New core curriculum to build honors college community, well-rounded student identity

The Honors College has recently implemented a new core curriculum starting with the incoming class of 2008. This core curriculum is made up of six classes: two English, a Math, a Philosophy, an International/Political, and a Physics course. The English classes are meant to be one after the other in order to promote continuity. Honors 298, and research writing course, will be followed by English 291, a fiction writing course. The hope is to keep students in the same class with the same people. The Math course, MATH 230: Mathematics in Civilization, is according to Dean of the Honors College, Timothy Hulsey, “a conceptual approach to math, not a how to do math course, but more of ‘What is math?’,” “How does it work?”, “How has it been used throughout history?” The Philosophy course, PHIL 230: Reason, Science, & the Self, will take students through how humans think.

POLI 365/INTL 365: International Political Economy already existed as a class but has been reworked to be specifically an Honor course. The Physics class, PHYS 215: Science, Technology, & Society, is “much broader than physics,” according to Hulsey. “It’s how scientists think and do research, and how the scientific method is applied to such issues as global warming, or how the internet works.

The University as a whole is moving toward a new core curriculum, which will be 21 required credit hours, and leaves little room for placing out of with AP scores. This Honors curriculum is 18 credits, and the “classes are all meant to take the place of other requirements, either in [a student’s] major or in the new core curriculum for the university” Hulsey said. “The honors credit requirement hasn’t changed, the courses are now just prescribed” These classes are open to and encouraged for all honors students. Hulsey said, “Offering this curriculum means a significant amount of our resources are tied up in this and will limit the other [honors] course options available.” Since students are still required to take one honors class a year, these courses are viable options for all students’ schedules. Each class is expected to have three sections offered per semester. The courses themselves, according to Hulsey, have been designed by their specific department, and are intended to “place the best faculty with the best students and create a more engaging and challenging experience.” Another benefit of this curriculum is the ability to ensure certain honors classes every semester. “[It’s] better because we weren’t sure which honors proposals and classes we were going to be able to offer from semester to semester,” Hulsey said.

Many students were concerned that the new curriculum meant the end of modules. However, Hulsey assured, “We won’t completely eliminate modules, the number offered will just be decreased.” He cited a problem with modules being they are often “not academically demanding.” He said student's input in which modules would be continued would mostly come from the end of semester evaluations. Those that will continue are ones the students enjoyed but also learned from.

These changes hope to “create a greater sense of community among honors students … a sense of identity,” Hulsey said. “We’re trying to create honors opportunities for students from the time they enter to the time they graduate. An Honors education should show that you engaged with your education seriously and have had experiences that will allow you to succeed at the next level in any discipline.”

Students discuss poetry in their honors fiction class. This class is part of the new 6 class honors core. The core curriculum aims to create a community within the honors college (photo by Ashley Blank).
Dance for cancer puts research in the spotlight

Many people in Fraia’s family have battled cancer over the years, while most survived, some sadly passed away. “Even though some didn’t make it, we have a lot of survivors in my family,” Fraia said during the interview. Fraia’s maternal family, who is from a small town in Western Virginia, has many members affected by different types of cancer like colon, renal, prostate, and acute and chronic leukemia among others. With so many loved ones affected by cancer in Fraia’s family, it is no surprise she, along with Honors College Idea Exchange (HCIE), was inspired to host First Annual Dance for Cancer Research (DCR). DCR, held April 5, was a success as students continued to raise awareness in the VCU community about different types of cancer. They focused on the types that could strike students at an early age. Admission to DCR was free, even though donations were encouraged. These donations went to the American Cancer Society. Students enjoyed playing the carnival games and dancing the night away, while remembering those courageously struggling with cancer. Even though many lectures and informative events regarding cancer are held around Richmond, DCR was unique in that it incorporated a club environment along with providing information, through the Cancer Awareness Team, on cancer. It focused on taking preventive measures at an early age through a fun interactive manner that celebrated cancer survivors. With the help of many volunteers and students, DCR raised nearly $400, all of which was donated to the American Cancer Society.

