

Alexandra (Alix) Hines

310 N. Harrison St. • Richmond, Va. 23220

Phone: 434-420-4298 • E-mail: hinesav@vcu.edu

Blog: <http://hinesav.wordpress.com> • LinkedIn: <http://tinyurl.com/9qxvr8x>

Education

Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications, expected May 2013

Majoring in Print-online and Broadcast Journalism

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Cumulative GPA: 3.8/4.0

Work Experience

Correspondent, *Capital News Service*, Spring 2013

- Reported from the Virginia State Capitol on behalf of more than 70 news organizations
- Published in newspapers and news websites throughout the state
- Reported breaking news and features on such topics as mental health, transportation reform and the 21-day rule

Interactive Intern for WTVR-CBS 6, Jan.-March

- Posted wire stories from CNN Newsource
- Converted broadcast scripts to Web stories
- Reported original content for wtvr.com
- Added content to WTVR's Tumblr and Pinterest accounts
- Pitched three investigative stories at an editorial meeting

Teaching Assistant at VCU – iPadJournos, Jan.-present

- Updated WordPress
- Answered questions about video editing
- Provided story ideas

Social Media Manager at the VCU Wellness Resource Center, Aug. 2012-present

- Created and marketed an online social media presence for The Well
- Managed the Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Pinterest accounts
- Pitched ideas for the Real Rams Campaign
- Assisted in launching the Real Rams Campaign

Editorial Intern at Richmond Magazine, Aug. 2012-Dec. 2012

- Reported on Richmond's restaurant industry
- Pitched stories to the executive editor
- Updated the Dining Guide
- Photographed local churches for the 2013 Sourcebook

Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) Intern, June-Aug. 2012

- Planned activities for Iraqi students
- Learned how to create a comfortable environment for dialogue
- Helped train Iraqi students to lead a dialogue at Peter Paul Development Center

Reporter, iPadJournos Project for WTVR-CBS 6, Jan.-May 2012

- Developed a social media portfolio
- Incorporated the iPad into mobile reporting
- Edited video on the iPad

-Published articles on wtvr.com **Front Desk Assistant at the VCU Wellness Resource**

Center, Aug. 2011-July 2012

- Distributed health articles to staff
- Answered phone calls and questions about the services The Well provides
- Conducted research
- Edited Stall Seat Journal content and brochures

Teaching Assistant at VCU – Global Communications, Jan. 2011-Dec. 2011

- Graded discussion board posts.
- Clarified directions for students.
- Explained to students how to improve research skills for posts and how to improve their grades.
- Learned more about global communications through the students.

Awards/Honors

- Thanks to a video I co-produced, my Social Media and the Presidential Race class won the 2012 Democracy Cup sponsored by Virginia Campus Election Engagement Project.
- Virginia Communications Hall of Fame Scholarship, 2012
- VCU Honors College, 2010-present
- Dean's List Fall 2009-present
- Honor's Summer Undergraduate Research Program, June-July 2011
- First Place in the Focused Inquiry Essay Contest at Virginia Commonwealth University. My essay appeared in the 2010-2011 issue of the Focused Inquiry textbook.
- Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award, 2009
- Virginia Girls State, 2008

Computer Skills/Technical Skills

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher)
- Adobe Premiere Pro CS6, iMovie, Adobe Audition, InDesign
- Professional use of XD Video Cameras, video production on iPad
- Social Media Expertise: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Blogger, Tumblr, YouTube, -- Pinterest, Foursquare, WordPress, Storify, Twizgrid
- Knowledge of CNN Newsource (Wire Service)
- Experience creating interactive timelines, maps and other data visualizations
- Experience filing FOIA requests
- Live blogging experience with Scribble Live

Leadership and Memberships

- President of VCU Runner's Club, 2009-2011
- Outreach Coordinator of VCU InterVarsity, 2012-present
- Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society at VCU, 2010-present
- Society of Professional Journalists, VCU Chapter, 2011-present

Community Engagement

- Mission in Mozambique, Cambine, Mozambique, May-June 2011
- Mission in Washington, D.C., June 2010

[commonwealthtimes.org](http://www.commonwealthtimes.org)

Lecture points to flaws in justice system

FEB. 6, 2013

February 6th, 2013

Alix Hines

Capital News Service



Marvin Anderson, a Henrico native who was wrongfully convicted of rape, spent 15 years in prison before being exonerated with help from the Innocence Project. He shared his story with an audience of about 400 people at Tuesday night's lecture. Photo courtesy of VCU Libraries.

When Marvin Anderson was 10 years old, he moved in with his aunt, who lived next to a fire station in Hanover County. It wasn't long before fire and rescue became his dream, but his dreams were shattered eight years later.

"In 1982, that goal came crashing down on me all because one person said, 'He

did it.' That's all it took," Anderson said at Virginia Commonwealth University's Black History Month lecture Tuesday night.

