

Please mark your calendars for:

Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Week Seminars

Sponsored by the Diversity Committees of Biol. Sciences, Psychology and the College of Science, and the PSYC, EEB and VTLSS Seminar Series

Drs. Sharon and Craig Ramey

Professors and Distinguished Research Scholars,

Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute,

Professors in Psychology at VT and in the VT-Carilion School of Medicine

"Poverty, Biology, and Health: Will the Circle be Unbroken?"

3:30 pm, Thursday Jan. 22, Fralin Auditorium, EEB Series

"The Civil Rights of Health, Education, and Biology: MLK's Enduring Legacy"

12:20 pm, Friday Jan. 23, VBI Auditorium, VTLSS Series

The Thursday talk will present recent findings from the Ramey's research on the intergenerational and lifelong effects of impoverished environments, and the extent to which systematic, theory-driven interventions (tested via randomized controlled trials and multi-site observational studies) produce improved health outcomes linked to morbidity and mortality. The search for biological and behavioral mechanisms responsible for perpetuating, as well as altering, the negative effects of poverty will be discussed."

The Friday talk will be much broader and will address why eliminating health and educational disparities is a compelling and crucial goal for the future of our nation. It will review compelling historical scientific findings about the impact of race and poverty on the life course, biologically and behaviorally. The focus will be on a new 2014 national agenda that links education and health as the most compelling ways to overcome entrenched inequities and health disparities that endure as a legacy of racism and classism. The promise of epigenetics as a new theoretical framework will be advanced effectively when science, politics, and communities partner to take into account culture, racism, education, health care, and economics. Specific "actionable knowledge" will form a basis for how the Virginia Tech community can become engaged at all levels."