

(A recording of the presentation is available courtesy of The Rev. Dennis Roberts. Please click on the link or copy and paste it into your browser to access the presentation. The links can be found below the minutes.)

Minutes of the 1,463rd meeting of the SPHEX Club

September 9th, 2021

President David Frantz called the 1,463rd meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

President and Vice President switch leadership years:

It was announced by David Frantz that he and Katie Cyphert would switch years as SPHEX President. Because of the Covid pandemic's unpredictable but already disruptive influence on Katie Cyphert's teaching and leadership roles with the Lynchburg City Schools, it became necessary for Dr. David Frantz to assume the role of president of The SpheX Club in 2021-2022. Katie Cyphert will be vice president this year and president of The SpheX Club in 2022-2023.

Active members present were: Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Delzingaro, Doyle, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Gillette, Hendricks, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Payne, Roberts, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka, Wright.

Unable to Attend Were: Langhorne, Light, Lucas

SpheX's special guest for the evening: Cyndi Lee, spouse of President Bateman.

Change in SPHEX Bylaws (to change 5 d. below)

President Frantz recommended, with the unanimous agreement of SPHEX's officers, that a change be made to the SPHEX Bylaws concerning the reading of the minutes.

Below (highlighted) is the former wording of 5 d.:

5. The order of business of regular meetings shall be as follows: a. Call to order; b. Introduction of new members, if any; c. Introduction of guests, if any; d. **Reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the Secretary**; e. Reports of committees; f. Old business; g. New business; h. Reports of regrets to the speaker from members unable to be present; i. Introduction of the speaker by the president to include a brief background identification and announcement of the speaker's topic; j. Reading of the paper or equivalent (ordinarily limited to forty-five minutes); k. Discussion of the paper; l. Adjournment.

This change to 5 d. was approved by a majority vote:

Amend item d., replacing it with text as follows: "Reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the Secretary. He/she may abbreviate or omit the reading provided a digital copy of the minutes has been submitted for approval to the membership prior to the meeting."

Treasurer's Report and Membership Dues Discussion – Marc Schewel

The pandemic has seen many changes to the normal order of things, including unprecedented largesse by the federal government, permitted suspension of certain contractual obligations such as rent and student debt, and of course the radical move of the SpheX Club from in-person to virtual meetings.

As President Biden's executive order to extend the moratorium on landlord evictions even though rents may have not been paid for over a year has come under judicial scrutiny, it occurred to me as your treasurer that the SpheX Club also may

be facing a constitutional crisis. After all, the Club has not collected any dues for over two years, while all members have enjoyed – from the comfort of their homes, no less – the privileges granted by membership, that is, being educated, enlightened, and entertained by scholarly papers carefully crafted and professionally presented by their peers.

I began to suspect and fear that the Club might find me culpable of failing to collect the dues as required by the Constitution and in fact seek redress. What form might this take? Might I be required to make up the lost revenue personally? Even worse, might I suffer the embarrassment of possible impeachment, a word that seems to be thrown about these days with reckless abandon? On the other hand, maybe impeachment wouldn't be a bad idea, since it would relieve me of the obligation of concocting these ridiculous reports every month or so.

I asked the noted jurist, the Honorable John Cook, if he could render an opinion, to which he responded, “Marc, I wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot pole.” I went to our esteemed secretary, Ken West, to see if he could help, but all I got from him was: “I'm just a retired professor and newspaper columnist. This is way out of my league.”

So, I come before the Club this evening to plead leniency and forgiveness for my dereliction of duty. I am not sure what is the proper procedure for a constitutional amendment, but am hopeful that the members in their ultimate wisdom will, with sympathy, approve the motion I humbly bring before them this evening: “That Sphex Club dues shall be understood as waived for the sessions 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.”

Results of the Survey Monkey -- President David Frantz

Dr. Frantz reported that toward the end of July the membership voted on whether to meet live or on Zoom. The vote was split almost evenly between the two

options. But within a week, the pandemic worsened with the advent of the new Delta Covid variant. Several additional members reconsidered and expressed a preference to have Zoom meetings only. To maximally protect all members, the decision was made to begin the 2021-2022 SPHEX year on Zoom.

A second question on the survey asked members whether they would prefer to meet at 7:30 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. Almost unanimously the membership chose 7:30.

Update from the Ad Hoc SpheX Archives Committee – Ted Delaney, Chair

(Committee Members include Nancy Marion, Tom Tiller, and Jim Wright.)

The club's digital archives were delivered to Jones Memorial Library in April, but library staff have not been able to post the files to their website yet. Several questions still need to be resolved by the club, including whether future presentations should be submitted in digital and/or analog format, and whether the public will have access to the digital archives once they are available online. The committee will continue to explore these issues and make recommendations to the full membership later in the fall or winter.

Nomination of New Members – Judge John Cook, Chair

(Nomination Committee members: Christina Delzingaro and Cham Light)

Following a lengthy delay in the election of new members due to the Covid 19 virus, Judge John Cook led a discussion about the election of members that will take place in the next meeting on September 23rd. There are 9 nominations for the 7 slots that are open for membership. The biographies of these 9 candidates have been sent to the voting membership of the SPHEX Club.

On September 23rd a Certification Ballot will be held. Each nominee must receive 75% of the vote on the Certification Ballot in order to be placed on the ballot that

will determine membership. Members can vote to certify all nine or fewer. On the final ballot the 7 nominees who receive the most votes will be offered membership into SPHEX.