Interview with sophomore Cristina De Fraia, event coordinator

SIDDHI MEHTA
FEATURES EDITOR

Le Monde: What role did you play in Dance for Cancer Research (DCR)?

Cristinia De Fraia: I was the coordinator of the whole event. I thought of it, proposed it to the Health and Promotions Office, and was in charge of getting the event together.

LM: What do you see as the purpose of DCR?

CF: The main purpose was to collect money to donate to the American Cancer Society. It was also about bringing awareness to the student body about several different kinds of cancers. There are a lot of types we don’t normally think of. We’re susceptible to cancer at our own age so it’s important to talk about the preventive measures that we can take starting now.

LM: What inspired you to do this event?

LM: Explain one thing that is unique about DCR compared to other cancer awareness events.

CF: This was different because it was mainly geared towards people our age, and it was a club environment with some games on the side to help raise more money, which is unique from what we’ve seen before.

CF: There were some fun carnival games, a wide variety of prizes, and also a DJ from DC. Half of the room was dedicated to dancing. There was a lot of food and drinks; the Cancer Awareness Team provided a little bit of extra information for anybody who was interested in knowing more about cancer. They were there to answer any questions that people had. We also had tables for people to sit at with two different types of cancer as the focus at each table.

CF: I have a lot of family members and friends that have been affected by cancer over the years, particularly over the last six months. Many people come up with new events to raise awareness when they face hard times and I was trying to think of what I could do. I thought a dance would be a great idea since we don’t have many. I thought it would be something fun and that people would have fun at it.
**Fast Flu Facts**

ASHLEY BLANKS PHOTO EDITOR

According to the CDC’s (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) website the flu is a respiratory illness that is caused by a virus and is contagious. The CDC calls it a serious illness and notes that it can sometimes lead to death. Common flu symptoms come on suddenly, they usually include: fever, headache, tiredness, sore throat, dry cough, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches and stomach problems. Some people recover from the flu in a few days but for others it may take up to two weeks. Anyone can get the flu but those most at risk, the elderly, children and people with chronic illnesses, should get the flu vaccine each year to prevent further complications from the flu.

According to the CDC between 5 and 20% of Americans get the flu every year. About 36,000 people a year die from the flu and over 200,000 have to be hospitalized. Some people spread the flu without even knowing it. Adults can begin spreading the flu a day before they show symptoms and can continue to spread the flu up to five days after becoming ill. The best way to prevent the flu is to cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze. It is also important to wash your hands regularly. The CDC recommends that if you get sick to take the anti-viral medications to help you get over the flu faster.

The flu season lasts from November through May. Since we are still in the midst of the 2007-2008 flu season, this season’s facts are not clear yet. However, during this flu season many people became very ill with a strain of flu that was not covered by the vaccine. Sometimes this happens, but everyone’s best bet is to get the flu shot.

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**Benefit ‘For Africa:’ VCU touches world**

LAUREN LOMAKA FRONT PAGE EDITOR

Representatives from VCU have traveled to Ghana for the past five years on a socially conscious mission.

Randi Buerlein, assistant director of field instruction at VCU’s School of Social Work, has taken to Ghana students, alumni and friends of the school to work with Sovereign Global Mission—a Ghanaian organization that provides aid for the impoverished people of the nation.

This past November marked a success for the university’s relationship with SGM. During the first few days of November, VCU students ran a benefit to raise money for the organization. The money was raised specifically for SGM to build a development center outside of Ghana’s capital to serve as housing for “street children.”

“For Africa: A Benefit Performance for the Children of Ghana” was initiated by Chris Burnside— the retired assistant dean of student affairs— but was planned by VCU students. Burnside accompanied Buerlein and others to Ghana in 2006; those who went said they were both touched by the children and “really moved by the level of poverty.”

