

***Virginia Association of Economists – 36th Annual Meeting  
March 12 – 13, 2009***

**Virginia Commonwealth University  
Snead Hall – VCU School of Business**

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**Thursday, March 12 -- 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.**

**REGISTRATION**

**Thursday, March 12 -- 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.**

**PLENARY SESSION: HOW WILL VIRGINIA FARE THROUGH THE  
ECONOMIC DOWNTURN?**

**PANEL OF REGIONAL ECONOMISTS**

Chair: Gregory Dempster, Hampden-Sydney College

Presenters:

Stephen Fuller, George Mason University School of Public Policy

Ray Owens, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Christine Chmura, Chmura Economics & Analytics

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**REFRESHMENTS: 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*Compliments of Richmond Association for Business Economics (RABE)*

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**Thursday, March 12 -- 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**SESSION A: Economic Institutions and Political Economy**

Chair: Steve Lang (Randolph-Macon College)

- 1) “Variations on the Political Business Cycle,” Anthony Carilli and Gregory Dempster (Hampden-Sydney College)
- 2) “Trends in the Determinants of Voter Registration and Turnout in Virginia,” Eugene Gotwalt (Sweet Briar College)
- 3) “Economic Freedom, Political Freedom and Cultural Values,” Michelle Vachris (Christopher Newport University)

**Discussant(s):**

1. Steve Lang
2. Justin Isaacs
3. Gregory Dempster

**Thursday, March 12 -- 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.**

**SESSION B: Economic Analysis of Environmental Issues – Case studies from Virginia**

Moderator: Vijay Satyal, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panelists:

Vijay Satyal (Virginia Commonwealth University)

“A Cost and Benefit Study of Mercury Emissions from Coal Fired Power Plants—Case Study of Virginia”

Jennifer Kelly (VCU and Virginia DEQ) and Timothy Kestner (Virginia Employment Commission)

“Economic Assessment of Select Brownfield Sites in Virginia”

George D. Santopietro (Radford University)

“Bioeconomic Analysis of Management Plans for the Public Oyster Grounds of the Rappahannock River”

**Thursday, March 12 -- 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Reception: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** (Hors d’oeuvres and bar)

**Dinner: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**WILLIAM A. SANDRIDGE LECTURE: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**“Virginia Biofuels Production: Policy, Potential, and Economics”**

Dr. Jim Pease, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics (Virginia Tech)

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**Friday, March 13 – 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.**

Continental Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.  
Past-Presidents' Breakfast: 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

**BUSINESS MEETING: 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.**

**Friday, March 13 -- 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**SESSION A:**

Chair: Elizabeth Perry (Randolph College)

- 1) "Combating African Poverty Through Entrepreneurship and Markets," Bryce Auker (Hampden-Sydney College)
- 2) "Do Markets Anticipate Bank Regulatory Rating Changes? Evidence from the Credit Default Swap Market," Tim Buckler (Longwood University)
- 3) "Reinventing the 'World' Series: The Latin American Influence on Team Success in Major League Baseball," Zach Phillips (Hampden-Sydney College)
- 4) "Student Socio-Economic Status as a Determinant of Major Choice," Amenah Alsrogy (Randolph College)

**SESSION B:**

Chair: Alice Kassens (Roanoke College)

- 1) "Are Stimulus Checks an Effective Fiscal Policy Tool?" Samantha Sterba (Roanoke College)
- 2) "Determinants of Cigarette Consumption and Resulting Policy Recommendations," Virginia Hopkins (Roanoke College)
- 3) "The Role of Government in Promoting Renewable Energy in the United States," Devin Drumheller (Hampden-Sydney College)
- 4) "Land Protection and Economic Benefits at the State Level," Madison Woodward (Hampden-Sydney College)

**Friday, March 13 - 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**SESSION A: The Economic Impacts of Public Policy**

Chair: Aileen Watson (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond)

- 1) “Differential Impacts of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 on Hospital Provision of Nursing Home Services Among Public, Nonprofit, and For-Profit Hospitals,”  
Tiang-Hong Chou (Dept. of Health Administration, VCU)
- 2) “Economic Analysis of Dilemmas and Disposal of Electronic Waste in the U. S.,”  
H. P. Singh-Sandhu and O. A. Odutola (Virginia Union University)
- 3) “What Does Not Kill Me Makes Me Thinner?” Alice Kassens (Roanoke College)

**Discussant(s):**

1. Aileen Watson
2. Tim Kestner
3. Elizabeth Perry

**Friday, March 13 - 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**SESSION B: Topics in Economics**

Chair: Ann Battle Macheras (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond)

- 1) “Exploring the Connection between Organizational Values and Performance,” Joe  
Turek (Lynchburg College)
- 2) “Freshman-to-Sophomore Retention: How's Your School Doing?” David Brat,  
Steve Lang, and Barry Pfitzner (Randolph-Macon College)
- 3) TBA, Ray Owens (Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond)

**Discussant(s):**

1. Ann Battle Macheras
2. Michelle Vachris
3. Anthony Carilli

**Friday March 13 - After the meeting: VAE Golf Tournament**