President Frantz introduced our speaker for the evening: Dr. Brad Bateman

Brad Bateman became the tenth president of Randolph College in 2013. He will retire at the end of the 2021-22 academic year.

Before becoming an academic administrator, Bateman held the Gertrude B. Austin Chair of Economics at Grinnell College, where he taught for twenty years. He also served as Provost and Executive Vice President at Denison University. He is a scholar of the work of the British economist John Maynard Keynes and has also written extensively on the religious roots of American economic thought.

He is married to Cyndi Lee, an internationally recognized teacher of yoga and meditation who is also an ordained Buddhist chaplain.

Dr. Bateman provided this abstract of his presentation entitled: “Thy Kingdom Come?”

From its earliest days, the American college was a Protestant enterprise. Harvard and Columbia, Yale and Princeton, were all founded to educate Protestant ministers and the men who would sit in the pews of their churches. A funny thing happened, however, as colleges and universities started to secularize themselves: the role of religion in shaping America’s history started to disappear from our narratives about ourselves. In the attempt to secularize the university, the story of the way that things had been done in the past was largely ignored and forgotten.

But the system was built by Protestants, for Protestants. But our ignorance of our past hides much from us besides the history of overt discrimination. It is impossible to understand much about American culture without understanding its Protestant underpinning.

One unlikely example of the Protestant influence in American culture is the formation of economics as an academic discipline in the United States. The American Economic Association was founded in 1885 by young evangelical Protestants who wanted to shape the emerging discipline of economics into a tool for making the economy more fair and equitable.

Prior to the 1880s, almost all colleges had a required senior year course taught by the president of the college; this course was meant as a capstone that prepared the seniors to understand their roles they were to assume in American society. The texts used in these courses were not analytically sophisticated, but they helped to spread a gospel of free trade and free markets.

Some of the difference between the older Protestant economists and the young evangelicals who founded the A.E.A. was that they were describing different economies. The older ministers had known the mercantile economy of the early nineteenth century that consisted largely of farmers and small town merchants. The economy that the young evangelicals described was very different from the rural idyll of the older ministers. The emerging factory production in the large cities was not only drawing America's young men and women off the farm and into urban areas, it was also drawing central and southern Europeans to work in America. Working conditions in the factories were squalid and, despite the opportunities available in America's cities, urban poverty was rampant.

Richard T. Ely, the man who is most responsible for organizing the young evangelical economists, and who we think of today as the founder of the A.E.A., saw the new industrial economy quite clearly. Ely's purpose in organizing the

A.E.A. was in large part to provide an institutional home for the young Christian economists who saw the world as he did and, thus, to define the emerging discipline.

The ultimate failure of the A.E.A. to protect these young men, however, and the vulnerability of the young evangelicals was a reflection of the failure of the new “Social Gospel” message to resonate with the people in the pews at the end of the nineteenth century. Protestants were generally unmoved. The great Social Gospel theologian Walter Rauschenbusch called this era a “dark time” for progressive Christianity.

The great church historian Martin Marty has described this underlying tension in the Protestant world as “two-party Protestantism”. The “private party” saw the world as largely corrupt and was primarily concerned with saving individual souls. The “public party” saw society itself as sinful, so turned their attention to redeeming it through social action. Seen through this lens, the older Protestant ministers appealed to the private party, whereas the Social Gospellers were a manifestation of the public party.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, however, the public party suddenly swung into prominence. For Protestants, the desire to address the new industrial reality was most obvious in the Social Creed of the Churches, a document approved first by the Methodists in 1907, and approved in 1908 by virtually every other mainline Protestant denomination. The Creed called for an end to child labor, a ten hour work day, no work on Sundays, and compensation for the families of the victims of industrial accidents. These were exactly the kinds of “government interventions” that the young evangelical economists had been calling for in the 1880s and 1890s.

Although they had lived through a “dark time” in the 1890s, they would become a dominant force in American economics in the first two decades of the twentieth

century. Clark, Ely, Adams, and Commons would eventually become well known giants of the discipline and influenced important moments in the evolution of American economic policy. They liked wealth well enough, but they felt that America produced enough of it to take care of children and laborers.

Below is the Zoom link for Dr. Bateman's presentation. The link is provided by The Rev. Dennis Roberts.

<https://youtu.be/11-EHItWv3U>

Our presenter Dr. Brad Bateman furnished this link to an essay in the Atlantic Magazine connected to his SpheX presentation.

This is a revision of an essay that I published in the online version of The Atlantic magazine a few years ago. The finally edited version is here (the link to the essay online):

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/02/evangelical-american-economics/460455/>

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by

President Frantz at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

A recording of the presentation is available. Please click on the link or copy and paste it into your browser to access the presentation. A special thanks goes to The Rev. Dennis Roberts for making these recordings available.

**Minutes of the 1,464th meeting of the SPHEX Club
September 23, 2021**

President David Frantz called the 1,464th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 23rd. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Delzingaro, Doyle, Frantz, Gillette, Hendricks, Manian, Marion, Roberts, Schewel, Sigler, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wright.

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Payne, Stinnett, Edwards, Foster, Langhorne, Light, Lucas, McDonald, Wodicka.