VCU students and faculty members’ willingness to promote the cause of these children was the driving force behind the benefit. Two service-learning classes were established for students from all majors to come together and to learn how to plan and execute such an event. Guest speakers were brought in to give the service-learning students opportunities not only to plan the benefit but also to learn about the issues facing impoverished areas in Ghana—issues such as AIDS, malaria, and free trade. The benefit—which featured dancers, musicians and a silent auction—raised about $50,000, $30,000 of which went to SGM to begin plans on the development center.

Over winter break, 18 students took a two-week trip to Ghana, where they worked in the development center doing manual labor to help the dream become reality as quickly as possible. Buerlein said the children in need “dream of the opportunity to get an education.”

VCU students also participated in outreach work that included checking up on children with illnesses and locating children eligible to receive a sponsorship to attend school. In Ghana, the price for one child to enroll in school is around $130.

The development center is set to open in September of this year. Buerlein is planning to continue both these study-abroad trips to Ghana and VCU’s committed relationship with SGM that ensure trips every January. These trips are open to all students, and preparatory sessions are provided before each trip. If interested in participating in upcoming trips, please contact Randi Buerlein at rbuerlein@vcu.edu.

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A benefit was held to raise money for the project. “For Africa: A Benefit Performance for the Children of Ghana” featured dancers, musicians and a silent auction. It raised $50,000 (photo courtesy of Randi Buerlein).
End of the year brings various celebrations

AMANDA HANN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

STRUT
The student-run organization produced another hit show that is quickly becoming one of the most talked about events at VCU. Fashion Week helped kick things off by offering free makeovers and photo shoots for all students, as well as the official launch party at Black-Finn. This year, STRUT joined the Cinderella Dreams Project to collect used prom dresses, handbags, and accessories, helping every young lady get the chance to attend high school prom.

The annual show hit the Siegel Center April 5, to display some of this season’s hottest trends in fashion and entertainment, highlighting the biggest fashion capitals of the world: New York, Paris, London, Milan, and Tokyo. Zulema Griffin, a season two Project Runway contestant, made a guest appearance at the show. The party didn’t stop there, however. Element Lounge was the hot spot of the evening as it was the official after party location. Richmond’s best photographers snapped away as guests made their way down the red carpet to the club’s entrance.

Intercultural Festival
Intercultural Festival is one of VCU’s main traditions sponsored by multiple student organizations. This week-long celebration highlights the diversity that fills our school and community. Numerous cultural activities were conducted throughout the week including dance, art, and tea-tasting. In addition, information sessions were held to enlighten and unite students.

This year’s festival was full of pizzazz as onlookers filled the streets April 12, to watch the Festival Parade. Student organizations, horses, and floats made their way down N. Harrison as music and dance filled the air. Cultural cuisines, musical performances, exhibits, and fashion shows kept the party going all day. ICF’s grand finale took place on Sunday with a charity concert performed by Culture-Sol, followed by an after party with DJ Long Jawns.

Islam Awareness Week
Calligraphy, artwork, architecture, and clothing from the Middle East filled the Commonwealth Ballrooms April 17, setting the mood for the Islam Awareness Festival. This party helped cap off VCU’s first ever Islam Awareness Week, sponsored by the Muslim Students’ Association. Educational seminars were held throughout the week to help inform others of Islamic culture and religious beliefs. Henna, food, games, and prizes were enjoyed by all who went.

Southern Women’s Show
The annual Southern Women’s Show made its stop in Richmond, April 18 through April 20. This year’s event featured Grammy Award winner Jim Brickman, four-time Emmy Award winner Kim Zimmer of “Guiding Light,” and actor Mario Lopez, who recently appeared on “Dancing with the Stars.” Vendors offered everything from jewelry, clothing, and handbags to pottery, candles, and gift baskets. Women enjoyed complimentary makeovers and numerous fashion shows. The Firefighter Fashion Show benefited the Muscular Dystrophy Association as Pooches on Parade featured the latest trends for dogs of all sizes.

Health seemed to be of primary importance as celebrity and local chefs made scrumptious, but healthy foods for guests to enjoy amid shopping. American Family Fitness provided “Dances of the Middle East” demonstrations, while Martial Arts World conducted martial arts exhibits.

