



William and Mary Students for Life

PO Box 1686 - Williamsburg, VA - 23187
www.wm.edu/so/studentsforlife

Inside:

- ❖ Maryanne Christensen speaks about how abortion affects college women
- ❖ Jackie Malone, Vice President of PLAGAL
- ❖ Pregnancy Resources Forum
- ❖ New SFL T-Shirts

To all our donors:

Thank you very much for your contribution to William and Mary Students for Life. Your support is what makes our efforts for life possible.

Letter from the President

Dear friends,

Happy holidays and best wishes for 2006!

William and Mary Students for Life has been hard at work this semester hosting speakers and events to bring the right-to-life issue to the attention of the college community. We have renewed our efforts to reach out to other groups on campus whose interests are not commonly associated with the cause for life. In September, we hosted Jackie Malone, Vice President of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL). October marked our long-awaited Pregnancy Resources Forum, which had been one of our major goals for the year. We invited representatives from Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX), and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) to join us at the Forum to learn how the needs of pregnant women are being met in the Williamsburg area. Our hope is to form a joint committee – currently in the works – to approach the administration and suggest improvements which will create a mother- and child-friendly environment. In November we introduced the topic of stem cell research, investigating the benefits of adult stem cells and the medical facts of this hotly contested issue. Also, we were fortunate enough to have a return visit from Mrs. Christensen, a former Project Rachel volunteer and the mother of an alumna, whose speech concerned abortion's traumatizing psychological impact on many women.

Come January 20th, we will be traveling with a record number of attendees

to Washington DC, for the annual conference of the American Collegians for Life. The March for Life on the 23rd will see a group of at least twenty-five hearty SFL members braving the cold and whatever the skies may throw at us for the sake of the unborn. Our plans for next semester include a benefit concert for the local crisis pregnancy center, our second annual Pro-Life Week featuring several speakers and special events, a memorial for Terri-Schindler Schiavo, and a stronger emphasis on discussion and news items, both domestic and international. Overall, it looks to be a busy and exciting spring, and I believe we will have truly great things to report to you when it ends.

Thank you for your continued interest and support, which give us such inspiration and make it possible for us to carry out our mission in defense of life. God bless.

Sincerely,
Amy Green

Upcoming Events

- January 21:** American Collegians for Life Conference in Washington, DC
- January 23:** March for Life in Washington, DC
- February 6-10:** 2nd Annual Pro-Life Week at W&M
- February 8:** Dr. Angela Lanfranchi on the connection between abortion and breast cancer
- March 29:** Pro-Life Bioethics Speaker Wesley J. Smith
- March 31:** Memorial for Terri Schiavo

Maryanne Christensen speaks to Students for Life about the effects of abortion on college women

By Rebecca Hamfeldt

Toward the end of our fall semester, Students for Life was lucky enough to have Mrs. Maryanne Christensen return to campus to speak to our members. This year she again shared how greatly abortion really does hurt women and how Project Rachel helps those women mourning after an abortion. She also brought a new message: honing in on just how abortions affect women, especially those in college, and how students can talk to friends coping with the considerations and consequences of abortion.

Mrs. Christensen first shared what is available for these women through Project Rachel, a simultaneously convicting and comforting message. Members of Project Rachel serve to be one thing to a woman suffering after an abortion: a “friend for their journey of grief.” It was convicting to realize just how much healing these women need after an abortion, yet great to know this level of help is available to them.

Mrs. Christensen then went on to explain how the women of Project Rachel are trained to help women in this time of grief, as a way to also communicate what we, as college students, can say and do for friends in need. A key component, she said, is simply affirming and acknowledging their pain, letting them know that it’s not wrong or atypical to grieve after an abortion, as they are often led to believe.

She also advised that it is important to fully consider where the woman is coming from emotionally, physically, and spiritually after an abortion. Possible difficulties and

complications she mentioned included the abrupt stop of large hormonal changes in her body that were underway during the pregnancy, feelings of spiritual alienation, depression, loss of dignity, and emotional grief due to pressures for the abortion from the father of the child. Mrs. Christensen also explained that other more obvious “symptoms” of an abortion could be warning signs of a need for help: alcoholism, drug abuse, eating disorders, suicidal tendencies and sexual promiscuity.

