

## **The Virginia Humanities Conference Past and Present: The Perspectives of Three Past Presidents**

**Susan Blair-Green, Jean Filetti, and Peggie Barker**

The history and work of the Virginia Humanities Conference, which has supported the humanities in the Commonwealth for over forty years, has not been previously documented. Rather the organization's rich history has largely been unexamined and maintained by word of mouth and original manuscripts that, prior to 2006, were passed from one Virginia Humanities Conference president to another. Since the past informs the future, understanding the genesis of an organization such as the Virginia Humanities Conference may provide insight into the importance of the Humanities in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the role of its institutions of higher education in committing to ongoing discussion and learning in the fields embraced by the Humanities.

### **Virginia Humanities Conference History: Founding to 1999**

Because there are few written records of the early years of the Virginia Humanities Conference, conclusions regarding its inception and history are largely informed by interviews with individuals associated with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Virginia Humanities Conference. Dr. Robert C. Vaughan, III, President of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities since 1974; Dr. James Lott, Emeritus Professor of English and Dean of the College of Mary Baldwin and President of the Virginia Humanities Conference from 1988-89; Dr. Esther Elstun, retired Professor of German at George Mason University and President of the Virginia Humanities Conference from 1989-1990; and Dr. Kenneth W. Keller, Professor of History, Mary Baldwin College, provided important information regarding the Virginia

Humanities Conference's early years.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, since memory is often inaccurate, these people offered conflicting narratives about the Conference, which this paper attempts to reconcile. Consequently, when information and dates can be substantiated with written documents, now archived and housed at Virginia Commonwealth University, that information is referenced and documented to the Virginia Humanities Conference Archives as opposed to information drawn from the memories of key individuals associated with the humanities in Virginia and gathered from personal interviews.

While some of those interviewed suggested that the Virginia Humanities Conference might have been founded immediately after World War II, possibly as early as the 1940s,<sup>2</sup> it appears more likely that the Virginia Humanities Conference was started in the early to mid-1960s by a group of colleagues from different Virginia institutions.<sup>3</sup> These colleagues probably included Frank MacDonald (from William and Mary), Nancy McGee (from Hampton University), and Graham Hereford (from University of Virginia).<sup>4</sup> What is evident from the interviews and archives is that the Virginia Humanities Conference was an annual meeting of these colleagues with others from Virginia schools invited to present papers and sessions on a topic chosen by each year's president and that this format continued until the mid-1970s.

Meanwhile the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) was founded in 1965 as part of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program. The NEH then encouraged each state to found its own Humanities council. Probably in fall of 1973, the NEH contacted the President of the University of Virginia, Edgar F. Shannon, Jr., and invited him to set up a Humanities council for Virginia. Several of the people the President contacted were also involved with the Virginia Humanities Conference and played a part in the founding of this council. These individuals (MacDonald, McGee, and Hereford) brought the Virginia Humanities Conference to the

attention of the newly formed Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, and this Foundation subsequently became involved in a working relationship with the Virginia Humanities Conference, planning the Virginia Humanities Conference for fall 1974 and continuing, until 1980 or 1981, to contribute approximately \$1000–\$1500 yearly for the Virginia Humanities Conference’s expenses.<sup>5</sup>

By 1980 or 1981 some Virginia Humanities officers decided it might be useful to the organization to have a central office at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities instead of rotating its records yearly through the institutions of each year’s officers. The idea was that the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities would centralize the Virginia Humanities Conference’s records and the membership and mailing lists and handle its treasury while perhaps continuing to provide some minimal funding. However, a number of Virginia Humanities Conference members were strongly opposed to centralizing administrative functions through the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, fearing the Virginia Humanities Conference would be absorbed by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and lose its original character. Ultimately, the Virginia Humanities Conference decided to pull back from its close working relationship with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and to continue as it had originally been formed—an organization that offered one yearly conference and rotated its officers and its “home office” through the various member institutions. After 1980 or 1981 Virginia Humanities Conference presidents often applied to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for funding for specific conferences, but funding was not always granted. By the mid-1990s the perception of Virginia Humanities Conference members seemed to be that the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities was no longer interested in funding the Virginia Humanities Conference. Furthermore, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities had indicated that it would not guarantee annual funding

but would consider individual applications for funding from the Virginia Humanities Conference based on the merit of each.<sup>6</sup> However, no extant documents indicate that the Virginia Humanities Conference officers applied to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for any Conference funding after about 1994.