APB’s Annual Spring Ball
APB’s Annual Spring Ball was held April 25 at Sheraton Richmond West. This year’s theme was a masquerade entitled, “A Night of Mystery.” As usual, everyone was dressed to impress, but this year’s theme allowed for more of a theatrical twist, with a few ladies wearing masks. DJ’s Lonnie B and Mike Mostaan kept the music coming while everyone danced the night away. The only motive for stepping away from the dance floor seemed to be the scrumptious catered food. Although the dance ended earlier than expected and the shuttle took longer than anticipated, most said it was a fun evening.

RICHMOND’S RACE FOR THE CURE
If you missed Relay for Life on April 19, here’s your chance to be involved with another important cause. Richmond’s Race for the Cure is May 10 at 9 a.m. beginning at 9th and Byrd Streets. You can walk it, run it, or even volunteer to hand out water. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds will go toward breast cancer programs within Central Virginia, while the remaining twenty-five percent will be given to the Komen National Research Grant Program.
The battle between Under Armour and Nike Inc. in the performance-athletic-wear market has begun to heat up.

In May Under Armour will release its first cross-training Proto Trainers—shoes designed for men, women and children. Nike, in a partnership with Sparq Training, plans to launch its own Nike Sparq Training product line around the same time to include footwear, apparel, and sports equipment.

Under Armour owner and chief executive Kevin Plank founded the company under the name KP Sports just over twelve years ago. Since then, the company has revolutionized the clothing of athletes around the world.

Plank introduced form-fitting moisture-wicking performance apparel that is now commonly identified as a trademark of Under Armour. For example, the company has expanded its clothing line to include hooded sweatshirts, regular T-shirts, sweatpants and compression shorts.

Plank again expanded Under Armour in June 2006 with yet another facet of athletic apparel—football cleats. The cleats quickly became associated with the slogan “Click-Clack” and caught on, as Under Armour became the official outfitter for the football programs at Southern Illinois University, University of Maryland, Auburn University, the University of South Carolina, Texas Tech University and the University of Hawaii.

Under Armour launched its first ever Super Bowl commercial this year to advertise the arrival of its cross-training shoes. The rapidly growing Under Armour faces an uphill battle against the well-established Nike brand.

Track runner Phil Knight and his coach Bill Bowerman of the University of Oregon founded Nike in 1964 under the name Blue Ribbon Sports. The company grew quickly, allowing Knight to open his first retail store in 1966.

Since then, Nike has become the dominant leader in sports footwear, as the company holds the largest market share of athletic footwear in the United States—estimated at 35 percent. Nike’s competition in the industry has been relatively quiet and stable until Under Armour’s emergence.

Under Armour’s pending release of its Proto Power, Proto Speed and Proto Evade Trainers could be the first step to potential losses for Nike in the athletic-shoe market.

Under Armour is becoming increasingly popular among youth in the United States and has enjoyed success with each new product launched. However, Nike has stepped up to the plate to combat its competition’s popularity, possibly seeing vulnerability in maintaining its position atop the athletic-shoe market.

Currently, Nike holds approximately 497 million shares and about $32.8 billion of market capital while Under Armour holds approximately 49 million shares with $1.8 billion of capital. Nike is well established financially and can afford to outspend Under Armour significantly in advertising, even if it means sustaining losses.

Under Armour, on the other hand, must wisely choose where to invest. Future growth for this company might depend even on the success of the Proto Trainer footwear.

Under Armour vs. Nike: What’s going to drop?

BUSINESS EDITOR
ANEESH GOEL

Under Armour’s stock price has been on a roller coaster ride in the past 12 months with a high of $73.4 per share last late summer to a low of $25.32 earlier this year. Its stock price has steadily declined overall since November of 2007. Under Armour’s future growth hinges on the success of its Proto Trainer shoes.