Because of false information, Anderson was convicted of rape and other crimes that he did not commit. He ended up spending 15 years in prison, until he was freed thanks to the Innocence Project, an organization that uses DNA evidence to exonerate inmates who've been wrongfully imprisoned.

Now Anderson and Peter Neufeld, the co-director of the Innocence Project, are working together to ensure that such injustice doesn't happen to anyone else.

Virginia law contains what many see as an obstacle to correcting wrongful convictions. It's called the "21-day rule": Twenty-one days after a conviction, the decision is final, regardless of any evidence that may emerge.

"In other words, if you were convicted of murder and on the 22nd day, the deceased came walking into town — OK, no murder. You couldn't go back into a court to get exonerated. Your only remedy would be to go to the governor and seek a pardon," Neufeld said.

In Anderson's case, swabs from the victim's rape kit provided DNA evidence that was unavailable at the time of the trial.

In this year's session of the Virginia General Assembly, the 21-day rule is once again up for discussion.

Delegate Joe Morrissey, D-Richmond, introduced House Bill 1355, which would allow any felon to petition for a writ of actual innocence.

Under HB 1355, after being convicted, a defendant still could present to the court new evidence, both DNA and non-biological, to establish a "reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the petitioner." The bill failed in the House Courts of Justice Committee.

Sen. Kenneth Alexander, D-Norfolk, introduced a similar measure, Senate Bill 823. He later withdrew the proposal.

Delegate David Albo, R-Springfield, had better luck with his bill, HB 1432, which would allow a felon to petition for a writ of actual innocence only in certain cases. The House passed the bill Tuesday and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

Such a law might have helped Anderson during his ordeal.

Anderson, who is African-American, told the VCU audience he believes police singled him out in part because he had a white girlfriend.

After officers questioned him, he was included in a photo lineup, where the victim was asked to point out the photo of the man who attacked her. Because Anderson had no prior criminal record, the officers pulled a color photo of him from his employer.

The other photos the victim was shown were in black and white, and she immediately picked out Anderson's photo. Anderson was the only man from the first set of photos who was also included in the in-person lineup, where the victim once again pointed to him as her attacker.

The jury sentenced Anderson to 222 years in prison. At that moment, Anderson said, he went numb and felt like he was falling into a black hole.

"At 18 years old, your life is just beginning. We sometimes forget where we come from. A lot of us know where we want to go, but where we come from and where we're going — there's a lot of space in between," Anderson said.

After his conviction, Anderson spent 15 years in prison, even after another man, John Otis Lincoln, came forward and confessed to the crime. The judge didn't believe Lincoln and refused to reverse Anderson's conviction.

When DNA testing became available, Anderson petitioned the court to review the DNA evidence from his case. But he was told that all of the evidence had been destroyed. In 1994, his case was accepted by the Innocence Project, and by 1997, he was on parole.

In 2001, Neufeld contacted Dr. Paul Farrar, the director of the Virginia Division of Forensic Science. Farrar found DNA evidence from Anderson's case in an old lab notebook of someone who worked with rape kit evidence in the lab.

The DNA evidence proved Anderson's innocence and proved that Lincoln was in fact guilty of the crime he confessed to in 1988.

Anderson was excluded as the perpetrator in 2001 and fully pardoned in 2002.

Today, Anderson said he is fulfilling the dream he had before his 15 years in prison.

“One of my goals was to become a professional firefighter,” he said. That goal was postponed when Anderson was wrongfully convicted. But he told the VCU audience that he never gave up:

“I am proud to say that as I stand here, that same fire station that I grew an interest in at 10 years old – I am now the district chief of that fire station.”

Original URL:

<http://www.commonwealthtimes.org/2013/02/06/lecture-points-to-flaws-in-justice-system/>

Virginians rally for those with mental disabilities

by ALIX HINES, CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE 01/28/13 | JAN. 28, 2013

Amy Jones, 38, had a 4.0 GPA in school but dropped out after her insurance stopped covering the costs of her medication. She suffers from a mental health disorder and substance abuse.

"I ended up self-medicating, and I ended up here in Richmond at a facility center, which is helping save my life, because it's helping me to get back on track, get my medications again, so that I can be productive again," Jones said.

On Monday, she joined about 100 other people at the Bell Tower on Capitol Square for a rally organized by the Coalition for Virginians with Mental Disabilities. Participants encouraged legislators to improve services for people with mental disabilities.

For instance, Jones stays at Rubicon Inc., a substance abuse and mental health facility. But it may shut down for lack of funding. Jones said the best way to help people like her is not to put them in jail but to provide preventive facilities and help fund medication.

"Don't throw me in jail. Don't shut down things I need, like Rubicon. Don't cut off my medications. I stand here today just like a normal person, only due to the fact that I have medications," Jones said.

Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli spoke at the rally. He said that when he was a senator from Fairfax, he pushed to expand services for Virginians with mental disabilities.

As a general rule, people must live in an institution to receive Medicaid funding; however, the state can grant waivers to provide assistance for disabled residents. But there is often a waiting list for mental retardation waivers and developmental disabilities waivers.