Treasurer's Report – Marc Schewel

At our last meeting, Dr. Bateman astutely observed that the tolerable amount of time for a presentation delivered by Zoom is twenty minutes. That being the case, after a hasty calculation on my handy mobile phone using a ratio of one to three, I have determined that I need to reduce the length of my treasurer's reports from six minutes to two minutes.

I know many of you will be disappointed to hear that, but rest assured that this contraction will only last until November 18th, when I am scheduled to deliver a Sphex Paper. As it now stands, that paper will probably take eighty minutes, so I am humbly requesting that the Club allow me to carry over the sixteen minutes saved by the next four meetings' truncated Treasurer's Reports and apply them to my November 18th presentation.

If anyone needs any help with this math, you can contact me or Julius Sigler after the meeting.

By the way, the Club's bank account now stands at \$1293.56. Nothing's changed in two years other than the fact that in 2019 the Club could have bought a reclining sofa and a recliner for that amount from Schewel's Home, but today it can only get the sofa.

Nomination of New Members – Judge John Cook, Chair

(Nomination Committee members: Christina Delzingaro and Cham Light)

Judge John Cook led members in completing both a Certification Ballot and a Membership Ballot. Seven people will be invited to join Sphex.

(A special thanks to The Rev. Dennis Roberts for making the arrangements needed for the membership to vote anonymously during the Zoom meeting.)

President Frantz introduced Christina Delzingaro our speaker for the evening

Christina Delzingaro is the Chief Executive Officer of the Free Clinic of Central Virginia and of the Community Access Network. In this shared leadership collaboration, Christina works to increase access to healthcare for uninsured and under-insured community members.

She has been CEO of the Free Clinic of Central Virginia since 2014 and CEO of Community Access Network since its founding in 2015. Christina's previous positions include Director of Programs for the AIDS/HIV Services Group, the Director of Mission Services for the Goodwill of Central and Eastern Virginia, Executive Director of The Arc of the Piedmont for over 12 years and Director of the Richmond County Department of Social Services.

Christina received her BA from Randolph-Macon Woman's College and her MBA from Averett University. She has been a member of the Blue Ridge Institute of Southern Human Services Executives for over 30 years and currently serves as President-elect. Her service also includes the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics where she also serves as President-elect, the Board of the Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation, the Board of Roads to Recovery, a founding Board member of Pierce Street Gateway, as well as serving on the Lynchburg Department of Social Services Advisory Board. Christina lives in the Garland Hill neighborhood in Lynchburg with her husband Larry Lacina.

Our presenter, Christina Delzingaro, provided this abstract of her presentation entitled "Yet Another Thing I Never Learned in School"

Shortly after the Civil War, during the Reconstruction Era, blacks made significant economic and political advances. White physical violence against blacks in the form of massacres, as well as legal and policy violence against blacks that began during Jim Crow and continue into this century, destroyed these advances and blacks' ability to amass generational wealth.

Reconstruction was intended to provide a means for readmitting Southern states into the Union and to define how whites and blacks could live together in a non-slave society after the Civil War. Sherman's Special Orders Number 15 provided land to newly freed slaves. Granting freedmen land confiscated from ex-Confederates was an attempt at reparations and provided hope that newly freed blacks would join the landowning class. When President Johnson overturned the Special Orders, and blacks were driven from the land granted by the orders, it became clear that public policy would also create significant obstacles to blacks achieving economic equality.

There were over 175 racially motivated massacres in the United States between 1863 and 1951. There were over 65 massacres in 1919 alone. They took place not just in the South, but in over 22 states, including Nebraska, Maryland, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania. These massacres left thousands of blacks murdered, tens of thousands of black citizens displaced and resulted in incalculable damage to black property.

This presentation summarized the impact of hundreds of race riots and described the specific effects of 13 of these massacres on the lives, rights and property of black Americans. The review demonstrated that while the immediate cause of these massacres was often vigilante justice, the real motivation was typically white anger and frustration with competing for jobs, housing and political power with blacks. The presentation also outlined the public policies and practices that blocked the growth of wealth and political power for blacks, including Jim Crow laws, restrictive covenants, redlining, crime control, and community development.

The economic impact of white racial violence in the form of massacres, along with the effect of Jim Crow laws and other public policy, has been widespread and long-lasting. In the United States in 2019, the typical white family had a net worth of almost eight times the net worth of a typical black family. The destruction of black towns, homes, and businesses over nearly 100 years hampered black American's ability to amass financial assets – particularly housing – and to pass them down to their children and grandchildren to help build wealth. While race massacres are no longer mechanisms of racial suppression, the goals of the massacres – furthering white supremacy; winning the capitalist zero-sum competition for jobs, housing and other resources; and suppressing voting rights – have continued on in politics and public policy. As a result, the ability of former slaves to create intergenerational wealth and political power has been systematically destroyed.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,465th meeting of the SPHEX Club
October 7th, 2021**

President David Frantz called the 1,465th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 7th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Delzingaro, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Gillette, Hansen, Hendricks, Light, Manian, Marion, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson,

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Doyle, Langhorne, Lucas, McDonald, Wodicka, Wright

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Jacquie Glanz and Mary Hapala

Welcome to New Members:

Mike Bradford was introduced by Cham Light:

Mike Bradford was born and raised in Lynchburg, graduating from E.C. Glass and then obtaining a degree in Economics from Duke and an MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill. Returning to Lynchburg he embarked on a 34 year career in commercial banking with Central Fidelity and all of its successors by merger through Wells Fargo. Looking to make an impact in a different field, he enjoyed spending the last six years of his career as VP of Advancement at CVCC. Mike has served on many community and civic boards during his career and currently is a long term director for Centra Health. Mike and his wife Pam (also a Lynchburg native and banker) have three grown children living and working across the country.

