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Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Announces 2011 Viewpoints Series

Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury (RWC) near Irvington has announced its program for the 2011 Viewpoints series. Now in its 10th year, the Viewpoints series is designed to bring engaging individuals to the Northern Neck to speak on a variety of interesting and timely topics. The first presentation, scheduled for Monday, March 7, will feature Theodore C. Delaney, Associate Professor and Chair of the History Department at Washington & Lee University. Dr. De Laney, a historian who once worked as a janitor at the college when it was a segregated institution, will speak on “George Washington, American Icon.”

De Laney’s life story is inspiring. A native of Lexington, he stayed home after graduating from high school in 1961 and took a series of jobs tending gardens. Eventually he was hired at W&L to clean offices on campus. Professors in the Biology Department soon recognized his academic potential and hired him as a lab technician. They also encouraged him to take classes, but he did not enroll at W&L until 1979, graduating six years later. De Laney intended to pursue a career as a high-school teacher, but a professor at W&L encouraged him to earn a doctorate. He enrolled at William & Mary and completed a Ph.D. in history in 1995. Then it was back to W&L for the

man who had once swept out labs and tended animals, this time as a member of the History Department. Delaney is currently working on a number of projects focusing on the African-American experience in the United States.

Three additional presentations are scheduled in this year's Viewpoints series. On April 4 Tidewater musician Bill Gurley will present a program on American music. Gurley, a popular teacher and performer whose musical repertoire includes a mix of blues, bluegrass, folk, and old-time music, has released a number of recordings on compact disk.

The third presentation on May 2 will feature Christchurch School headmaster Jeb Byers, who will speak on "The 21st Century Schoolhouse: Educating for the Future in an Age of Change." The series will conclude on June 6 with a presentation by Dr. Christopher Kilmartin of the University of Mary Washington. A professor of psychology and a stand-up comedian, Kilmartin will deliver a presentation titled "Guy Fi: The Fictions that Rule Men's Lives."

These free Viewpoints presentations begin at 11:00 a.m. and are held in the auditorium at RWC at 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington. Attendees are invited to remain after the presentations for a complimentary buffet luncheon. Reservations are required, as space is limited. To give everyone interested an equal opportunity to reserve a seat, those wishing to attend are asked to call 438-4000 on or after February 21 for the March 7 event. RWC maintains a waiting list and will honor reservations in the order received. Separate reservations must be made for each event.

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Photo:

Washington & Lee Professor Theodore C. Delaney