Under Armour is a leading athletic-wear brand that has been successful in recent years, but faces competition from Nike, which is the dominant leader in sports footwear. Under Armour has expanded its product line to include football cleats and cross-training shoes, but Nike has stepped up to the plate to combat its competition’s popularity, possibly seeing vulnerability in maintaining its position atop the athletic-shoe market.

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Under Armour, on the other hand, must wisely choose where to invest. Future growth for this company might depend even on the success of the Proto Trainer footwear.

Avoid retail chains - Due to fears of an upcoming recession, consumer spending will certainly decrease. This will lead to tough times for the retail industry.

Go foreign as the United States stumbles – Companies such as Exxon Mobile and McDonalds may prove to be valuable picks as their markets span beyond US borders.

Energy pays – Oil-service giant Baker Hughes is a great pick as experts believe global oil production has peaked leading to scarcity and an increase in price for crude oil. Also, geothermal energy provider Ormat Technologies has great potential as it will continue to receive state and government support in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and cut pollution.

Other natural resources - Southern Copper, one of the world’s largest copper producers with low-cost mines in Peru and Mexico, is an excellent pick for 2008. Experts think copper demand for use in autos, circuit boards and other products will offset a decline in demand from the housing sector leading to an 8% dividend yield.

Nokia has had significant growth in the past year with a few patches of trouble. Its stock price has remained relatively high with a 52 week low of $51.50 and a high of $70.00 per share. Nokia is looking to its Sparq Training line to further the company’s success.
Trades shake up time-space fabric of the NBA

TEJAS SHAH
SPORTS EDITOR

The NBA season is heading toward its final stretch, with teams getting set for the big playoff games or struggling to snatch that final playoff bid. This season has been anything but static, with several surprising blockbuster trades that have changed the make-up of the league. So how have these trades worked out for the teams involved? Here are Le Monde’s top eight people traded this season:

Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen

Who can deny the Boston Celtics praise for bringing both Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett, two of the biggest superstars on the market over the off-season? And who could deny C’s praise for their incredible chemistry and energy? Let’s be serious here: the Celtics stole two superstars from two teams looking toward their future. The Celtics also got these superstars at the perfect time: both Allen and KG are looking for a championship ring, rather than to buffer their personal stats. Not only that but Doc Rivers managed to turn a reportedly shallow bench into one of the deepest in the league.

Currently, the C’s have the best record in the NBA, at an incredible 58-15. The C’s benefit from their great defense; they have been holding opponents to an average of 96.1 points per game, a league best. They were also the first team to clinch a playoff berth and their division when they beat the Detroit Pistons March 5. They are currently the number one seed in the East, and are six games ahead of the Pistons.

Projection: They are a lock for the number one seed in the East. Look for an interesting Eastern Conference Finals with Detroit, and possibly a trip to the NBA Finals.

Derek Fisher and Pau Gasol

You have to hand it to the Lakers President Jerry Buss for not bowing to superstar Kobe Bryant’s demands to be traded, bringing Derek Fisher back, and Pau Gasol to the starting lineup. Derek Fisher brought some much-needed experience and leadership to this developing team, as well as some chemistry that helped the Lakers to their 13-8 record by Dec. 13, beating some of the NBA’s best teams in that span, including their West-best Phoenix and a solid Detroit Pistons. By Dec. 13, it was clear that Bryant no longer wanted to be traded: “I’m happy to be here. My boys and I – we have such a tight bond.” An electric line-up with players like Bryant, Fisher, Lamar Odom, and a budding superstar in Bynum put them on the map as one of the top five teams in the league. However, with Bynum out indefinitely and Bryant with his lingering pimple issues, the Lakers looked to be losing momentum.

That is, until the Lakers stole Pau from Memphis. With this trade, the Lakers look to be the best in the West, at least enough to make it to the post-season in the battle-royale in the Western Conference. Currently, they are number three in the West after having taken the lead, but the rankings change day-by-day. However, there is no doubt that the Lakers have the right stuff to make the post-season and be a championship contender.

