

20th Annual Virginia Forum

March 13-15, 2025

At Sweet Briar College

Virginia Forum Elected and Appointed Officers of the Board of Directors

- *President:* Steven A. Harris-Scott, Ph.D., Professor, George Mason University
- *Vice-President and President Elect:* Brian J. Daugherty, Ph.D., Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
- *Secretary:* Mika Endo, Ph.D., Faculty, George Mason University
- *Treasurer:* Mathias D. Bergmann, Ph.D., Professor, Randolph-Macon College
- Erin Bush, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of North Georgia
- Marvin T. Chiles, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University
- Phillip Hamilton, Ph.D., Professor, Christopher Newport University
- Emma Y. Ito, Director of Education, Virginia Humanities
- Nadine Zimmerli, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief UVA Press
- Alexandra S. Gressit, Emerita, Director of Thomas Balch Library
- Ann Jimerson, Desegregation of Virginia Education (DOVE)
- Jennifer Hurst-Wender, M.A., Director of Operations and Education, Preservation Virginia
- Dwana Waugh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History and Division Head of the Social Sciences & Humanities Division, Sweet Briar College

Virginia Forum Program Committee

- *Co-Chair:* George Oberle, Ph.D., History Librarian, Associate Professor Department of History and Art History, and Director of the Center for Mason Legacies, George Mason University
- *Co-Chair:* Dwana Waugh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History and Division Head of the Social Sciences & Humanities Division, Sweet Briar College
- Steven A. Harris-Scott, Ph.D., Professor, George Mason University
- Krystyn R. Moon, Ph.D., Professor of History and American Studies, University of Mary Washington

Local Arrangements Committee

- Lisa Broughman, Director of the Library, Randolph College
- Ted Delaney, Director, Lynchburg Museum System
- Kathleen Placidi, Director of Institutional Grants, Sweet Briar College
- Gerald Sherayko, Ph.D., Professor of History, Randolph College
- Dwana Waugh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History and Division Head of the Social Sciences & Humanities Division, Sweet Briar College

About the Virginia Forum:

The Virginia Forum is an interdisciplinary conference and organization that welcomes work in a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, anthropology, archaeology, economics, education, environmental studies, geography, history, law, literature, and politics. Each year, the organization encourages proposals from diverse groups of people including academics, local historians, applied and public historians, archivists, historic site interpreters, librarians, museum professionals, teachers, writers, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of the history and culture of greater Virginia to showcase their scholarship at their annual conference.

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2025

4:00-6:00 p.m. **Registration-Wailes Conference Center**

5:00-7:00 p.m. **Welcome at Bonfire Burgers & Bourbon Restaurant** 188 S Main St, Amherst, VA 24521

7:00-8:30 p.m. **“Haunted Sweet Briar: two centuries of ghosts, graveyards, and folklore at a southern plantation and college.” Lynn Rainville, Ph.D. (Virtual)**

This illustrated talk uncovers layers of Sweetbrier Plantation history, from the contributions of the enslaved community to the lives of the enslavers and their decision to create a college for “white girls and young women” in 1900. Dr. Rainville also shares decades of oral histories to understand the impact of memory, kinship, and haunted people and places that have shaped the mythology of the college’s founding and first century. Followed by option ghost walking tour of campus.

FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2025

8:00-9:00 a.m. **Onsite Registration-Wailes Conference Center**

8:30-10:00 a.m. **SESSION I**

Panel 1: The American Revolution: Rights, Identity, and Memory (Virtual)

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: George Oberle, George Mason University

- “Francis Irwin: Finding an Elusive Convict Servant in 18th Century Records”
 - Anna Carneal Davis, M.A., Thomas Balch Library
- “Helen Maxwell’s War: A Virginia Woman Remembers the American Revolution”
 - David Kiracofe, Ph.D., Tidewater Community College
- “Wagons, Rum, and Guns: Impressed Property and the Mindset of Revolution in Virginia”
 - Nicole Falgiano, George Mason University and Prince William County Schools

Panel 2: Civil War Era and the Multiple Meanings of Freedom

Room AB, Downstairs

Moderator: Brent Tarter, Library of Virginia (retired)

- “‘The 4th Virginia Cavalry came to my house to hang me’: The Trampling of Civil Rights under the Cavalry in Hanover County, Virginia”
 - Shawn McAvoy, Ph.D., Patrick Henry Community College
- “Sustaining the Homefront through the Issue of Municipal Bonds in the Civil War & the Beginnings of the Welfare State in Virginia”
 - R. Neil Hening, Independent Scholar
- “Free Enslavers and the Lack Thereof Among the Enslaved in Ohio County on the Eve of War and Statehood, 1860-1863”
 - Barbara Howe, Ph.D., Emerita West Virginia University
- “Beulah Does the Right Thing: Non-Judicial Justice in 1866 Virginia.”
 - Bibb Edwards, Independent Scholar

