Today’s College Man Conference
Richmond College of The University of Richmond
October 13, 2014

➤ Things I learned from my 12 year old son: The obligation and observation of men teaching men:

For too long, many men have sat idly by, waiting for good things, or bad things, to simply happen to them. In the media, we are bombarded with messages of power, dominance, and ‘the problem with men’, yet we often choose to serve in a victim role, instead of flipping the script, and owning our role in the necessary cultural shift towards a more inclusive form of masculinity. In his presentation, Barry will blend the ideas of privilege, inclusion, and our own obligations through the lens of his relationship with his own son, and what he has learned by being a father to both boys and girls.

Barry Olson is a student affairs professional from North Carolina State University. He earned his doctorate in 2010, focusing on the areas of privilege and identity among young student affairs professionals, and has served as the scholar practitioner in residence with the Men and Masculinity Knowledge Community through NASPA since 2013. He and his partner have three children, and have been in the Raleigh area for 14 years.

➤ Masculinity, Social Construction, and Radical Empathy:

This presentation invites us to take a step back from the focus on “today’s college man” to consider some of the broader forces shaping public understandings of masculinity. In particular, the presentation focuses on ways that masculinity is an "absent presence" of key social structures, and highlights some crucial ways that masculinity is a repressed aspect of our collective consciousness. The concept of “radical empathy” is offered as a possible method for addressing this repression and to addressing the complexities surrounding today’s college man.

Glyn Hughes is a sociologist and the Director of Common Ground, the University of Richmond's diversity, social justice, and community building initiative. Over twenty years ago, Glyn’s political and scholarly teeth were cut as an HIV/AIDS activist. Those experiences shaped Glyn’s abiding concern with patterns of dehumanization shaped by broad institutional forces. Glyn’s publications, presentations, and classes cover such topics as masculinity and media; queer social movements; race, managerialism, and the NBA; hegemonic impediments to change in higher education; and pedagogical approaches to sexual assault and the challenges of men in women’s studies.

➤ Defining an Authentic Male Population: The I am Richmond College Campaign:

Getting college men to talk about diversity and define masculinity can be an ostentatious challenge. In an effort to address inclusivity within the all-male Richmond College population, we entered into this discussion asking students to reflect on their own identity and background. Each story was unique and authentic, and so I am Richmond College grew into a campaign to define the College and our definition of masculinity. This presentation will explore the process that led to today’s version of I am Richmond College, and how this has helped us to define masculinity and form a more inclusive message.

Kevin Corn is in his third year as an Area Coordinator in the Richmond College Dean’s Office at the University of Richmond. His primary responsibilities concern supervision of all first-year male residence halls, as well as a sophomore scholars learning community building. Corn has facilitated programs especially focused for the first-year male population regarding diversity and inclusion, international perspectives, and defining masculinity. Corn earned his BA in American History with a Minor in African-American Studies from Washington and Lee University, and an MA in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of Connecticut.
Collectively Constructing Masculinity via Social Media:

What does social media tell us about masculinity? This discussion will highlight the ways social media users define maleness; it will stress the importance of locating narratives, or creating counter-narratives, of modern "manhood" and the positive potential that can result from those perspectives.

Dr. Julianna Guillard Visiting Lecturer in Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at the University of Richmond.

Winning with Character: Building a Championship Program:

Coach Rocco will focus on Qualities of a Champion, Character Education, Taught/Improved, Respect/Dignity, and Leadership.

Head coach Danny Rocco arrived in 2012 and immediately made good on the promise he made the day he was hired - return the Spider program back to its winning ways. For his efforts, Rocco was named a finalist not only for the Eddie Robinson Award, but also the Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year Award. Both distinctions marked the fourth time that Rocco had been named a finalist for the two honors in his seven years as a head coach. Rocco was also named The Touchdown Club of Richmond's NCAA Division I Commonwealth of Virginia Coach of the Year.

No Mud, No Lotus: How to Be Where We Are So We Can Reach College Men Where They Are

Weaving together seemingly disparate subjects, Conaway will plunge into his backgrounds—abused child, mixed martial artist, poet—to extract how our personal pursuit of authenticity can help us help college men discover themselves and, in the process, their own path.

Cameron Conaway is a former MMA fighter and an award-winning poet. He is the 2014 Emerging Writer-in-Residence at Penn State Altoona and he’s the author of five books: Caged: Memoirs of a Cage-Fighting Poet (Threed Press), Until You Make the Shore (Salmon Poetry), Bonemeal (Finishing Line Press), Chittagong (Iris Press) and Malaria, Poems (Michigan State University Press).

Overlooked and Misunderstood: Masked mental health issues of college men:

Dr. McMillan and Dr. Day from the University of Richmond’s Counseling and Psychological Services department will discuss two misunderstood clinical areas of concern that college men face today. Dr. McMillan will discuss…. Dr. Day will address the comorbidity of ADHD and substance use. Prevalence, risk factors, behavioral indicators and possible interventions will be reviewed.

Dr. Jan McMillan is a Licensed Professional Counselor at the University of Richmond Counseling and Psychological Services Center. She serves on the eating disorders treatment team and is the liaison for the Office of International Education. Dr. Kris Day is a Licensed Professional Counselor at the University of Richmond Counseling and Psychological Services Center. Dr. Day serves on various sexual assault prevention committees and is the liaison for the Office of Common Ground.
Starting a Men's Program on the College Campus:

Collegiate Men’s (Development) Programs can engage men in a way that positively directs their interaction with the campus, specifically with recognizing how being male impacts the way they relate, communicate and ultimately lead. This session will explore the how-to for creating/developing a Men’s Program on your campus including assessing the need for, and student interest in, such a program. We will utilize the Men and Leadership Program at Christopher Newport University as a starting point for the conversation.

Mr. Frank Council, Director of Student Activities, Christopher Newport University

The Language of Sexism and Rape Culture: Attitude Reflects Leadership:

Participants will interactively analyze, consider, and discuss the implications of everyday language used in the media and by individuals that fuels sexism and rape culture. Come discuss common language that communicates male superiority and that ultimately impacts attitudes and belief systems.

Tremayne D. Robertson is a native Virginia and currently works at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) as the violence prevention health educator. At VCU Tremayne works in sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking advocacy services. For over ten years he was worked and learned from male students committed to ending violence one man at a time.