

SPECIAL INTEREST ARTICLES:

- ❖ WILLIAM AND MARY'S
FIRST ANNUAL PRO-
LIFE WEEK
- ❖ VIRGINIA
COLLEGIANS FOR
LIFE FIRST ANNUAL
CONFERENCE.

INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS:

**NEW RESIDENT
ASSISTANCE
INITIATIVE**

**STUDENTS ATTEND
AMERICAN
COLLEGIANS FOR
LIFE CONFERENCE**

**RECORD STUDENT
NUMBERS AT THE
MARCH FOR LIFE**



William and Mary Students for Life

PO Box 1686 - Williamsburg, VA - 23187

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Pro-lifers

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our end-of-the-year newsletter. Students for Life has had a fantastic semester and overall a wonderful year. Due to the generous support of our donors this semester we were able to host our first annual Pro-Life Week, send students to conferences with Virginia Collegians for Life and American Collegians for Life, and continue our volunteer work at the Care Center. Articles about all of these events can be found in this newsletter.

At our last officers meeting, we compiled a list of all the achievements of this year and compared it with achievements of last year and years past. The difference is astounding: SFL has grown by leaps and bounds. For example, last year our listserv (email list of members) consisted of about 75 names or less. This year, our listserv has grown to over 200 names! For another example, last year, we sent about a dozen students to the March for Life and this year it was over twenty!

Although this year has been a smashing success, there is still more work to be done. Both the new and the old officers have many hopes for the future of SFL. We hope to continue to set records for ourselves and to expand our membership and our activities. Some events that we hope to host next year include a benefit concert for the new Bethany Services, more speakers about pro-life issues such as stem cell research or euthanasia, and maybe even a debate with VoX, the campus Planned Parenthood group.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the members of

this year's wonderful officers board for all of their hard work and dedication. Words cannot express how grateful and blessed I feel for having the honor of working with all of them. Their willingness to go above and beyond to make this group into something spectacular still amazes me. I would also like to thank all of our members, without whom all of our events and programs would not have been possible. I will miss this group tremendously after I graduate, yet I know that I leave it in the good and capable hands of Amy Green, the new officers, and our dedicated members. I

Schedule of Events

Spring 2005

**Jan 22-23 - American Collegians for
Life Annual Conference,
Washington, D.C.**

**Jan 24 - National March for Life
Washington, D.C.**

Feb 14-18 - Pro-Life Week

Mar - Resident Hall Outreach

**Apr 2-3- Virginia Collegians for Life
1st Annual Conference,
Charlottesville, VA**

**Apr 20 - Kate Bonhaus,
Rachel's Vineyard**

May 3 - Bethany Services Banquet

STUDENTS HOLD FIRST ANNUAL PRO-LIFE WEEK

By Katie Poandl

Students for Life held its first annual Pro-Life Week this year! It kicked off on Valentine's Day, an appropriate day to show our love for life. Most SFL members wore our shirts from this year that day, which are red, have "Life is Beautiful," across the front in Italian, and have the lovely quote on the back from Susan B. Anthony. The entire week, SFL members staffed a table in the University Center during peak lunch and dinner hours. The table was filled with interesting and important information, such as a board displaying resources in the community, a Quote of the Day, and a rose display surrounding the statistic that 1 in 4 women will have had an abortion by the time they are 40 at the rate the abortions are currently being performed. We had free brochures about post-abortion counseling for women and men and free pins to pass out. T-shirts from this year and the two previously years were available for sale and almost sold out! We also had more people sign up to be added to our emailing listserve. As someone who staffed the table for about an hour each day, I was pleased by the reception we received. I was worried that people would be hostile or confrontational, but instead many students were willing to talk to us, and we have seen many students, even those that don't come to meetings weekly, wearing our shirts around campus.

Our first activity of the week was speaker Marcella Conigliaro. She is a post-abortive woman who agreed to talk to us about her experiences and share her compelling story. She explained that she became pregnant when she was very young. Her boyfriend did not want to keep the baby, and she was afraid to tell her parents. She felt as though the only choice she had was to have an abortion. After the procedure, she was defensively pro-choice for a long time

until she returned to the Catholic Church and discovered Project Rachel, the Arlington Diocese's post-abortion counseling organization. She has begun to heal, and is brave enough to share her story with others to spread her message.