Panel 3: Creating Access and Freedom: Female Agency in the Public and Private Spheres

Room D, Downstairs

Moderator: Erin Bush, Associate Professor University of North Georgia

- “‘He Ain’t No Husband of Mine’: Women’s Agency within Unhappy Marriages in Clarke County (19th to early 20th century)”
 - Melanie Garvey, M.A., Clarke County Historical Association
- “Mary G. Brown’s Book”
 - Sue Kovach Shuman, Independent Scholar, formerly of Office of Historic Alexandria
- “Charlotte Anne Wynn Pollard and VCU”
 - Dina Weinstein, M.A., Virginia Commonwealth University

10:00-10:15 a.m. BREAK

Complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks

10:15-11:45 a.m. SESSION II

Panel 4: Decades of Destruction: The Lasting Legacy of Urban Renewal in Virginia (Virtual)

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: Patti Miller, Managing Editor of Encyclopedia Virginia

- “The Federal Roots of Urban Renewal in Virginia and Norfolk’s Project One”

- Johnny Finn, Ph.D. Christopher Newport University
- “Urban Renewal in Richmond”
 - LaToya Gray-Sparks, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- “Urban Renewal in Charlottesville”
 - Jordy Yager, MS, Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
- “Urban Renewal in Roanoke”
 - Mary Bishop, Ma, MS, Independent Scholar

Panel 5: The Masons’ Loudoun County: Discoveries in an Early Republic Account Book

AB Room, Downstairs

Moderator: George D. Oberle III, George Mason University

- “What Happened to Scylla? Uncovering the Life of an Enslaved Woman through the Mason Family Manuscript Account Book”
 - Nicole Penn, George Mason University
- “The Weeping Widow Is Given a Name: Women, Family, and Property in Early 19th Century”
 - Annabelle Spencer, George Mason University
- “The Woman Who Had Pages: How the Woman Named Camilla Turned Out to Not Be a Woman at All”
 - Rachel Whyte, George Mason University

Panel 6: WORKSHOP: Mapping Freedom Through a Local History Lens—BYOD (“Bring your own device”)

D Room, Downstairs

- Dr. Julian Hayter, Ph.D., University of Richmond
- Anne M. Evans, University of Richmond

11:45-1:30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK—*Wailes Room (Upstairs)*

Lunches available for registered attendees

12:15-1:15 p.m. VIRGINIA FORUM BOARD MEETING

D Room, Downstairs

1:30-3:00 p.m. SESSION III

Panel 7: Rhetoric and Debate: The Makings of Early America (virtual)

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: Nadine Zimmerli, University of Virginia Press

- “Edmund Randolph, Eighteenth Century Rhetoric, and the ‘Virginia Plan’, in the Philadelphia Convention of 1787”
 - Kevin R. Hardwick, Ph.D. James Madison University
- “‘I am thoroughly convinced I should not draw a single vote from the Anti-federal side’: George Washington and the Electoral College”
 - Shawn McAvoy, Ph.D., Patrick Henry Community College
- “Alexander Whitaker’s Audience”
 - James R. Adams, Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

Panel 8: Teaching Historical Methods Amidst the Digital Revolution

AB Room, Downstairs

Steven A. Harris-Scott, Ph.D. George Mason University, Moderator

- “Access and Utilization: The Role of Local Archives in the University Classroom”
 - Georgia Brown Archivist Fairfax County Circuit Court Historical Records Center
- “From Sources to (Digital) Exhibit”
 - Alyssa Fahringer, Digital Scholarship Consultant, George Mason University
- “Students and the Archive: Helping students make meaning from our complex past”
 - George D. Oberle III, Director of the Center for Mason Legacies, George Mason University
- “Training Undergraduate Research Assistants: Reflections on *A Digital Archive of Slavery and Medicine in Wytheville, Virginia.*”
 - Anthony Guidone, Assistant Professor, Radford University

Panel 9: Identity Formations in Politics and Culture in Virginia

Moderator: Mathias D. Bergmann, Ph.D., Professor, Randolph-Macon College

- “Jewish Virginians as Small-Town Elites: Orange County during the Byrd Organization Era”
 - Matt Gottlieb, Research Assistant, Department of Historic Resources
- “The Street Singer: Disability, Mendicancy, and Music in the Upper South”
 - Gregg D. Kimball, Ph.D., Shockoe Institute
- “African American Children and White Northern Teachers during Early Reconstruction in the Shenandoah Valley”
 - Steve Longnecker, Ph.D., Emertius, Bridgewater College