She then gave specific instructions about how to help a suffering woman. She suggested making sure a woman takes her full treatment of any antibiotics given to her afterward, encouraging her to eat and bringing her food if necessary, helping her cope with stress and bereavement and breaking down her problems into smaller problems which are easier to tackle.

All of Mrs. Christensen’s advice was very helpful and provided practical and effective ways to help women who may be suffering on our campus. Her words also again made real the traumatic effects abortion has on women and served as an excellent reminder of why we must continue to work towards stopping abortion, both on our William & Mary campus and beyond.



Abortion Facts:

- ❖ 45% of Virginia’s abortions are performed on college women
- ❖ 74% of post-abortive women felt their abortions were morally wrong
- ❖ 81% felt guilty afterward

Students host Pregnancy Resources Forum

By Danny Cogut

An unplanned pregnancy is a traumatic experience, especially when the person facing it is a student in college. Women in this situation need support from friends and family, and also services from groups around them. Unfortunately, in a college setting, information about pregnancy help is not always readily available.

On October 26, SFL hosted a group of representatives from several organizations who discussed resources available in the community for students who experience an unplanned pregnancy and want to have their child while continuing their education. From on campus, representatives from the Student Health Center, the Counseling Center, and the Office of the Dean of Students were present. From off campus, representatives from Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, Bethany Christian Services, and Care Net comprised the rest of the panel. Both Catholic Charities and Care Net operate local pregnancy care centers, and Bethany Services facilitates adoption, as well as other social services. SFL also presented information from Residence Life and the Williamsburg Department of Human Services.

Each speaker spoke for about ten minutes on the services her group had to offer. The Student Health Center focuses on services for early stages of pregnancy, and they refer students to other services both on and off campus, such as counseling. The Counseling Center works to ensure that pregnant

students do not rush decisions and provides counseling for any choice they make. The Dean of Students Office makes academic accommodations for students facing a pregnancy, such as decreasing workloads and processing requests for medical leave. Residence Life provides limited on-campus family housing at Ludwell Apartments.

Both Catholic Charities and Care Net provide free pregnancy testing and counseling for all persons involved in the pregnancy at their pregnancy care centers. They also provide post-abortion counseling. Bethany Christian Services, based out of Virginia Beach, provides all ranges of adoption, from closed to open, as well as foster care and family support. Finally, there are social services available through the City of Williamsburg for students living on campus.

After they spoke, the speakers asked the people in the audience what suggestions they had for improving their services. There were many good questions and answers.

This event was the culmination of months of planning and work, and it was a great success. SFL finished compiling a pregnancy resources brochure outlining the services provided by the groups present beforehand, and there were copies available at the forum. We were very heartened to see that this forum showed that there was a need for improvement in our community, and that there are people who want to make changes. We hope that we can now begin to work with the administration and other groups to make those changes a reality.



Panelists and audience at the Pregnancy Resources Forum

"Women who experience unplanned pregnancy also deserve unplanned joy." – Patricia Heaton

The future of pregnancy resources at William and Mary

By Katie Poandl

Although our Pregnancy Resources Forum successfully raised many issues and brought good suggestions to our attention, our work has just begun. We now must try to implement those suggestions into concrete changes on our campus. To that end Students for Life is working with other groups on campus, most notably the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, to form a Pregnancy Resources Committee whose sole purpose would be to evaluate the state of resources for pregnant women on campus and in the community and work to improve them.

There are many areas for the Committee to address. The first is the relative lack of family housing provided by the College. The waiting list for this housing is so long that most students graduate before they get an apartment, clearly demonstrating that this is an unmet need at William & Mary. With two new dorms opening next year, we are hoping that an expansion of family housing options is available. We would also like to see a program implemented in Resident Assistant training and possibly new student orientation about how to talk to a woman experiencing an

unplanned pregnancy. In addition, we are hoping to explore the options for reduced prices for students at Campus Childcare, the William & Mary affiliated daycare.

