary Perspectives

Redux

**Washington Room,
David Student Union**

Chair: Peggie Barker, Ferrum College

**“Pocahontas in the American
Imagination”**

- Rosemary Guruswamy, Radford
University, English Department

**“Guns, Race, Meat, and Manifest
Destiny: Inventing America in Ozeki’s *My
Year of Meats*”**

- Mara Scanlon, University of Mary
Washington, English Department

**“The Paper of Narrative: Female
Authority and the Role of Gendered
Bodies in Catharine Sedgwick’s *Hope
Leslie*”**

-Jennifer Smith, Virginia Commonwealth
University, English Department

**Session 3B: East Meets West
Madison Room, David Student Union**

Chair: Kim Kipling, Radford University

“Has Buddhism Changed America?”

- Marwood Larson-Harris, Roanoke College,
Department of Religion

**“Has Buddhism Changed American
Literature: Dharma Bums and the
Literature Counter-Culture”**

-Nickolas Montgomery, Roanoke College,
Department of Religion and Philosophy

**“The Martial Arts and American
Culture”**

- Colin Mullins, Roanoke College,
Department of Philosophy and Religion

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
**All – Convention Session and
Musical Interlude:**

Washington Room, David Student
Union

Chair: George Hallow

**“Actus Fidei: The Creation of a New Work
about the New World”**

- Joseph White, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Music/Orchestral
Studies

- Steven Breese, Christopher Newport
University, Department of Theater and
Dance

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner Break

1st First Floor David Student
Union

8:00 p.m.

SPECIAL SESSION:

World Premiere Play

“Actus Fidei”

Music and Theater Hall
Ferguson Center for the Arts

Check us out online!

The Virginia Humanities Conference

<http://vahumanitiesconference.org>

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Delegates Meeting

(Delegates Only)

Room

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Coffee & Registration

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Session 4A: Historical Perspectives

Chair:

“Imagined Commonwealth: Virginia, the Citizen Soldier, and the Yorktown Commemoration”

- Sarah Goldberger, University of Illinois-Chicago, History Department

“If Pocahontas Had Lived – Just Imagine: Possible Pasts (Toward Altered Futures?) For Jamestown”

-Marion Nelson, Virginia Commonwealth University, History Department

“Virginia: The Altered State of Realities”

- Eve Davis, Hampton University
- Deborah Goodwyn, Virginia State University

Session 4B: Visions of Apocalypse

Chair: Kip Redick

“Conversion versus Syncretism and the Possibility of Globalizing Democracy”

- Krysta Johnson, Christopher Newport University, 2006

“The Apocalypse in American Visual Art”

- Michelle Aellen, Christopher Newport University, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Student

“American Popular Music, Death Metal, and the Apocalypse”

- Frederick Blackburn, Christopher Newport University, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Student

“Existential Apocalyptic Visions”

- Jacob Porter, Christopher Newport University, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Student

“Apocalyptic Cinema: Action Adventure as Apocalypse”

- Justin Pritchett, Christopher Newport University, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Student

“A Final Stand: The Apocalypse According to Stephen King”

- Jennifer Vencill, Christopher Newport University, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Student

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1st Floor David Student Union

1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Keynote Address:

Ballroom, David Student Union

Chair: Roberta Rosenberg, Past-President, VAC, Christopher Newport University
Pauline Strong, Ph.D., University of Texas Austin

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

All – Convention Session

*Chair: George Hillow,
Christopher Newport University*

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- Jean S. Filetti, Christopher Newport University, Department of English
- Peggie Barker, Ferrum College, Library Department
- Susan Blair Green, Mary Baldwin College, English Department/Adult Degree Program

3:00 p.m. Conference Ends

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Pauline Turner Strong

Dr. Pauline Turner Strong is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. An award-winning undergraduate and graduate teacher, Dr. Strong has participated in the development of many interdisciplinary initiatives, including those of Connexus: Connections in Undergraduate Education, and the University of Texas Humanities Institute, which she serves as Associate Director. Dr. Strong's research centers on the representation of race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality in U.S. public culture. She is the author of *Captive Selves, Captivating Others: The Politics and Poetics of Colonial American Captivity Narratives*, which won an Honorable Mention for the 2000 Chicago Folklore Prize, and the co-editor of *New Perspectives on Native North America: Cultures, Histories, Representations* (University of Nebraska Press, 2006). She has also published more than two dozen articles in the fields of anthropology, folklore, ethnohistory, cultural studies, museum studies, gender studies, American Studies, and Native American Studies. She has served as President of the Society for Cultural Anthropology and Councilor of the American Society for Ethnohistory. Dr. Strong received her bachelor's degree in philosophy from Colorado College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago.

Biographies:

Welcome Address:

Dr. Douglas Gordon, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A native of Waynesboro, VA, Dr. Gordon completed his BA and MA degrees at the University of Virginia and his Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. A long-time member and chair of the English Department at Christopher Newport University, Dr. Gordon became Dean of CLAS in 2002. Under his deanship, the entire undergraduate curriculum at CNU has been reinvented. Dr. Gordon's teaching specialties include Shakespeare, English Composition, the British Romantics, and Victorian Literature. Known affectionately to his students and colleagues as Dr. Dog, one of his research areas is dogs in literature.

Special Guests:

Dr. Joseph Pollard White

Dr. White serves as Director of Orchestral Studies for Christopher Newport University's Department of Music. A native of Long Island, Dr. White's BA is from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, his M.M. is in Viola Performance from the Indiana School of Music, and his D.M.A is in Orchestral Studies from the University of Washington. With extensive professional credits to his name, Dr. White is also a published composer. His compositions for *Actus Fidei* mark his fifth collaboration with CNU's Theater and Dance Department.

Steven Breese is the Chair of Theater and Dance at Christopher Newport University. His BA is from Baldwin Wallace College in Cleveland, OH, and his MFA is in Acting from the California Institute for the Arts. A professional actor and director, Steven is also a published playwright with many scripts to his credit, including *The Trial of Hamlet*, which enjoyed its world premiere at CNU in 2002. His *Actus Fidei* was written to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and to illuminate the role that Christopher Newport University's namesake played in the founding of the new world.