On Thursday night, we held a luminary display. We lined both sides of the street that passes the Crim Dell with paper bags filled with lit candles. Each candle represented 20 women and unborn children affected by abortion every day. It was a very powerful sight, and people walking around campus that night definitely noticed.

Our Students for Life meeting that week was a special Q & A hour in which the officers answered questions on any aspect of the pro-life movement to the best of their abilities. Questions ranged from how to counsel a post-abortive woman to apologetics for the pro-life movement to stem cell research. A member of the college newspaper attended the meeting and used some of the information in his article about the entire week.

To end Pro-Life week with a bang, Karen Harris from Black Americans for Life came to speak to us. She is a powerful speaker, and brings a unique perspective to the pro-life movement. Her message is uncompromising and she uses personal experience to back it up. Doctors and friends advised her to abort one of her daughters who was found to have a birth defect. She did not choose to have the abortion, and her daughter is now an extremely successful high school student. Mrs. Harris addressed the impact that abortion has on black communities, talking about the problems that are specific to blacks, such as the statistic that blacks are 3x more likely to have an abortion than whites, and that abortion reduces their political voice. She also addressed the issue that organizations like Planned Parenthood target black women and counseled them harder for abortions than white women. Her message was well received by all who attended, and was an overall success.

Pro-Life week is a great way to make Students for Life more visible on campus



SFL MEMBERS STAND WITH SPEAKER KAREN HARRIS DURING PRO-LIFE WEEK.

STUDENTS FOR LIFE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO MADE A DONATION TO OUR ORGANIZATION OR TO THE CARE CENTER. WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY, NONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

2005 VIRGINIA COLLEGIANS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE

By Danny Cogut

The 2005 Virginia Collegians for Life conference, chaired by our own Stephen Braunlich, took place at the University of Virginia on the weekend of April 2-3. Guests in attendance represented organizations such as the Susan B. Anthony List, the Virginia Society for Human Life, Feminists for Life, Faith2Action, Project Rachel, and Silent No More. The workshops were very informative, ranging from practical advice on how to lead an active campus organization, information on the history of the pro-life movement, and how to frame the

message back at our college campuses. The highlight of the weekend was a speech delivered by Janet Folger, the president of Faith2Action. Having worked tirelessly with the Schindler family to keep Terri Schiavo alive, she gave an inspiring message about courage, and how the people working for the pro-life cause will be remembered for fighting for the good, the *absolute truth*.

Even though we ended the conference with a greater understanding of the difficult, and perhaps long, path in front of us, it was exciting to see such dedicated people leading us, as well as other college students who were committed to the same cause.

NEW RESIDENCE ASSISTANT INITIATIVE

By Jessica Lankford

This semester, we started a new project on campus, equipping RAs to deal with unplanned pregnancy and post-abortive needs. Each RA, formally the "resident assistant," is assigned a residence hall and is in charge of building community, enforcing policy and being the first resource for any resident of that hall. More simply, RAs are on the front lines of every crisis that happens in a dorm. As an RA myself, I found that we had absolutely no training in an area so pertinent. If the statistics for freshman age women in Virginia are correct, a typical hall would have about 4 pregnancies and 1 abortion, not including any friends that a resident may be worried about. I pointed this out to my boss and we started talking.

Throughout the year, SFL has been

collecting information and contact info for resources for pregnancy women on campus and in the community. We have produced a brochure, which we are working on getting into the hands of RAs, the Health Center, the Counseling Center and other brochure stacks around campus.

My smaller staff has now received these brochures and Marianne Christensen, the director of Project Rachel for Arlington, came to one of our RA meetings. She spoke to us about some very practical tips for helping women who have been through an abortion come to healing. Her presentation greatly impressed the summer training coordinator, who has said he would like to have her speak during our formal training in the summer. We are very much looking forward to working with Residence Life further to provide tools to all the RAs for helping students who are in difficult positions concerning pregnancy and abortion.

"THE CARE OF HUMAN LIFE AND HAPPINESS AND NOT THEIR DESTRUCTION IS THE FIRST AND ONLY LEGITIMATE OBJECT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT."

-THOMAS JEFFERSON



SFL MEMBERS SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME TOGETHER AFTER THE MARCH.

"NO ONE WANTS AN ABORTION AS SHE WANTS AN ICE CREAM CONE OR A PORSCHE. SHE WANTS AN ABORTION AS AN ANIMAL, CAUGHT IN A TRAP, WANTS TO GNAW OFF ITS OWN LEG."