To further facilitate access to information about the resources that are already available, we would like a website created that lists all of the on-campus offices that work together when a woman has an unplanned pregnancy and wants to stay in school. These offices include the Office of the Dean of Students, Residence Life, the Counseling Center, and the Student Health Center. We would also like to see the Pregnancy Resources Brochure that SFL compiled last year disseminated to various places on campus and in the community. Our last immediate goal is to have information detailing what steps a pregnant woman should take to have academic accommodations made for her printed in the Student Handbook.

There is much room for improvement, but the positive response we received from the Pregnancy Resources Forum is a great start, and with the dedication inherent in every William & Mary student, I have no doubt we will soon have more changes to report.



Panelists from Catholic Charities, CareNet, and the Dean of Students at the Pregnancy Resources Forum

Students for Life T-Shirts

You can purchase a W&M SFL navy blue long-sleeve t-shirt with the W&M SFL logo on the front and a quote from Anna Sewall, "They do not suffer less because they have no words" on the back in white writing for \$20 each.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Quantity: S M L XL Total # of shirts: ____ x \$20 each = ____ Total Payment

Please cut out this form and send it along with payment to: **William and Mary Students for Life**
P.O. Box 1686

Please make checks payable to W&M Students for Life. **Williamsburg, VA 23187**



Jackie Malone,
VP of PLAGAL

"We do not believe that disagreements are reasons to stop us from working together to save the life of somebody else's child." – Priests for Life

Visit our new website located at www.wm.edu/so/studentsforlife

Speaker Jackie Malone, Vice President of PLAGAL

By Stephen Braunlich

Students for Life hit the ground running by bringing to campus Jackie Malone of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL) on September 21. Malone, who is the executive vice president of PLAGAL, spoke to a crowd of over 50 students on the connection between her pro-life and pro-homosexuality beliefs.

While Malone and PLAGAL are concerned with all aspects of the pro-life movement – everything from the physical and psychological effects of abortion on women to the death of an unborn child--they have a special concern regarding the impact of abortion on the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community.

"Right now, scientists...have found factors [that may determine sexual orientation] on several different genes," said Malone. "Would that be an issue for parents in choosing whether to have an abortion?"

Malone also asserted that it was wrong for the GLBT community to claim

abortion is a private issue while simultaneously fighting to make any sexual orientation acceptable in public. As evidence, she pointed to abortion provider and advocate Planned Parenthood's sale of t-shirts which state, "I had an abortion."

The existence of common interests between the GLBT community – which is generally regarded as liberal--and the pro-life movement – which is generally regarded as conservative--was previously unknown to many students. Yet, PLAGAL has membership in over eight countries and has spoken at pride events in Boston, Baltimore, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C.

According to Students for Life Treasurer Teri Tolpa, the event was a success. "One of the goals of Students for Life is to spread the pro-life message to as many different groups of people as possible," she said. "PLAGAL broadened the pro-life community on campus by bringing the pro-life message to a group of people who are not typically approached by pro-lifers."

Upcoming events from William and Mary Students for Life

By Teri Tolpa

The Spring 2006 semester at William and Mary promises to be a very busy one for Students for Life. Less than a week after it starts, 15 members will be attending the annual American Collegians for Life conference in Washington, DC. Two days later, several more students will join them at the March for Life.

SFL's second annual Pro-Life Week will take place February 6 - 10 with a full week of pro-life activities and events,

including a luminary memorial for the victims of abortion and two pro-life speakers. One of the speakers will be Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, who will speak about the abortion-breast cancer connection.

On March 29, Students for Life will host Wesley J. Smith, a renowned pro-life bioethics speaker and writer to discuss the topic: "Bioethics: Creating a Disposable Caste of People?"

Finally, SFL will hold a memorial in remembrance of Terri Schiavo on March 31.

Thank you for all your support!