Dr. Nina Salmon was introduced by Dr. Ken West:

Nina Salmon is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. After college she married a wonderful teacher and coach, Jerry Salmon, and they moved into the house across the street from Patty and me on Huron Avenue. Nina earned her masters from the University of Lynchburg and her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. She has taught at the University of Lynchburg since 1997. Nina teaches English and is the current director of Senior Symposium. Always on the move and growing, Nina studied at Sewanee Seminary and received ordination as an Episcopal priest. She currently serves as the part-time Associate for Youth and Families at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Jerry and Nina have three adult sons, and they are now raising an "entitled" standard poodle named Grace.

Treasurer's Report – Marc Schewel

Those of you following the contentious negotiations in Congress regarding a proposed \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill may be familiar with a provision that would allow the IRS to monitor bank accounts over \$600. Since the Sphex account currently stands at \$1293.56, guess what? I received a visit from an IRS agent, Mr. Hugh B. Ware. Here's how the conversation went.

Hugh: This Sphex account looks very suspicious to me.

Marc: Why? As you can see, Hugh, there's been no activity for two years.

Hugh: That's what's suspicious. Besides, the name of this organization is very disturbing.

Marc: And why is that? It's just an acronym: Science, Philosophy, History, Education, the X factor.

Hugh: Are you denying any association with your Mexican branch, also named Sphex, a secret drug smuggling operation with its own cultish acronym: Syndicate for the Preservation of Heroin Exporting? Its *patron* is the notorious David Francisco, known to torture rivals and enemies by ripping their hearts out. Even worse, in order to intimidate any others who might challenge his rule of terror, every violent death is dutifully recorded for public distribution by his loyal *asesor*, Carlos Ouest.

Mr. Schewel, what we have here is a serious case of Sphex trafficking. Someone from Lynchburg is shipping boxes of old Sphex Club papers to Guadalajara and someone from Guadalajara is shipping those boxes back filled with packages of pure heroin. What do you have to say to that?

Marc: What the heck have you been smoking?

Hugh: In fact, I am summoning you to appear in federal court before the Honorable Judge John Cook to testify in this matter.

President Frantz introduced Nancy Marion, our speaker for the evening:

Nancy Marion has been collecting old photos of Lynchburg since about 1999. Her digital collection contains more than 30,000 images of the area gathered from library and newspaper archives, city and agency collections, and private sources. She has posted many of these photos and maps on her website, LynchburgHistory.com, where they are available to view and download. She also writes a weekly column for the *News & Advance* called "Mystery Picture of the Week."

A native of Amherst County and graduate of Sweet Briar College, Nancy is an experienced graphic designer, having been a partner at The Design Group since 1977.

In 2003 she founded Blackwell Press to publish non-fiction books and the history magazine, *Lynch's Ferry*. In 2006 she compiled and published Gibson Hobbs' book, *The Canal on the James*, and in 2018 she revised and published a new version of *Hill City Trolleys* by Harold Cox. She has also worked closely with regional authors, designing and publishing books about places such as the Old City Cemetery, the Anne Spencer Garden, Virginia Episcopal School, Wintergreen, Hogtown, Elon, and Nelson County. She has published art books featuring local luminaries including Queena Stovall, Georgia Morgan, Brookie Abbot, Edward Beyer, Sarah Raessler, and Stanhope Johnson. She is an avid photographer as well, and has a remote pilot's license for aerial drone photography.

Nancy Marion, provided this abstract of her presentation entitled: "Telling Time."

Having been introduced to the concept of "histograms" by a neighbor, and then meeting Jacquie Glanz, the granddaughter of John Sparks, author of one of them, Nancy Marion became intrigued by these methods of charting history.

Basing her talk on the book, *Cartographies of Time* by Daniel Rosenberg and Anthony Grafton, and freely admitting no affinity for learning history or memorizing dates, Marion attempts to give a short overview of the history of time charts.

She begins with the Roman Christian scholar Eusebius, who developed a matrix to organize chronologies in the fourth century. The Eusebian model of charting history with empires or religions in parallel columns across the top and dates down the side became the standard for 1400 years.

Some genealogical trees, such as Hartmann Schedel's 15th century Nuremberg Chronicle, were created out of whole cloth to make patriarchs and rulers seem more legitimate by inventing ancestry reaching back to Noah. Later in the Chronicle, Schedel illustrated current events that had been published in newsletters, such as a naked witch riding a horse with the devil. (She commented that the tendency of modern media to spread false information is not a new concept.) The end of the Chronicle included events foretold in the Book of Revelation. Schedel gave readers a few blank pages between their own time and the Apocalypse to fill in with what he thought would be the short remaining history of the world.

Schedel was not alone in creating backstories for his patrons. Dominican theologian and con-man, Annius of Viterbo, published a set of "ancient" texts tracing the lineage of the Borgia Pope Alexander VI and the Catholic kings of Spain to Isis and Osiris.