Before this final “split” took place, probably in 1990 or 1991, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities did provide filing cabinet space for a collection of Virginia Humanities Conference records from the late 1980s and early 1990s.<sup>7</sup> The bulk of these records may have been deposited in the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities headquarters in Charlottesville by Lewis Martin when he served as an officer in the Virginia Humanities Conference, and additional records may have been added in 1997.<sup>8</sup> It seems likely that, over the years, the Virginia Foundation needed the cabinet space and boxed up the Virginia Humanities Conference records and stored them in their “attic.” In 1999, Professor Susan Blair Green, then-President of the Virginia Humanities Conference, visited the headquarters of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, found two large boxes of Virginia Humanities Conference records under the eaves, and retrieved them for the Virginia Humanities Conference. These boxes contained materials pertaining primarily to the annual Conferences for 1988 through 1996 but nothing from the earlier years of the organization. These materials became the beginning of the Virginia Humanities Conference Archives. In early 2000, Susan Blair Green gave the boxes to Jean Filetti, Associate Professor of English at Christopher Newport University, 2002 President of the Virginia Humanities Conference, who kept them in her personal possession until April 2006, when they were moved to the Stanley Library at Ferrum College. In August 2009, the Virginia Humanities Conference archives were all moved to the newly created Humanities Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University, where they will remain for the foreseeable future.<sup>9</sup>

As it moved into the later 1980s and the 1990s, the Virginia Humanities Conference had to work harder to remain financially viable and to attract members and delegates willing to serve as officers. Conference registration fees, institutional membership dues (\$100 per year), and small subsidies (in kind or in cash) from the host institutions were now the primary sources of income with occasional grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.<sup>10</sup> In the late 1990s the Virginia Humanities Conference delegates directed the Treasurer to put approximately half of the organization's treasury into a CD to earn interest income.<sup>11</sup>

As a way to attract presenters, the Virginia Humanities Conference began to publish a professional looking and selective *Proceedings* for its conference. The first of these was edited by Jim Lott for the 1989 conference, "The Treaty of Versailles: The Shaping of the Modern World."<sup>12</sup> The actual printing was done by the Center for Programs in the Humanities at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and was coordinated by the Associate Editor, Carol Burch-Brown. This publication continued for several years, but by 1999 the cost of a bound publication had become prohibitive. The 1999 *Proceedings* were comprehensive but were printed as a spiral booklet, and the cost was covered by Conference registration.

During the early 1990s (e.g., in 1993 and 1994) several Conference presidents tried to provide greater continuity to the Conference by sponsoring a Delegates' meeting six months before the conference itself, usually in the fall.<sup>13</sup> While this meeting was useful for the Delegates, it did not raise the profile of the Virginia Humanities Conference in Virginia, and the dinner and the fall meeting were discontinued after several years. The Virginia Humanities Conference continued as a yearly spring conference with little visibility during the remainder of each year. This lack of visibility was probably complicated by the increasingly higher standards for academic tenure and promotion during the 1990s. As a result even faculty at smaller schools

became less interested in local conferences and more focused on presenting at national conferences and publishing in national journals. While larger Virginia schools like Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the University of Virginia, and Old Dominion University remained active in the Virginia Humanities Conference, the yearly Conference became more and more the business of smaller and independent schools.

By the time Susan Blair Green became Secretary of the Virginia Humanities Conference (1996-97) and then president (1998-99), the Virginia Humanities Conference was generally maintaining its institutional memberships but was having difficulty finding new officers and host institutions willing to sponsor the annual conference.<sup>14</sup> By the time of the 1999 Conference, the Virginia Humanities Conference had neither a Secretary nor a Treasurer. Lana Whited (Ferrum College), who was immediate past-President in 1998-99, generously agreed to help Susan Blair Green with the Conference by serving as Treasurer. In effect, Green functioned as both President and Secretary in 1998-1999, with responsibility for the Conference and for soliciting institutional membership for the year. In consultation with Dr. Whited, Green decided to make an extreme effort, within the bounds of financial responsibility, to raise the visibility of the Virginia Humanities Conference and to encourage other schools in Virginia to join and participate in the organization.