-FREDERICA MATHEWES GREEN

STUDENTS MARCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Rebecca Hamfeldt



**NEWLY ELECTED SFL
PRESIDENT AMY GREEN
WITH FORMER PRESIDENT
BETH CLITES AT THE
MARCH FOR LIFE**

On January 24, 2005, William and Mary Students for Life was excited to bring 23 students to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The group included many club members, as well as other pro-life students on campus who responded to our fliers. The group drove to Northern Virginia where they convened with Spiders for Life, the University of Richmond's pro-life organization, at the Knights of Columbus. The Knights were kind enough to host a bus which took everyone into Washington D.C.

The march itself proved to be both an encouraging and enlightening experience. William and Mary Students for Life proudly displayed pro-life messages and marched with fellow pro-lifers from around the world. Of particular note, the group met pro-lifers from other colleges

around the country, from Brazil, and even 'George Washington' himself! Marching up the hill provided an awesome opportunity to look back over the tremendous crowd gathered for the pro-life cause; the view was inspiring.

After the march, the Knights of Columbus hosted a chili dinner for Virginia Collegians for Life marchers, which everyone much appreciated after spending the day in the cold Washington D.C. air. Overall, the day was a great success, and everyone who participated felt infused with a new fervor for the pro-life cause.

We cannot thank you enough for all of our support, which allows us to attend these important, nationwide events like the March for Life. Personally, this year's march was the first time I was able to attend, and I am so grateful for the ability to participate. Thank you for making this possible.

Support W&M SFL

DEAR AMY,

I'M GRATEFUL FOR WILLIAM AND MARY STUDENTS FOR LIFE'S WORK TO EDUCATE THE COLLEGE ABOUT THE RIGHT TO LIFE. YOUR PROGRAMS, SPEAKERS, AND TRIPS PROVIDE THE NECESSARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR YOUNG PRO-LIFERS TO ADVANCE A CULTURE OF LIFE ON CAMPUS.

TO HELP SUPPORT WILLIAM AND MARY STUDENTS FOR LIFE FOR NEXT YEAR, I'M HAPPY TO ENCLOSE MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

2005 AMERICAN COLLEGIANS FOR LIFE CONFERENCE

By Lisa Basile

On January 22 and 23, W&M Students for Life sent seven members to Washington, D.C for the 18th annual American Collegians for Life Conference. The conference was held at Catholic University and offered a dynamite array of speakers and workshops. The conference aims to inform, energize, and connect college students from across the country and to establish ties among college pro-life groups. Many aspects of the pro-life movement are presented at the conference, ranging from “women centered solutions” to understanding fetal pain, to such controversial topics as the genocide awareness project.

Students attending the conference were also able to choose to attend a wide range of workshops. Topics included practical advice and training for on-campus groups such as fundraising, tips for recruiting new students, and pro-life project suggestions. There were also workshops that provided general advice on being pro-life, including “Adding Persuasion to Your Passion”, and information on promoting life internationally.

While the entire conference was spectacular, some speakers stood out among the crowd. Dr. Jean Wright started the weekend off right with her informative lecture on understanding fetal pain. Michaelene Jenkins, the founding president of Life Resource Network, provided students with a personal testimony and spoke on abortion’s harmful effects on women. On Sunday morning, Richard Doerflinger gave an excellent lecture on the challenging issue of stem cell research.

Finally, Saturday night held a great opportunity to hear from some of the key players in the pro-life movement today. Bobby Schindler, Jr., brother of Terri Schiavo, and Professor Robert A. Destro, the Schindler family’s close friend, accepted the 2005 Defender of Life Award. Their speeches gave the audience an opportunity to learn the harsh reality of their 12-year struggle to save Terri’s life.



SFL members at the ACL Conference

Despite snow and harsh weather conditions throughout the weekend, almost 300 students attended the conference, nearly double last year’s attendance, coming from as far as Colorado.

In addition to the success of the conference, the weekend also held special significance for one of our members. Stephen Braunlich, our current Public Affairs officer, was selected as the next president for American Collegians for Life. As president, Stephen is responsible for reaching out to pro-life groups on campuses across the country, representing the organization throughout the year, and coordinating next year’s conference.

Again, this year’s conference was a great success, informing and reaffirming students in their pro-life efforts, and challenging them to work harder on their own campuses to create environments that support life at all stages.



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