Legitimate chronologers sometimes faced more problems than fake ones. When Jean Rou published his first set of historical and genealogical tables of ancient history in the 1670s, he met great success. But when he published volume two on modern history, including the Reformation, it was so controversial that it was banned, and Rou had to flee to the Netherlands.

During the 1600s fine engraving emerged, along with inventive sizes and shapes, including pocket-sized 'cheat sheets,' circular charts, and 54-foot long chronologies that rolled into custom wooden cases.

In the 1700s Thomas Jeffreys published "A Chart of Universal History" that broke out of the Eusebian matrix by focusing on the larger temporal boundaries of events and empires. Joseph Priestley soon after published his own version but switched the axes so that time ran along the top and countries or empires on the vertical axis.

Cartographers got in on the act as well when Edward Quinn demonstrated the growth of historical knowledge with a series of maps of the world beginning with "The Deluge" (BC 2348, he says) showing only the Garden of Eden. Successive maps show the clouds gradually clearing away to reveal the known world at key moments in history (founding of Rome, the first Crusade, the empire of Kublai Kahn, discovery of America, etc.).

In America, chronologies became weapons in the struggle of Christians to convert the souls of Native Americans. A Catholic priest created a “visual catechism,” a pictogram relating stories in the Bible, including the Protestant Reformation. The wife of a Presbyterian missionary created her own “Protestant Ladder” to compete with the “Catholic Ladder,” showing in her version the martyrdom of Protestants, and the Pope as Antichrist falling into the flames of perdition.

In the 19th century, millennialists produced time charts predicting that the Apocalypse would occur in 1843. When that didn’t happen, they recalculated and produced new charts.

Mnemonic systems such as Mark Twain’s visual association drawings to remember English kings (hens for Henry, whale for William, etc.) were discussed.

The twentieth century works of John Sparks were shown, including his published (world history, religions, history of the universe) and unpublished (history of the arts) histograms.

Other creative methods of telling time included Olaf Stapledon’s timeline devised for his science-fiction book, *Last and First Men*; a giant sequoia tree section showing events since the birth of Mohammed in 570; and Buckminster Fuller’s chart showing the relative shrinking of the planet based on the speed of travel of the day, were displayed.

And lastly, she showed a couple of “timelines” she had created: a box of Lynchburg history containing accordion-fold versions of six panoramic views of Lynchburg at approximately 50-year intervals, and a “poodle-skirt” genealogical chart that she printed and folded into an accordion-fold book.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

Minutes of the 1,466th meeting of the SPHEX Club October 21st

President David Frantz called the 1,466th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 21st. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Frantz, Gillette, Light, Marion, Payne, Roberts, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka, Wright.

Emeritus Members Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Delzingaro, Foster, Hendricks, Langhorne, Lucas, Manian, McDonald.

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Brian Edwards (Dr. Edwards' husband), Jean Munford (Dr. Edwards' mother), Denise Spinner (Assistant to Superintendent Edwards), Leonard Payne

A summary of the October 7th minutes was read by the secretary, Dr. Ken West

The minutes for October 7th, 2021 were passed without amendment.

Treasurer's Report – Marc Schewel delivered Part II of his treasurer's report. See Part I in the October 7th Minutes.

Part II

Well, that really shook me up. As I might be facing a possible fine or jail time, the first question that came to mind is what to wear.

I decided to get some advice from some folks whose opinion I really respect.

First, I went to retired banker Mike Bradford. He said, "Marc, wear your best suit, so you will appear prosperous, important, and confident that you haven't done anything wrong."

Then I went to the esteemed attorney Cham Light. He said, "Marc, wear your oldest, most ragged tee shirt and dungarees. Maybe the judge will be sympathetic if you look destitute."

Now I was really confused. I decided to consult the distinguished former professor of Counseling and Human Development at the University of Lynchburg, Dr. Ken West. I explained my dilemma.

He said, "Marc, this situation reminds me of the young virgin who came to me a few years ago on the eve of her wedding. She had asked her mother what she should wear that night. Her mother said, 'Wear a long flannel nightgown.' Then she had gone to her sister, who told her to wear a short, sheer negligee. Finally, she came to me with the same question."

"And what did you tell her?" I asked. "My dear," said Dr. West, "It doesn't matter what you wear . . . [See the minutes for the punchline, Marc advised] You're going to get screwed."

President Frantz introduced our speaker for the evening: Dr. Crystal Edwards

Dr. Crystal M. Edwards began her career as a high school science teacher in 1987 and has been a teacher leader, math and science supervisor, cheerleading coach, curriculum, director, assistant band director, school administrator, assistant superintendent, and superintendent. She currently serves as the Lynchburg City Schools' Superintendent and teaches a leadership course for the Doctor of Healthcare Administration program offered at Virginia University of Lynchburg. She earned a B.S. in Secondary Education (Penn State), an M.S. in Chemistry (Rutgers), and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership, Management and Policy (Seton Hall).

One of the tenets of Dr. Edwards' leadership is giving back and developing the next generation of educational leaders. She serves as a mentor for aspiring administrators and new superintendents. More recently, Dr. Edwards has spent considerable time focusing on equity and inclusivity. In 2016, Dr. Edwards was invited to Sliema, Malta as the keynote speaker on educational equity for the Unlocking Learning Potential Summit. As a part of the 2019 VSBA Fall Conference, Dr. Edwards presented a workshop for superintendents and school board members entitled *Confronting the "Unspeakables," Let's Talk About That*, a look at inequities in schools. She also serves on the boards of the YMCA of Central Virginia and the Lynchburg chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. In 2019, Dr. Edwards was appointed by Governor Northam to the Virginia Commission on African American History Education.