To that end, Green invited two keynote speakers for the Conference (rather than the usual one) and commissioned a special choral concert on the Conference theme. This concert was free and open to the general public as well as to participants in the Virginia Humanities Conference. To publicize the Conference as widely as possible, Green decided to use the Web as much as possible to distribute Conference information. She created and mounted basic but informative Webpages for the Conference (including a Virginia Humanities Conference homepage, a Call for

Papers, a list of officers, a list of member institutions, and eventually the complete Conference program). These were the first or some of the first Webpages used for the Virginia Humanities Conference. Through her Mary Baldwin colleagues, Green placed free Virginia Humanities Conference notices online in History, English, and Philosophy/Religion discussion lists and sent more conventional print notices of the Conference to all Virginia Humanities Conference Delegates and to the Deans of the Virginia Humanities Conference institutions. Green also placed one large ad and several shorter notices in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and had notices in *Left History* (from York University, Toronto), the journal of the American Historical Association, and the *Publications of the Modern Language Association*.

Results were gratifying. The Virginia Humanities Conference had email inquiries from as far away as Japan, the United Kingdom, and Africa, and over 1100 email conversations with inquirers and eventual presenters. The Conference received over 70 proposals and accepted 60. Presenters included graduate students and one panel of undergraduates—the Conference had specifically invited these constituencies—as well as faculty from institutions throughout Virginia and surrounding states. Most of the transactions, including acceptances of papers and correspondence with presenters, were handled by email. Ultimately there were 56 presentations, and a majority of these papers, including the keynote addresses, appeared in a printed *Proceedings*.

By the end of the conference in March 1999, the Virginia Humanities Conference had 20 institutional members with a full slate of officers in place for conferences through 2002. With a lot of hard work, the Virginia Humanities Conference had also been able to mount a strong Conference without depleting its treasury, and while the topic of the Conference in 1999 had been “Anticipating the End,” the Virginia Humanities Conference itself was not ending.

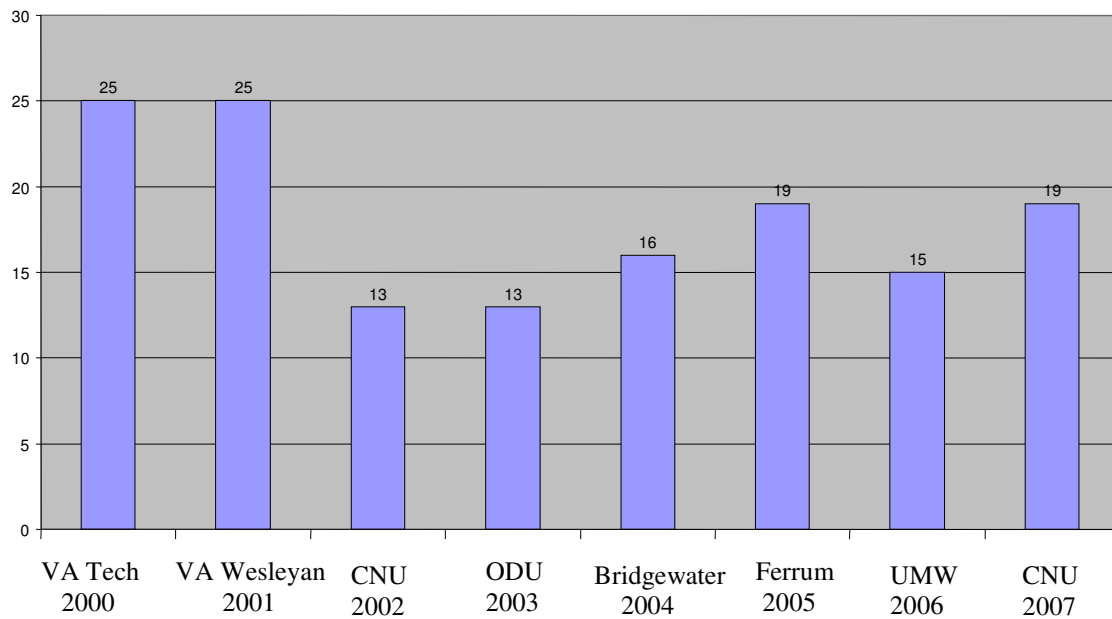
The 1999 Conference also emphasized a heavy reliance on the Internet as a way of disseminating information inexpensively and reducing paperwork for the officers. Through the use of a Website, online discussion lists, and email, the organization was able to publicize the Conference widely and to handle the volumes of correspondence that resulted. The Conference had a strong field of presenters, and a final attendance count (including Mary Baldwin College faculty and students) of nearly 100, which raised participation back to the level of 1989.<sup>15</sup> In short, the decision to spend money to publicize and fully fund the conference was an expensive gamble, but it worked and, in the long run, helped to reinvigorate the Virginia Humanities Conference as it moved into a new century.