3:00-3:15 p.m. BREAK

Complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks

3:15-4:45 p.m. SESSION IV

Panel 10: Building a Digital Archive from Slavery to Freedom: Monticello as Case Study
(Virtual)

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: Jeff Looney, *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*, Thomas Jefferson Foundation (TJF)

- Julie Lautenschlager, *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*, TJF
- Brianna Solt, *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, TJF
- Susan Spengler, University of Virginia Press
- Auriana Woods, *Getting Word* Project, TJF

Panel 11: Pursuit of Freedom: Violence, Fear and Hope

AB Room, Downstairs

Moderator: Steven Harris-Scott, Ph.D. George Mason University

- “A Story of Fear and Corruption: Free People of Color during Nat Turner’s Rebellion”
 - Warren Milteer, Jr., Ph.D., George Washington University
- “Clashing Freedoms: Enslaved Africans, Scottish Merchants, and the Burning of Norfolk”
 - Andrew Lawler, (Journalist)
- “The Creation of Black Mistrust in Police: An Exploration of the White Policing of Black Bodies in Fairfax County from 1801 to 1975”
 - Andrew Snowman, George Mason University

Panel 12: Transgender Freedom and Identity in the Aftermath of Gay Liberation

D Room, Downstairs

Moderator: Krystyn Moon, Ph. D. University of Mary Washington

- “Transgender Identity Acknowledgement in Our Own Community Press, 1976-1998”
 - Charles Ford, Norfolk State University
- *Jane Doe v. United States Postal Service: An Alexandria Transgender Woman’s Groundbreaking Challenge to Discrimination*
 - Amy Bertsch, Independent Scholar

4:45-5:45 p.m. CAMPUS TOURS

Sweet Briar College’s Greenhouse with Dr. Lisa Powell

Self-guided tour of SBC Pannell Gallery

Self-guided tour of Sweet Briar Museum and Enslaved Community Cabin

5:45-7:00 p.m. PLENARY– Humanities are the Future: A Plenary on Humanities Centers in Virginia (Virtual)

Savannah Baber, Virginia Humanities

Nathan Snaza, University of Richmond

Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University

Alok Yadav, George Mason University

Reception with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar to follow

SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025

8:00-8:30 a.m. Onsite Registration

Wailes Conference Center

8:30-10:00 a.m. SESSION V

Panel 13: Restricted Virginia

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: Laura Christensen, Thomas Balch Library

- “Restricted Virginia: An Overview to Research-Based Digital Projects with Undergraduates”
 - Krystyn R. Moon, Ph.D., University of Mary Washington
- “Clean Maps of Messy Data: Helping Students Build an Interactive Map of Racially Restrictive Covenants and Black-Owned Properties in 20th Century Fredericksburg, Virginia”
 - Stephen P. Hanna, Ph.D., University of Mary Washington
- “Geocoded Maps and the History of Housing Discrimination: Creating GIS Web Maps for the Restricted Virginia Website”
 - Brendan O’Connell, University of Mary Washington

Panel 14: History Cannot Be Contained: Researching Enslaved Communities in Loudoun and Fauquier Counties Beyond Traditional Boundaries

AB Room, Downstairs

Moderator-Lori Kimball, Independent Scholar

- “Mapping the Plantations: The Enslaved Communities Near Bellefield and Oatlands”
 - Lori Kimball, Independent Scholar
- “Ariana Bingham: How the Research of an Enslaved Woman Stretches Traditional Boundaries as She did in Life”
 - Alison Herring, Independent Scholar
- “Leave No Stone Unturned: Tracing the Enslaved Community at Oakley & Beyond”
 - Joseph Roby, Independent Scholar

Panel 15: A Critical Reexamination of Social Movements

D Room, Downstairs

Moderator: Brian J. Daugherty, Ph.D. Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

- “When Did the Civil Rights Movement Begin in the United States?”
 - Richard Chew, Ph.D., Virginia State University
- “The 1939 Library Sit-in and the Unsung Heroes Who Saved the Story and Amplified the Right to Read”
 - Lisa Guernsey, Director of Learning Science Exchange (LSX)
- “The Limits of Radical Social Movements: A Story of Women, Birth, Politics, and Power”
 - D’Anne Graham, M.A., Virginia Midwifery Project