Dr. Edwards is happily married to Brian Edwards, owner and CEO of Serenity Property Management LLC. They have five children, Robyn (VCU grad - kindergarten teacher), Trey (William Paterson University grad - marketing), Miracle (self-starter – business management), Malcolm (soon to be a University of Lynchburg business graduate), and Laila (senior in high school). They have one adorable 3-year-old granddaughter who is the real boss of the family. When Dr. Edwards is not working, teaching, or attending school and community events, she enjoys doing outdoor activities such as hiking, bike riding, running half marathons, and simply relaxing in the pontoon on the lake.

Dr. Edwards provided this abstract of her presentation entitled: "The Power of Three Little Letters"

The Power of Three Little Letters was an exploration of an over 50-year journey that Dr. Edwards has had with the letters C, R and T. The journey began incredibly early with a simplistic view of the act of tracing the letters C, R, and T as a toddler. A deeper look at this mundane experience of tracing letters revealed analogous examples of inequities that exist today based on race, gender, and economic status. While the subtle differences between uppercase and lowercase Cc, Rr, and Tt may be acknowledged by some, and overlooked by others, these differences seldom result in discourse that necessitates change. Similarly, several of the struggles for equality and equity over the past century have faced a similar fate.

The journey continued with a stop during the middle and high school years where Dr. Edwards was introduced to the scientific version of CRT, the cathode ray tube. With the help of a few amazing science teachers and a curiosity about the structure of the atom, Dr. Edwards

studied physicist J.J. Thompson's Plum Pudding Model and his early experiments with the cathode ray tube (CRT) that led to the discovery of the electron. She became fascinated with the use of CRTs in computer screens, TVs, radar screens, and oscilloscopes. Hooked on STEM, Dr. Edwards pursued a career in teaching science and mentoring young women and people of color.

Determined to make a difference and encourage more minority students to pursue STEM careers, Dr. Edwards continued her journey and honed her practice by incorporating the rich CRT pedagogies in the form of Gloria Ladson-Billings' Culturally Relevant Teaching, Geneva Gay's Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Gholdy Muhammad's Historically Responsive Literacy. These educational CRTs dominated much of her professional career. Each of these frameworks, have at their core a purposeful and intentional focus on and incorporation of culture as a necessary foundation for student success. Acknowledging the legitimacy of the cultural heritages of different ethnic groups and their contributions to society is essential as a means of fostering student identity, skill, and intellectual development. Further, each of these frameworks teaches students to understand power, privilege, social justice, and oppression with the goal to have the agency to build a better world for all.

After spending over 30 years in education using CRT pedagogies to develop criticality skills in children, Dr. Edwards was introduced to yet another CRT, critical race theory. Unlike the previous CRT experiences which brought enlightenment and hope, this new CRT was shrouded in a cloud of divisiveness and despair. Critical race theory which evolved in the 1970s on university campuses to help law students think critically about the impact of racism on the legal system, soon became a political weapon aimed directly at public school systems. At a time when schools had thriving diversity, equity and inclusion programs that were built on the tenets of culturally relevant and responsive teaching (CRT), extremists accused school officials of delegitimizing whiteness, attempting to rewrite history, and teaching white students that they are inherently racist. Across the country, school board meetings erupted with citizens demanding answers to the CRT question. CRT even carved a space for debate during the 2021 gubernatorial election in Virginia.

As much as critical race theory dominated headlines, the next stop on the journey revealed that there was something more powerful demanding the media spotlight, the COVID-19 virus. With the virus came a new CRT in schools, the COVID Response Team. These new CRTs were essential to the operation of a school and without them schools would struggle to stay open. Teachers, administrators, nurses, support staff, and HR professionals were drafted to become members of the CRT. Apart from the school nurses, few educators and support staff were trained in addressing the spread of this infectious disease; yet they were expected to implement timely and effective mitigation strategies, conduct contact tracing, manage quarantines, and administer vaccines and booster shots. And while the CRTs devoted time, talent and energy to these new duties, communities questioned schools as to the "extra" efforts they would put in place to mitigate learning loss.

Despite the challenges and struggles we faced with the most recent CRT experiences, the last stop on this journey provided us with our "why we do this work," and that is simply because kids deserve it.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,467th meeting of the SPHEX Club
November 4, 2021**

President David Frantz called the 1,467th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 4th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cyphert, Dawson, Doyle, Edwards, Frantz, Hansen, Light, Lucas, Marion, McDonald, Morison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wodicka, Wright.

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Cook, Delaney, Delzingaro, Foster, Gillette, Hendricks, Langhorne, Manian, Schewel, Wilson.

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Al and Bettye Chambers, Dr. Allison Jablonski

New member Billy Hansen was introduced by Kim Payne.

Billy Hansen has an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Virginia and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Lynchburg. Billy is the principal of Hansen Realty Advisors, a real estate company in Lynchburg that provides commercial and residential brokerage, appraisal, and consulting services. Billy has earned the MAI designation from the Appraisal Institute. He also holds a Certified General Appraiser License and a Real Estate Broker License from the State of Virginia. Billy has also taught Real Estate Appraisal and Personal Finance as an adjunct professor at Longwood University. Billy has written a regular commercial real estate column for Lynchburg Business Magazine for several years. He is active in the community and has served on many boards including the Board of Equalization for the City of Lynchburg, Jones Memorial Library, Downtown Lynchburg Association, Virginia Commonwealth Chapter of the Appraisal Institute, and Lynchburg Morning Rotary Club. Billy also hosts The Lynchburg Neighborhood Podcast, a public oral history project that seeks to help neighbors feel more connected to one another and to their community.

