

# Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges

---

Volume 17 | Issue 1

Article 8

---

2012

## Front Matter

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.vccs.edu/inquiry>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Higher Education and Teaching Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

(2012). Front Matter. *Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges*, 17 (1). Retrieved from <https://commons.vccs.edu/inquiry/vol17/iss1/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ VCCS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ VCCS. For more information, please contact [tcassidy@vccs.edu](mailto:tcassidy@vccs.edu).

---

---

# INQUIRY

THE  
JOURNAL  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES

---

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2012

Published by the Virginia Community College System

Copyright 2012 © Virginia Community College System

All rights reserved. No portion of this journal may be reproduced without written permission from an editor.

Printed in the United States of America

Managing Editor      Glenda Potts  
*J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College*

Editors      Rhonda Catron-Wood  
*Wytheville Community College*  
Jereial Fletcher  
*Southwest Virginia Community College*  
Ghazala Hashmi  
*J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College*  
Benjamin Sloan  
*Piedmont Virginia Community College*  
Terry Whisnant  
*Southside Virginia Community College*

Founding Editor      Susan Coffey  
*Virginia Community College System (retired)*

Editorial Board      The editors of *Inquiry* constitute the publication's editorial board.

Design      Office of Graphic Communications  
*Virginia Department of General Services*

Cover Art      "Gossip Tails" by David R. Barton,  
winner of 2012 Inquiry Cover Artwork Contest,  
Mountain Empire Community College.

# INQUIRY

THE  
JOURNAL  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 SPRING 2012

**The State of Mental Health on College Campuses** **5**

*By Melissa Wood*

In the past twenty years, the number of college students with clinical depression and suicidal tendencies has tripled, and approximately 1.6 million students sought counseling assistance last year. It is perhaps no wonder that acts of violence on campuses have increased as well. This article examines what administrators can do in order to protect our colleges from further tragic occurrences.

**Building a Community on the Fast Track: ENG. 09/111 at Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) as a Tier C Model** **17**

*By Lana Velez with Kevin Riley*

This author organized and taught the new ENG 09/111 classes at her college, as well as authoring the course text and workbook. In this article, she details the course structure, discusses its statistical assessment, and includes the reactions from students who have taken the class.

**Teaching Introductory Psychology in the Community College Classroom: Enhancing Student Understanding and Retention of Essential Information** **27**

*By Scott M. Debb, Ed.D. and Sharon M. Debb, M.A.*

Here the authors describe a study conducted to determine whether a “Test Yourself” procedure, administered either before or after a lecture, might improve students’ retention of the information, as well as stimulate critical thinking.

**Medieval Day at Reynolds: An Interdisciplinary Learning Event** **37**

*By Nancy S. Morrison*

A single day at this college involved faculty, staff, and students in an interdisciplinary teaching and learning experience. In this article, the primary organizer of Reynolds’s Medieval Day discusses its origin, details the schedule of events, and dispenses advice for any who might be interested in creating a similar college-wide experience.

**Teaching with a Global Perspective** **43**

*By Dr. Percy Richardson*

This author encourages the adoption of global thinking in the classroom, and emphasizes that the teaching of cultural literacy and foreign language skills are necessary to prepare students for job opportunities in the global market. He also discusses the prospects for travel abroad for both students and faculty.

**An Ex Post Facto Study of First-year Student Orientation as an Indicator of Student Success at a Community College** **51**

*By Dr. Amanda Ellis-O’Quinn*

New student orientation courses are one of the most popular methods used by colleges to address student attrition, but there is little research to show whether these courses are effective. This article features a study which examined the relationship between enrollment in orientation courses and increased student retention.