10:00-10:15 a.m. BREAK

Complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks

10:15-11:45 a.m. SESSION VI

Panel 16: UVA Press Roundtable: Writing for General Audiences (Virtual)

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Nadine Zimmerli, UVA Press Editor-in-Chief, Chair

Mark Mones, UVA Press Editor, Architecture, Urban Design, and Regional Books, Moderator

- Tom Shoop, author of *A Place Called Ilda: Race and Resilience at a Northern Virginia Crossroads* (2024)
- Greg J. Hansard, author of *Virginia Cider: A Guide from Colonial Days to Craft’s Golden Age* (2024)
- Gregg D. Kimball, author of *Searching for Jimmie Strother: A Tale of Music, Murder, and Memory* (2025)
- Scott O. Moore, author of *The Witch of Pungo: Grace Sherwood in Virginia* (2024)

Panel 17: Data Informed Methods for Slavery Studies in Virginia, The Eighteenth Century

AB Room Downstairs

Moderator: Walter Hawthorne, Ph.D., Michigan State University

- “‘The Names, Ages, & c.’: Understanding Bray School Scholars through a Comprehensive Enrollment Dataset”
 - Nicole Brown, Michigan State University
- “Data at Work: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us about Labor within the Virginia Plantation Household”
 - Erin M. Holmes, Michigan State University
- “Enslaved.org: Linked Open Data as a Tool for Studying Virginia’s Enslaved Populations”
 - Walter Hawthorne, Michigan State University

Panel 18: Roundtable: Remembering Virginia’s Racial Integrity Act (1924)

D Room, Downstairs

- “Racism in 4: Four Pivotal Virginia Supreme Court Cases” Nicole Falgiano, George Mason University and Prince William County Schools
 - Nicole Falgiano, George Mason University and Prince William County Schools
- “Teaching and Reflecting on Virginia’s Racial Integrity Act”
 - Dwana Waugh, Ph.D. Sweet Briar College
 - Sydney Harris, Sweet Briar College
 - Nadia Abrego, Sweet Briar College

11:45-1:15 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

Lunches available for registered attendees

12:00-1:00 Optional: Sweet Briar Wine Tasting

Wailes Center

1:30-3:00 p.m. SESSION VII

***Panel 19: Interpretation and Memory in Public Spaces* (virtual)**

Boxwood Room, Upstairs

Moderator: Dwana Waugh, Sweet Briar College

- “New Narratives in the Old South: Developments in the Interpretation of Enslavement at Virginia’s Plantation Museums”
 - Allison Seiberling, Randolph-Macon College

- “Confederate Memories, Modernism, and Mural Controversies in Richmond, 1930s-1940s”
 - Evie Terrono, Ph.D, University of Richmond
- “The Jefferson Project: Student Enthusiasm v. Institutional Inertia”
 - Tom Costa, Ph.D., University of Virginia at Wise Emeritus

Panel 20: Data Informed Methods for Slavery Studies in Virginia, The Nineteenth Century

AB Room, Downstairs

Moderator: Walter Hawthorne, Ph.D., Michigan State University

- “Promises for Freedom: The U.S. Slave Claims Commission & African American History”
 - Amanda Kleintop, Elon University
- “Lives Bought and Lives Sold: Accounting Records of a Virginia Enslaver, 1812-1824”
 - Lucio Bianchi, Michigan State University
- “The Enslaved Workers at Virginia’s Tredegar Iron Works”
 - Ryan Courtney, Michigan State University

Accommodations and Things to Do

The deadline for proposals is **December 15, 2024**.

On campus accommodations, please call Elston Inn (434) 381-6207 to reserve a room.

- single queen bed \$104 plus taxes
- 2 double beds \$108 plus taxes
- 2 queen beds \$117 plus taxes
- single king bed \$131 plus taxes

Things to Do in the Area

Within a 15-minute drive

- Monacan Indian Ancestral Museum (<https://www.monacannation.gov/museum.html>) – Open Thursday to Saturday 10:00-3:00 p.m.
- Amherst Historical Society and Museum (<https://amherstcountymuseum.org/>) –Open Thursday to Friday 10:00-4:00 p.m.
- Lazy Days Winery (<https://www.lazydayswinery.com/>) –Open Friday to Sunday 11:00-5:00 p.m.

Within a 25-minute drive

- Lynchburg Museum (<https://www.lynchburgmuseum.org/>) –Open Thursday to Saturday 10:00-4:00 p.m.
- Legacy Museum of African American History (<https://legacymuseum.org/>) –Open Wednesday to Saturday 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Jones Memorial Library (<https://www.jmlibrary.org/>) –Open Thursday to Friday 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00-5:00 p.m.