New member and President of the University of Lynchburg, Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, was introduced by the University's past President, Dr. Ken Garren. The following presents several highlights provided by Sabita Manian.

On August 1, 2020, Alison Morrison-Shetlar became the 11th President at the University of Lynchburg. As the university moves towards development of a new strategic plan, three areas of distinction have emerged: Leadership Development, Innovation and Collaboration, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. These areas are already in the DNA of the University and will be expanded and inclusive of our greater Lynchburg community. Morrison-Shetlar is also proposing the development of a comprehensive campaign that will focus on increasing the number of student scholarships, seeking across campus programmatic support, and funding for renovating the Hobbs-Sigler Natural Science Building and Athletics facilities.

Dr. Morrison-Shetlar came to the University of Lynchburg from Western Carolina University where she was Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. While leading Western Carolina's academic program through a time of expansion, she also served in other capacities including 18 months as Interim Chancellor and nine months as Interim Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Engagement.

Dr. Morrison-Shetlar also has held leadership roles as Dean of Elon College of Arts and Sciences at Elon University, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Central Florida, and Director of Faculty Development at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Morrison-Shetlar brings a wealth of international experience to the presidential post. A native of Scotland, Morrison-Shetlar earned a bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry, and a Doctorate in Biomedical Science from Dundee College of Technology (now Abertay University).

She was the founding chair of the Molecular Biology unit at the Max Planck Institute in Dortmund, Germany, and a teacher-scholar at Bochum University in Bochum, Germany, and at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology in London.

The Minutes for the October 21st, 2021 meeting were approved without modification.

President Frantz introduced Travis McDonald, our speaker for the evening:

Travis McDonald is a native of Galveston, Texas, an island on the third coast. He received a degree in American history from the University of Texas in Austin and received his Master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia's School of Architecture, which has just awarded him their Distinguished Alumni Award for 2021. Travis was hired in 1989 to start the restoration of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest where he still serves as the Director of Architectural Restoration. He formerly worked for the Chief Historical Architect of the National Park Service where he was awarded a Special Achievement Award. He began directing museum quality restorations at Colonial Williamsburg. Awards for his work at Poplar Forest include The Architecture Medal for Virginia Service, by the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and a Virginia Senate Commendation for Preserving the Heritage of Virginia. He serves on several advisory boards including the Historic Preservation Committee that oversees Thomas Jefferson's buildings at the University of Virginia. Travis recently wrote an architectural history of Poplar Forest that will be published by the University of Virginia Press in 2022. He is working on a second book that will document the 30-year restoration of Poplar Forest. Travis is married to Denise McDonald who is the Executive Director of the Old City Cemetery and the proud father of two married daughters, one of whom is expecting the first grandchild around Christmas time.

Our presenter, Travis McDonald, provided this abstract of his presentation entitled "Oh Rats!"

In 1991 while investigating the evolutionary architectural changes to Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest retreat Travis McDonald found the first of many rats' nests in the hollow walls and floors. Since the house had burned in 1845 and was rebuilt in 1846, this material, which spanned 1847 to the 1970s, was from the Hutter and Watts families occupancy. While initially examining the

material (wood, paper, fabric, fruit, nuts, metal) for material culture clues of what the humans had done in and around the house (food, letters, newspapers, furniture, clothes, music, games, crops), questions arose regarding the collectors- the rats. Research on rats and their behavior and their nests led to nothing but laboratory rats and outdoor rats that lived in burrows. Information regarding rats living inside buildings and how they constructed their nests could not be found. Why did they take certain things? How did these things get arranged in the nests? Were different parts of a nest used for different purposes? What was the use of other materials that seemingly had no practical function? The questions pushed the boundaries of ethology (study of animal behavior) and whether rats had a culture as well as a society. Rats' nests have been useful for certain architectural restorations where they have provided clues for restored features or furnishings. While rats are venerated in some ancient and modern cultures, they have more often been made into cute mice stories in children's books, movies, and on television. In literature they have been infamously portrayed as themselves. Rats have been responsible for many human deaths and food losses. They arrived in America with the first settlers and are one of the most wide-spread and recognizable animals on earth. Farmers and home owners have over the centuries tried various methods to trap and exterminate them, including modern gadgets that are listed in current 2021 Christmas catalogs. The research and academic paper the author wrote in 2005 (*Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*) are still the only known published works on this subject.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,468th meeting of the SPHEX Club
November 18, 2021**

President David Frantz called the 1,468th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Delzingaro, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Hansen, Hendricks, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Schewel, Sigler, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wright.

Emeritus Members Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Doyle, Gillette, Langhorne, Light, Lucas, Stinnett, Wodicka

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Jacquie Glanz

The Minutes for November 4th were approved without modification.

Membership Decisions: Dr. Allison Jablonski and Michael Elliot will decide on membership in January.

Next Year's Officers will be selected early in 2022.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Schewel declined to give a report in order to afford the speaker more time.

