



Virginia Commonwealth University takes seriously its mission of public outreach in the life sciences. Specifically, VCU Life Sciences recognizes the importance of this mission and looks for ways to partner with organizations to enhance its educational offerings to the public.

In May 2003, VCU Life Sciences entered into a partnership with the Maymont Foundation in the city of Richmond. Maymont — a beautiful 100-acre estate overlooking the James River — is where the foundation maintains an historic Victorian home, an arboretum and an environmental education center that attracts thousands of visitors every year. Together, VCU Life Sciences and the Maymont Foundation created the Maymont-VCU Discovery Institute, which offers continuing education seminars to the general public in addition to opportunities for undergraduate students and teachers to further their studies and training in the life sciences.

Previous series topics have focused on the James River, urban and suburban wildlife, discovering life sciences through art, birding, wetlands and wildflowers, and how genomics has impacted the life sciences. This year's five-part lecture series, held at the Robins Nature & Visitor Center at Maymont, will focus on raptors, their communities, migration patterns and more.

**VCU**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Life Sciences  
P.O. Box 842030  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2030

The poster features a blue background. In the top right corner, there is a small inset image of an owl. The main title 'Wrapped up in Raptors' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, a bald eagle is shown in flight against the blue sky. In the bottom right corner, the text 'Lecture Series 2009' is written in a white, sans-serif font.



# Wrapped up in Raptors



## April 2 – Raptor conservation in Virginia

Dr. Bryan D. Watts is the Mitchell A. Byrd Professor of Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary and director of the College of William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Conservation Biology at the VCU Rice Center. The author of more than 200 publications on avian ecology and conservation, Watts has studied birds since early childhood. He has conducted more than 400 research projects focused on solving conservation problems primarily within the mid-Atlantic region, including work with raptors such as bald eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, American kestrels, northern harriers, barn owls and northern saw-whet owls.

## April 9 – The global geography of raptor migration: Tracking the intercontinental movements of birds of prey by satellite

Dr. Keith L. Bildstein is the Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Science at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Eastern Pennsylvania, the world's first refuge for birds of prey. The author of "White Ibis: Wetland Wanderer," "Raptor Watch: A Global Directory of Raptor Migration Sites," "The State of North America's Birds of Prey," and "Migrating Raptors: Their Ecology and Conservation," Bildstein has studied raptor migration on five continents. He is currently monitoring and studying the movement ecology of turkey vultures in North, Central and South America, the movements of griffon vultures and other raptors at the Strait of Gibraltar and the status of old-world vultures in East Africa.

## April 23 – Barred owls in the 'burbs

Dr. Richard O. "Rob" Bierregaard Jr., professor of biology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte since 1994, began studying birds of prey almost 40 years ago on Martha's Vineyard. His doctoral thesis addressed the importance of ecological competition in the structuring of raptor communities based on two years of field work in the high plains of central Montana, as well as museum studies of raptors from around the world. Bierregaard spent a decade as the director of a large-scale experimental study of rainforest conservation in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

## April 30 – Evolutionary history of raptors through fossils

Since 1974, Dr. Jack Brown has served as professor in the zoo animal technology program at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Fla. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in earth science with a paleontology emphasis and his Master of Science degree in zoology from Western Illinois University. Throughout his career, Brown has taught aviculture, mammal culture, aquarium culture, basic keeper, introduction to zoos and multiple zoo labs in which students work at the teaching zoo. In 2005, he was named the Florida community college professor of the year.

## May 7 – Bait-n-switch: A century of fish-bird interactions in the Chesapeake Bay

Dr. Greg Garman, a fisheries ecologist, is an assistant professor of biology and director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Environmental Studies. His research interests include migratory fishes such as the Atlantic sturgeon and American shad, the historical ecology of the James River and the application of emerging technologies to environmental conservation.

## Schedule

Thursdays, 7 p.m., April 2-May 7, 2009  
(no lecture on April 16)

All lectures will be held at Maymont's Robins Nature & Visitor Center and are free and open to the public (donations welcome). Advance reservations are recommended. Reception at 6 p.m. preceding every lecture — exhibits open.

## Information

Virginia Commonwealth University  
VCU Life Sciences  
Thomas F. Huff, Ph.D.  
Vice provost for life sciences  
P.O. Box 842030  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2030  
Phone: (804) 827-5600  
E-mail: [tfhuff@vcu.edu](mailto:tfhuff@vcu.edu)  
[www.vcu.edu/lifesci](http://www.vcu.edu/lifesci)

Maymont Foundation  
Henry Bireline  
Maymont Nature Center director  
1700 Hampton Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Phone: (804) 358-7166, ext. 325  
E-mail: [hbireline@maymont.org](mailto:hbireline@maymont.org)  
[www.maymont.org](http://www.maymont.org)