Projection: At the very least, the post-season. A Lakers-Celtics series in the NBA Finals would be something the NBA needs to boost its popularity. But in the West, who knows what will happen?

Signing Grant Hill + Shaquille O’Neal for Shawn Marion

In an effort to strengthen the small forward position, the Phoenix Suns signed Grant Hill at the beginning of the season. Hill, a former Detroit Pistons star and a veteran small forward, has clearly been a positive force on the Suns team, bringing even more leadership and playoff experience to a team that needs a little more improvement to get over the disappointment from last year’s loss to the Spurs in the Western Conference Finals. Hill has been putting up an average of 13.5 points per game, as well as 5.1 rebounds this season. Although his role seems to have been diminished since the All-Star break, he has continued to be a solid player on the Suns’ starting five.

The Shaq O’Neal trade was by far the most controversial trade in the NBA this season, mostly because everyone thought the number one team in the West was making a huge mistake, and that Suns President was making a bone-headed move. This looked to be a steal for the League’s worst Miami Heat, who needed to move Shaq because he was clearly ailing and not valuable to the team. In this trade, they managed to grab the versatile superstar Shawn Marion, good on both the offensive and defensive ends. The Suns, in return, lost the running game that had made them the most entertaining team in the West in an effort to gain some defense and counter Pau Gasol on the Lakers. In the first three games after the trade, Phoenix had a mixed run, beating Boston and having a close game against the Lakers, and then losing to Detroit by a whopping thirty points. Amaré Stoudemire, the Suns’ former center and current power forward, has become an even more powerful player, averaging around 29.1 points and 9.3 rebounds since the All-Star break and the Shaq trade.

Projection: Definitely in the Playoffs. Beyond that, who knows?

Jason Kidd

After two weeks of complications and much speculation, Avery Johnson and the Mavs managed to trade for New Jersey Net veteran point guard Jason Kidd in exchange for Devin Harris (photo courtesy of http://assets.espn.go.com). New Jersey Net veteran Jason Kidd was traded for Devin Harris (photo courtesy of http://assets.espn.go.com).

Projection: If they can stay consistent and win at least their next games against Seattle and Portland, they can make it to the playoffs as the number 7 seed (they are one-and-a-half games ahead of Denver and two games ahead of Golden State). Whether or not they make it past the first round, that 2-11 record against winning teams is a bad omen.

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Student finds commonality between religions

UMAR ALAM
OPINION EDITOR

Of the monotheistic religions, Christianity is perhaps the most widely known variant. We live in a country that has a majority of its population following a branch of Christianity. We are exposed to many of the fundamental Christian beliefs such as the concept of Trinity, the role of Jesus, and even great details about the disciples themselves. Sometimes we tend to forget that Christianity is not the only religion that preaches One God. We overlook the other Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism and Islam; not to mention the eastern religions Hinduism, Zoroastrianism and Sikhism. These are other faiths that we see around the world and most of us know very little about them, here’s a closer look at the history of ‘One God’ and the faiths that adhere to this belief.

The roots of monotheism are somewhat unclear but it is widely excepted that its origins were in the ancient Middle East. The first recorded origin of monotheism is attributed to the ancient Egyptians specifically to an epoch symbolized and ruled by Akhenaten. This new religion in Egypt came from the belief in one god, the disk of the sun. The god Aten was the light giver, the glory of the sky, and the supreme giver of life. The story of Aten is found in the texts of the 12th Dynasty in the story of Sinuhe.

Persia was the setting of another religion that strongly proclaimed monotheism, Zoroastrianism. According to Zoroastrianism, the Prophet Zoroaster claimed that Ahura Mazda was the one, universal, and transcendent God who is the only one Uncreated Creator. Ahura Mazda represents the truth and order of goodness, which is the antithesis of darkness, conflict and all things bad. In addition to this belief in one all good God, it is interesting that Zoroastrianism is a monist faith meaning that they believe in no division. This basically means that Zoroastrians see both good and evil as a sort of ying and yang and cannot have one without the other. Regardless, according to Zoroastrian beliefs, one should try to maximize the good and minimize the bad, but also keep in mind that evil will never be fully eliminated.