### **The Beginning of a New Century: Virginia Humanities Conference 2000-2007**

Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Virginia Humanities Conference was both financially healthy and supported by a full slate of officers as well as strong institutional support. In the years 2000-2007, the Virginia Humanities Conference continued to remain stable, with both the size of the Conference and the number of institutional memberships remaining relatively constant.

During these years, six colleges and universities (Bridgewater College, Christopher Newport University, University of Mary Washington, Ferrum College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Wesleyan College) provided constant support for the Virginia Humanities Conference by renewing their institutional memberships each year. Additionally, Christopher Newport University hosted the annual conference twice during this period (2002 and 2007) and Bridgewater College (2004) and Ferrum College (2005) each hosted the Conference once. Figure 1 shows the number of institutional memberships for each year along with the institutions that hosted the Conference during this period:

## Member Institutions 2000-2007

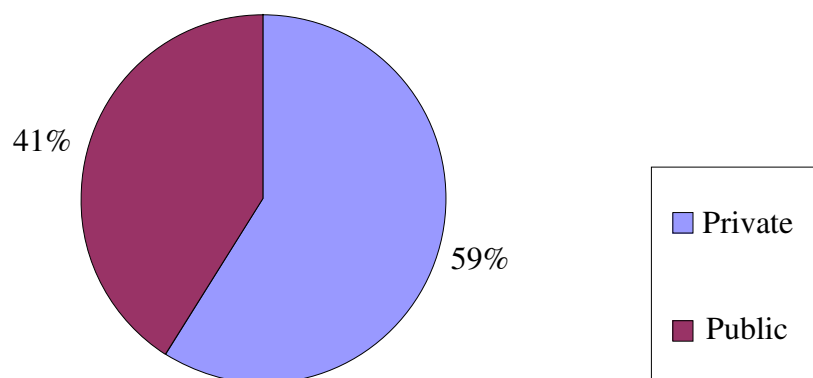


**Figure 1 Institutional Memberships 2000-2007**

2004

In the spring of 2002 and 2003 when Christopher Newport University and Old Dominion University hosted the Conference, the effects of September 11, 2001, on institutional budgets was evident in the slight decline in memberships for those two years. As state funding and the economy recovered, however, institutional memberships again increased. Also, during the years 2000-2007, the conference was supported by more private institutions than public colleges and universities as evident in the Figure 2.

## Memberships by Private and Public Institutions



**Figure 2 Support by Virginia’s Public and Private Institutions of Higher Education**

As September 11, 2001, challenged the citizens of the Commonwealth to make sense of a world turned upside down, the Conference, in meaningful ways, invited its participants to confront, to research, to write about, and to gather to discuss such issues as “States of Emergency: The Humanities in Crisis” (2003), “Humanities in the Age of Technology” (2005), and “Ethics” (2006). During these Conferences the conference participants thought about ways in which academics share, preserve, connect, and teach with technology and ways in which the Humanities can harness technology and ensure that technology will not make the Humanities obsolete. At the 2006 conference held at the University of Mary Washington, in addition to confronting ethical dilemmas in a number of spheres (the military, medicine, journalism, and the classroom), the keynote address, by renowned speaker and writer Thane Rosenbaum, addressed “Historical Truth in an Age of Aesthetic Lawlessness.” From 2000-2007, over 223 papers and presentations expanded the discussion of the Humanities in the Commonwealth.

