

HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE



Tiger Tracks

Studies and career options
for Hampden-Sydney students
interested in a career
in Journalism

*Hampden-Sydney offers
a robust education
that motivates students
interested in journalism
to think critically,
respond to the world
persuasively, and
flourish personally.*

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING
WITH A DEGREE FROM
HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

WWW.HSC.EDU

PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN Journalism

MINDSET

Aspiring journalists have strong principles and insatiable curiosity. They find stories in life around them, keep their community informed of vital issues, and help illuminate the world in a new way for their audience. Successful journalists must meet deadlines, manage complex details, tell relevant and engaging stories, build and maintain relationships with sources and colleagues, and employ a clear, concise, and readable style in their copy.

COURSES

Major in the subject which most interests you, but strongly consider supplementing your major with a minor in Rhetoric and aim to take courses that require you to synthesize material through frequent essays and other written work. Also keep in mind the courses listed below and courses in literature, history, theater, and politics.

Principles and Practice of Good Writing Public Speaking Art of the Essay
Creative Writing Creative Nonfiction Introduction to Photography

PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Write for *The Tiger*. The student newspaper, published every other week, seeks student writers with a variety of interests. For more information, contact its editor at newspaper@hsc.edu.
- Writing Center Peer Tutor: The directors of the Writing Center select outstanding students each year to help fellow students with writing skills—while developing their own writing and editing skills.
- WWHS: The student radio station broadcasts to the campus community and beyond. Student DJ's create and host shows and assist with the operations of the radio station.
- Working for the Communications Office: Talented students design and create publications for the campus community and assist in broader public relations efforts. Contact the College's production manager, Kevin Tuck, at ktuck@hsc.edu for more information.
- Working for the *Farmville Herald*: Ken Woodley '79 is the editor of the local newspaper. Contact him at editor@farmvilleherald.com.
- Several campus offices maintain a Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn presence, and most welcome student assistance. The Hampden-Sydney Facebook page, for instance, is run by the special assistant to the president, who works with students and alumni to produce content for nearly 8,000 fans. For a listing of campus social media accounts, visit www.hsc.edu/College-Directories/Social-Media.html.

PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

- Internships are a vital way to develop your writing skills, build a portfolio of published clippings, and hone your journalistic instincts. Hampden-Sydney students have interned at newspapers, television stations, and in other media. Visit the Career Education Office early in your academic career to begin researching the field and exploring possible internships.
- Be your own publication outlet by reporting on issues that matter to you. In today's age of user-generated content, you can start a blog, create a podcast, or communicate through social media like Facebook and Twitter. These activities are especially helpful as future journalists will need to understand how modern audiences consume information. Here's a piece that might help: www.pbs.org/mediashift/2010/06/what-skills-will-future-journalists-need160.html

GRADUATE STUDY

Both academics and professional journalists have debated for years about whether graduate education in journalism is useful, especially now as the field is changing significantly. There are good cases for either side, so prospective candidates must carefully research their options. Many graduate programs tightly focus on niche subjects within the larger field of journalism, such as sports journalism, so it pays to consider your interests carefully. You may also benefit from pursuing a more individualized path by taking other types of courses to improve your writing skills. For example, the Columbia Publishing Course offers a short-term summer immersion course that allows students to have direct contact with over 100 high-level professionals in the world of publishing and online media.

HAMPDEN- SYDNEY COLLEGE

Forming good
men and good citizens

*“My Hampden-Sydney
education sharpened
my writing skills
and expanded
my interest
in literature,
opening my eyes to
Journalism
as a career field”*

WALKER M. BEAUCHAMP '11
Editorial Assistant,
Oxford American magazine

SOME PUBLICATIONS
WHERE OUR ALUMNI WORK



WALKER M. BEAUCHAMP '11
Editorial Assistant, Oxford American magazine

Walker graduated with a major in government and a minor in history. He took the LSAT with every intention of going to law school, but decided instead to pursue an internship at *The Oxford American*, a Southern literary/music magazine. He has since been hired as an editorial assistant, where his work helps celebrate the South by showcasing the best of the region's writing, music, and art. Walker has recently begun building a nonprofit record label at *The Oxford American* that seeks to expose both forgotten and contemporary Southern music.

CHRIS STIREWALT '97
Political Editor, Digital, Fox News Channel, Washington, DC

While at Hampden-Sydney, Chris was the editor of *The Tiger* student newspaper and majored in history. After graduation, he took a job as political editor first at the *Charleston Daily Mail* and then at West Virginia Media, where he wrote a column for the *State Journal*. He later oversaw the popular *Morning Must Reads* for the *Washington Examiner* before accepting his current job in July of 2010. Chris's Fox News blog has a particular focus on the 2012 election. He is a frequent news television contributor and is often applauded for bringing the gift of laughter to the political newsroom.



HAWES C. SPENCER '87
Editor of The Hook, Charlottesville, Virginia

Hawes Spencer showed up as a freshman in the office of *The Tiger* hoping to become the photo editor of the newspaper by his senior year. However, the small size of the *Tiger* staff meant that his climb to the chief editor's desk took less than a year. Along the way, he found that the accessibility of everyone from the resident advisors to the College president made Hampden-Sydney an excellent place to learn and practice journalism. From there, starting two weekly newspapers in Charlottesville—first *C-ville Weekly* and later *The Hook*—was just another step in the right direction.

J. KENDRICK WOODLEY III '79
Editor in Chief, The Farmville Herald

Ken Woodley graduated with a major in English and two years of column writing for *The Tiger*. *The Farmville Herald* has been his only employer. He encourages H-SC students to look for a career where they can make a difference. “Small town doesn't mean small time,” he says, and the horizon is limitless wherever you stand. Ken has been featured in front page stories in *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, among others, featured on *The Today Show* and *The CBS Evening News*, and praised editorially by *The Washington Post* for his work related to civil rights.



R. RANDOLPH HENRY IV '79
Writing professor, University of Virginia; Author and Former Columnist

A Theta Chi, a Ralph McGill Scholar, and editor of the *Tiger*, Ran Henry graduated with a B.A. in English and later earned an M.F.A. in creative writing from Florida International University. He has written for the *Florida Times-Union* in Jacksonville, Florida, the *St. Petersburg Times*, and *Tropic, the Miami Herald Sunday Magazine*. Since 2000 he has taught narrative non-fiction writing and classes in creating heroes at F.I.U. and Virginia Commonwealth University. He now teaches in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program at the University of Virginia. He is the author of the forthcoming biography, *Ball Coach: How Steve Spurrier Taught the South to Play Football*.

L. RICHMOND MARTIN '71
Head of the Journalism Department, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Rich Martin was a newspaper reporter and editor for 29 years in Virginia at *The Roanoke Times*, from which he retired as managing editor in 2004. His book, *Living Journalism: Principles and Practices for an Essential Profession*, was published by Holcomb Hathaway in 2011. At Hampden-Sydney he was a *summa cum laude* graduate in English and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Gamma Delta. He has an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MEN LIKE THESE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CAREER EDUCATION OFFICE AT (434) 223-6105 OR VISIT WWW.HSC.EDU/CAREER-EDUCATION.HTML