Cuccinelli said he has advocated granting more Medicaid waivers.

“What we need to do is have systems in place that reduce the likelihood of mental illness getting worse, so we are helping people and reduce the frequency of things like Sandy Hook and Virginia Tech,” Cuccinelli said, referring two of the nation’s worst mass shootings.

Tori Purdy’s 13-year-old son has autism. She came to the rally to thank legislators for increasing the number of developmental disability waivers.

Because of the waiver, Purdy said, her son can live outside of an institution — and her family can live like any other.

Cuccinelli said he fears a backlash against people with mental disabilities because of shootings like the one last month in Connecticut.

“You get something like Sandy Hook, where you get an Adam Lanza, who’s not well, and people sort of project Adam Lanza across all people suffering from mental illness,” Cuccinelli said.

“That’s just not an accurate projection. Most people suffering from mental illness are victims of aggression, of aggressive behavior and violence. They aren’t committers of it.”

Original URL:

<http://www.henricocitizen.com/index.php/news/article/07553#.UWGPkpOG2hB>

 yourgv.com

YourGV.com

Last Updated on 07:42 AM 01/21/13

BY By Alix Hines/Capital News Service

RICHMOND — When people come to Southside Virginia, Adam Lynch said, they are looking for nature, clean air, lakes and pretty mountains. Lynch, a Realtor for Prudential Waterfront Properties and consultant for Charles Lynch Construction, said the thought of having a uranium mine in their backyard is driving people away from the area.

“I’m more of a residential realtor. But on the more commercial side, it may keep people from bringing business into our area just because the negative connotation of what a mine would bring with it,” Lynch said.

Delegate Don Merricks, a Republican from Pittsylvania County, said he has talked to realtors who are having trouble selling homes because the General Assembly is considering allowing uranium mining there.

That prospect is hurting private schools in the area, too. Merricks said Chatham Hall, a prestigious private school for girls, has noticed parents “shopping around” and putting their children elsewhere because of concerns about the proposed mine.

For more than 30 years, Virginia has had a moratorium against uranium mining.

But lawmakers are considering lifting it to allow the mining of an immense uranium deposit near Coles Hill in Chatham.

The site where the mining, milling and tailings disposal would occur is a 20-minute drive from the girls’ school that houses students from across the country and the globe.

Samantha Parsons, a student at George Mason University and resident of the nearby town of Hurt, said the proximity would deter people from applying to

Chatham Hall and Hargrave Military Academy, a private boys' school.

"Hargrave and Chatham Hall are there, and people from across the country send their students there, and they're not going to want to do that," Parsons said. "It [the private schools] definitely helps the economy of Chatham with those students being there and their families coming to visit all the time."

While Parson fears that uranium mining would hurt the Southside economy, mining proponents say just the opposite.

"A full-scale mining and milling operation at Coles Hill will support over 1,000 jobs for the 35-year life span of the mine, generate \$5 billion in revenue for Virginia companies, and generate \$112 million in state and local taxes," Virginia Uranium Inc., a company that has proposed mining in Chatham, says on its website.

Many residents of Southside Virginia remain unconvinced.

"It seems like the prices (of uranium) fluctuate dramatically," Lynch said. "When the mining operations aren't profitable, they just shut down. There will be some people in the area that make a lot of money out of this, whereas the majority of us, when the prices go down, are going to be stuck with an empty uranium mine."

Merricks said he personally supports the mining of uranium. However, he said the state should heed the wishes of local residents: If a clear majority of people oppose lifting the moratorium, Merricks says it should stay in place.

Merricks said he is not so concerned about the mining as he is about the tailings — the radioactive debris that remains after the uranium has been extracted.

According to federal law, Merricks said, the tailings must remain on the site where the milling occurred. The legislator fears what could happen to the tailings in a climate where hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes are a possibility.

Parsons shares that concern.

"The risk that we are facing in Virginia is that if a tornado comes through, or a hurricane that we've been experiencing, something that produces a lot of rain and it seeps into the ground, it will make that radiation leak throughout the

ground, and it could contaminate water systems," Parsons said.

Many residents of Southside Virginia rely on well water. The possibility of water contamination could make home and business buyers think twice about moving to the region, some residents say.

"I wish they would just go ahead and just keep the ban in place so we don't have to fight over this for a few years," Lynch said. "I think even exploring their options could hurt us more than it could help us as far as the perception [of Southside] to outside businesses and potential home buyers."

Legislators such as Sen. John Watkins and Delegate Lee Ware, who represent districts on the outskirts of the Richmond area, are spearheading the drive to lift the moratorium against uranium mining.

"I was going to suggest that since Sen. Watkins from Powhatan and Delegate Ware of Powhatan are so adamant about doing this, why don't we just haul the ore up there and mill it in Powhatan County?" Merricks said jokingly.

Original URL:

<http://www.yourgv.com/index.php/news/local-news/7130-is-uranium-scaring-people-from-southside>