Finally, from 2000-2007, the Conference's assets grew 26% due to sound investments and fiscally responsible Conference planning. To further preserve the Conference's history, the Virginia Humanities Conference archives (Conference minutes, financial records, Conference programs, delegate and officer correspondence, and By-Laws) were assembled and housed at Ferrum College, and the Conference launched its first permanent Website, which now preserves much of the Conference's history for researchers and the public.

### **Growing, Creating and Looking to the Future**

For a number of years a few individuals who had been active participants in the Virginia Humanities Conference, serving either as officers or delegates, had discussed the fact that the Conference needed to "grow." This perceived need had actually been a recurring one that cropped up repeatedly throughout Conference history as, for a variety of reasons, the Conference faced several downturns. A serious and focused discussion regarding this was begun during the delegates' meeting at Bridgewater College in 2004 under the Presidency and Conference leadership of Dr. Philip O'Mara. The discussion of 2004 continued during the delegates' meeting at Ferrum College in 2005 under the Presidency of Dr. Peggie Barker and led the Virginia Humanities Conference to establish the temporary office of Membership Secretary in 2006 when the Conference was held at the University of Mary Washington under the co-presidency of Drs. Mara Scanlon and Christofer Foss. Dr. Jean Filetti, former Virginia Humanities Conference Treasurer and also a past president, agreed to assume this office for a trial year with the stipulation that the results of her efforts as Membership Secretary, defined and agreed upon by the delegates, would be evaluated at the delegates' meeting in 2007. The Membership Secretary was to develop and maintain a roster of individuals who had either presented at Conferences or been involved with the Virginia Humanities Conference in some

manner through the years and contact these people about the Conference each year. The position was reevaluated in 2007, continued for one additional year, and subsequently eliminated at the delegates' meeting in 2008 when delegates agreed that this position had made no discernible difference in Conference attendance and participation. Routine mailings done by the Treasurer each year, as stipulated in the By-Laws, continue to be the main source of contact with the major two- and four-year institutions within the State.<sup>16</sup> While officers and delegates were in agreement that the Virginia Humanities Conference should grow, records for about the last eight years indicated that the Virginia Humanities had been relatively stable (albeit small) in terms of institutional membership and attendance. Given those figures, the delegates' sense of urgency regarding the Virginia Humanities Conference history and its floating archives overshadowed the perceived need for growth.

The realization that the Virginia Humanities Conference history was incomplete actually developed somewhat earlier than this most recent wish to grow as a conference. Beyond what was presently considered "Archives," much more Conference history still existed, perhaps in the possession of past Conference participants, delegates, and officers, in paper folders and file cabinets and drawers in various offices scattered throughout Virginia. That, coupled with the unfortunate realization that much of the Virginia Humanities Conference's history had already been lost, caused the delegates to feel an urgent need to collect and preserve the Virginia Humanities Conference history while there was still a collective memory of earlier times and while there was still some access to people and records. A first step in preserving the surviving Archives and other paper history was to create a permanent location for these materials in the Stanley Library at Ferrum College in early 2006. Peggie Barker, past President of the Virginia

Humanities Conference, agreed to maintain these and served as the Virginia Humanities Conference's first Archivist of record.

In addition to establishing an archival collection of the organization's extant correspondence, conference materials, conference minutes, and other important documents, in 2005 the Virginia Humanities Conference moved forward to establish a permanent Web presence for the organization. Delegates at the 2005 conference agreed that this would make the organization more visible.<sup>17</sup> Although eventually the created Website would preserve, display, and share some of the records and history of Conference, the early plans were to create a permanent site just to advertise the yearly conference. Although Susan Blair Green may have put up the very first Webpage and included the URL in her publicity materials for her Conference in 1999, and Dana Heller had her Call for Papers mounted on the Web in late 2002, it was not until 2003 that Conference presidents started to have Webpages for their annual conferences. Unfortunately, these sites were dismantled once the conferences were over and, again, important organizational history disappeared as well. Therefore, with a unanimous vote at the delegates' 19 March 2005 meeting, the Virginia Humanities Conference authorized Peggie Barker to contact Suzie Kelly, Ferrum College's Lead Designer and Webmaster, to design and create a permanent site. The first contact was made on 28 March 2005. Due to previous free-lance commitments, it was not until 15 August 2005, that Kelly was able to begin designing the Virginia Humanities Conference site. Kelly and Barker met on that date and began discussing the design as well as the potential cost. Kelly's initial calculations indicated that her fee would be quite reasonable.<sup>18</sup>