Considered to be the oldest practicing religion in the world, Hinduism, a surprise to many I’m sure, is a monotheistic faith. Hinduism has many varieties and different groups worship differently; from worshipping one god to worshipping a myriad of gods. The schools of faith that stress one god are Vaishnavism, Shaitivism, Shaktism, and Smartism. Each has a somewhat different conceptualization of this one god. The main differences between these houses of thought are the main god who is to be worshipped. The Vaishnavites believe that Vishnu is the supreme god and that he alone is the central figure alone with his avatars that are worthy of worship. The Shaivites believe that Shiva is the central god to be worshipped in the same manner that Vaishnavites believe that Vishnu is the central god. Shaktism claims the goddess Shakti as the central god and the Smartism is mostly a tradition started by Adi Shankara. Though it is wrong to proclaim the greater Hindu religion as ‘monotheistic’ it is true that many schools of thoughts and philosophies within the faith strongly adhere to the concept of one God. The ancient text of the Hindus, the Rig Veda states, “There is one truth though the sages know them by many names (1.164.46).” The Atharva Veda also claims, “He is One and One forever remaineth alone; Believe it. There is no second in God.” Thus, the tradition of one God has been an integral part of many Hindus throughout its history.

Judaism is the oldest of the Abrahamic faiths and is thus the oldest known for its strict form of monotheism. The monotheistic beliefs of the Jews is marked by the Shema, which highlights the beliefs in the One God. Through the use of the Torah, Judaism has established what is known as Ethical Monotheism, which has two basic principles:

1) There is one God from whom emanates one morality for all humanity
2) God’s primary demand of people is that they act decently toward one another

Through the study of the Torah, one can discover four essential and primary characteristics of God which are:

1) God is supernatural
2) God is personal
3) God is good
4) God is holy

Of the Ten Commandments, God proclaims in the second, “You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).” The proclamation of one God is practiced beyond Birth, Self-Existing. By Guru’s Grace.”


The Gurus of Sikhism as well as many writers of the Guru Granth Sahib utilize the names Allah, Ram, and Krishnan to signify the one true God. Sikhs believe that different faiths know Him by various names though He is still the one true God.

The idea of One God has obviously not been a secret kept by one part of the world or by an exclusive group of people; monotheism has permeated the world and can be found essentially everywhere. It is interesting how different groups have organized their specifications on monotheism. Religion plays a great role in the lives of billions of people worldwide and it is imperative that we try to understand the beliefs of one another and learn to respect them in order to coexist peacefully and productively.

Freshman Umar Alam found that the One God concept is a unifying factor in many unexpected religions, as well as those commonly known (photo courtesy of http://nickbrowne.coraider.com).
Upcoming Concerts near Richmond

Why Do Fools Fall in Love?: April 25 to May 5 at the HAT Theatre
Thrice w/ Circa Survive: 7 p.m. May 3 at The National
Bugs Bunny on Broadway: 8 p.m. May 3 at the Landmark Theater
Richmond Ballet: Studio: 3: May 6 to May 11 at the Landmark Theater
Friday Cheers: free concert series: 6:30 p.m. May 9 to May 27 at Brown’s Island
Evita: May 9 through May 11 at Ferguson Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Brooks & Dunn: 7 p.m. May 9 at Verizon Wireless VA Beach Amphitheater
Finger Eleven: 8 p.m. May 8 at The Norva
Kanye West: 7 p.m. May 11 at the Verizon Wireless VA Beach Amphitheater
Fire & Ice Tour: Paul Wall, Ill Bill, Teck N9NE: 8 p.m. May 11 at Toad’s Place
Disturbed: 8 p.m. May 11 at The National
Live: 8 p.m. May 13 at The Norva
OneRepublic: 7 p.m. May 18 at The Norva
Pearl Jam: 7:30 p.m. June 17 at the Verizon Wireless VA Beach Amphitheater

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