At her suggestion Kelly designed two "homepages" for the Virginia Humanities Conference officers to consider. She mounted these designs on her personal server, and Barker

sent the links for both to all the current Virginia Humanities Conference officers for their input and vote. The officers made a final determination as to the preferred design and requested a few additional changes. Kelly then made these changes, mounted the homepage, and actually started building the site.

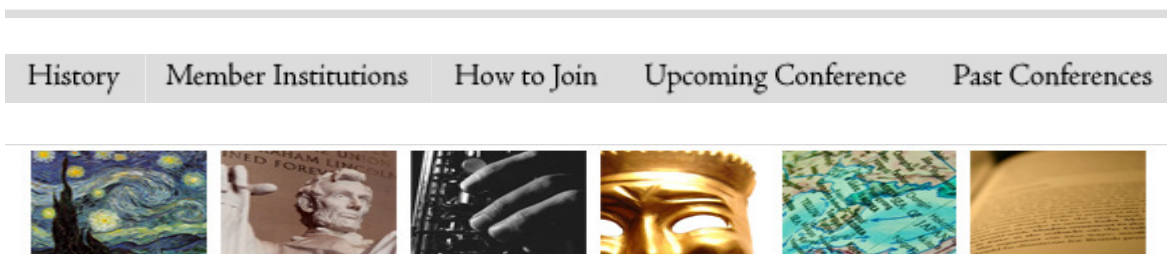
Work continued to expand the Virginia Humanities Conference Web presence, and it quickly moved beyond a venue for advertising the yearly conference. Officers agreed on what links to include on the homepage. At this point, a mission statement was written and added to the site. Barker also started writing a history to mount, based primarily on what she had used on her 2005 Conference site, and expanded it to its final version with comments and suggestions received from the officers and details of Conference history that had been uncovered at that point. Barker then wrote the brief paragraph that was placed under the “How to Join” tab. Kelly had suggested that each year photographs taken at the yearly conference be added in a link under the Conference listing. Drs. Christofer Foss and Mara Scanlon began contributing to this link with their 2006 Conference.

One of the biggest Website-related expenses, the monthly “hosting” fee, was negotiated with Dreamhost, which offered the Conference a two-year special with a low, locked-in monthly rate guaranteed for life, all with no set-up fee and with enough capacity to more than accommodate both present and future Virginia Humanities Conference needs. Approval to move forward with the site was handled via email, with the organization covering this expense and listing Barker as the Website administrator with all future renewals coming to her annually in August. The Dreamhost logo was displayed at the bottom of the homepage along with the site design credited to Hammer Down Design, Kelly’s freelance company. For obvious reasons the site was copyrighted. As Website Coordinator, Barker was responsible for submitting all new

materials to be mounted and all changes to be made to Kelly at a mutually agreeable time after each year's Conference.<sup>19</sup> The Virginia Humanities Conference site "went live" on 17 February 2006. See Figure 3 below:



The **Virginia Humanities Conference** is an organization of universities, colleges, and community colleges in Virginia whose purpose is to promote interest and research in the Humanities.



© 2007 Virginia Humanities Conference

Hosting:  DREAMHOST

Site Design: [Hammer Down Design](#)

<http://vahumanitiesconference.org/>

**Figure 3** Homepage of the Virginia Humanities Conference

## **Concluding Thoughts**

Even though several years have passed since the creation of the Virginia Humanities Conference Website, it is a work in progress and continues to grow and change. Above all, though, the site's purpose remains devoted to maintaining and advocating for the Virginia Humanities Conference as well as engagement in the Humanities in the Commonwealth. Although the Virginia Humanities Conference would like to see the Conference grow, it does not plan to expand beyond the Commonwealth. Unlike larger national and international conferences, the relatively small size of the Virginia Humanities Conference, along with its commitment to supporting the Humanities in Virginia, fosters collegiality and a unique opportunity for the sharing of ideas and research in a small setting that can be so vital to professional growth. Its history shows that, since the 1960s, the organization has worked to establish ongoing study of and engagement in the Humanities among colleagues within the Humanities disciplines at the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education.

## NOTES

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1. James Lott, interview by authors, 3 March 2007; Esther Elstun, interview by authors, 22 March 2007; Robert C. Vaughan, III, interview by authors, 21 March 2007; and Kenneth W. Keller, interview by authors, 25 March 2007.

2. This date was suggested by Robert C. Vaughan, III, interview, 21 March 2007, and is reported in a 31 July 1997 memo to the Virginia Humanities Conference Executive Committee, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives, Humanities Institute, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond.

3. Robert C. Vaughan, III, suggested this more recent date, which seems to be confirmed by a memo from Virginia Humanities Conference Secretary-Treasurer Carol Burch Brown to the deans and directors of Humanities programs at various Virginia colleges and universities. In this memo (24 October 1989), she refers to the fact that the Virginia Humanities Conference is “in its 27<sup>th</sup> year,” thus dating the foundation of the Virginia Humanities Conference to 1962, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

4. These names were suggested by Robert C. Vaughan, III. In a later email (30 March 2007), Vaughan also suggested that Guy Hammond, an early Virginia Humanities Conference member now retired from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, may have been involved in this work as well.

5. This information and additional information up through the 1980s was provided by Robert C. Vaughan, III.

6. Vaughan, email, 30 March 2007.

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7. In a memo to the Virginia Executive Committee dated 2 April 1991, Lewis Martin (then-president of the Virginia Humanities Conference) indicated that he and Carol Burch Brown had taken a filing cabinet of Virginia Humanities Conference records and left it in the Foundation offices on Ednam Drive in Charlottesville, Virginia, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

8. On 31 July 1997, Susan Blair Green sent a memo to Lewis Martin indicating that she had looked through the Virginia Humanities Conference records stored at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. By that time the filing cabinet had been absorbed by the Foundation, and the Virginia Humanities Conference records were in a large cardboard file kept in storage at the Foundation office. In this memo, Green provided a list of records stored as of 1997, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

9. Presently, Dr. Kirk Richardson at Virginia Commonwealth University serves as the contact person for the archives.

10. It appears that the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities granted funding for the Virginia Humanities Conference in April 1989 (letter from Jim Lott to Virginia Humanities Conference officers, 29 November 1988) and possibly again in 1991 (memo to Virginia Humanities Conference Executive Committee from Lewis Martin, 2 April 1991), Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

11. Minutes of the 1997 Delegates' Meeting report that "for the first time the Virginia Humanities Conference invested some of its assets in an interest-bearing CD," Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

12. Information from Jim Lott and Esther Elstun, interviews, March 2007.

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13. Such meetings were held at the College of William and Mary in the fall of 1993 and at Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 1994, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

14. Over the years the Virginia Humanities Conference membership declined, going from roughly half to two-thirds of the 39 two- and four-year institutions it contacted for membership. In 1989, it had 34 members (memo from Carol Burch Brown, 24 October 1989), and in May 1998 it had 26 members (Green's own records as Secretary), Virginia Humanities Conference Archives. In March 1999 it had 20 members (Website from the 1999 conference); in May 2000 it had 25 member institutions, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

15. Lott, interview, 3 March 2007.

16. Letters soliciting membership renewal are sent out each August to college and university Provosts and Deans with reminder letters going out in November to those who have not responded.

17. See the minutes of the 2005 Virginia Humanities Conference, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

18. The process of designing, creating, and launching the Website can be found in the minutes of the 2006 conference, Virginia Humanities Conference Archives.

19. All email correspondence related to the launching of the Website can be found in the Virginia Humanities Conference Archives. Additionally, since the design and approval process conducted via email worked extremely well, the Conference officers and delegates continue to use this venue as a means of conducting Conference business beyond the annual Delegates' Meeting.