President Frantz introduced Marc Schewel our speaker for the evening:

Marc Schewel is a native of Lynchburg, Va. He graduated from E.C. Glass High School in 1965 and from Washington and Lee University in 1969. Except for a brief teaching tenure at Appomattox High School, Mr. Schewel has worked all of his adult life at Schewel Furniture Company, where he is currently President. Schewel Furniture Company is a retail furniture chain with 50 stores in Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Mr. Schewel, his brother, and his son are the fourth and fifth generations to own and operate this family business which will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2022.

Mr. Schewel is involved in numerous community service activities. He is the past Chair of the United Way of Central Virginia, past Chair of New Vistas School, past Chair of the YMCA, past Chair of the National Conference for Community and Justice, past Chair of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, past Chair of the Family Alliance, and past President of the National Home Furnishings Association. He currently serves on the Boards of Parkview Community Mission, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Virginia, the Virginia Legal Aid Society, and Randolph College.

Mr. Schewel is the father of three children: David, Sara, and Matthew, and of two stepdaughters, Kali and Adrienne. He has eight grandchildren: Lia, Ari, Ana Maria, Ben, Frank, Jackson,

Abigail and Bennett. In his spare time Mr. Schewel enjoys exercise, reading, and duplicate bridge.

Our presenter, Marc Schewel, provided this abstract of his presentation entitled: *The Three Trillion Dollar Trough*

The title of Mr. Schewel's paper, "The Three Trillion Dollar Trough," approximates the \$3.65 trillion spent by the U.S. in 2018 on health care, a number which is now closer to \$4 trillion and which equates to \$11,000 per person or at least twice the amounts reported by all other high-income countries.

Despite this inordinate spending, Americans experience worse health outcomes than their international peers. They have a lower life expectancy, more suicides, a fifteen percent higher prevalence of chronic illness, twice the incidence of obesity, fifty percent more hospitalizations for diabetes and hypertension, and the highest rate of amenable or premature deaths from conditions which are considered preventable.

Mr. Schewel reviewed the various sectors of the health care industry feeding at the trough.

Strategies implemented by hospitals to enhance their revenue have resulted in room rates three to ten times higher than those in comparable countries. Hospitals employ coding specialists who train doctors and nurses to amplify the severity and complexity of diagnoses in order to obtain higher insurance reimbursements. They charge patients and insurers extra simply for the use of their facilities and equipment. They credential themselves as trauma centers so as to become eligible for substantial fees even when emergency victims are not admitted. Non-profit hospitals save billions every year in tax exemptions which far exceed their expenditures on charity care and community benefit.

Specialty physicians earn twice the salaries of those in countries like Germany. Overall, twenty-seven percent fall in the upper one percent of all wage earners, which is higher than the percent of attorneys and corporate executives in that category. Professional medical groups spent hundreds of millions every year for two decades lobbying Congress to defer Medicare reimbursement caps until they were permanently lifted in 2015.

Pharmaceutical companies have systematically manipulated patent law and FDA policies to enhance their products' values and boost their profits. In 2009 Proctor and Gamble prevented a generic of the colitis drug mesalamine from coming to the market by patenting two "new improved" versions. In 2010 Purdue Pharma extended the life of its patent on its billion-dollar pain medicine Oxycontin by introducing a shatter-resistant substitute whose purported safety enabled it to prohibit the manufacture and sale of a generic crushable pill. The manufacture of generic formulations of insulin and the popular contraceptive pill Loestrin 24 was stymied by lengthy law suits and bribes disguised as partnership payments.

Further price escalation comes from pharmacy benefit managers, intermediaries who purchase drugs from manufacturers, sell them to pharmacies, and invoice employers' health plans as prescriptions are filled at five to twenty times their cost.

Medical devices also carry a huge markup. A handful of manufacturers monopolizes the market, and realizes gross profit margins as high as seventy-five percent. Stretching between them and the implant recipient is a chain of hands that includes a broker, a distributor, a salesman, and the hospital, each of whom pockets his share.

The final beast feeding at the health care trough is the insurance industry. "The use of insurance to fund nominal and routine as well as large and expected expenses is a major cause of health care's huge cost," says David Goldhill. Insurance promotes moral hazard – the tendency for people to make less careful decisions when risk is minimized – by insulating the consumer from the high cost of his care. Yet he, like everyone, is paying hidden consequences for his safety net: lower wages, higher retail prices, high premiums to cover co-workers and to offset Medicare discounts to providers.

Mr. Schewel presented three possible solutions for the health care cost problem.

Capitation – whereby providers receive fixed lump-sum payments to manage population health – he rejected as impractical, as it requires significant attitudinal and behavioral changes from hospitals, physicians, and patients.

Regulation through the legislative process he also rejected, citing the failure of the negotiations surrounding the Affordable Care in 2010 to yield any meaningful participation from the device, hospital, insurance, or pharmaceutical industries, who were expected to gain twenty million new customers.

A device tax, collected for four years, eventually succumbed to intense lobbying from the manufacturers. Similar efforts suppressed measures designed to reduce hospital reimbursements: a provision to cut Medicaid's Disproportionate Share payments; the formation of an Independent Payment Advisory Board to implement cost-cutting policies; and an attempt to tie Medicare payment updates to a productivity measurement.

As for the insurance industry, a premium tax had to be repealed when it was discovered that the insurers weren't paying it; their customers were. While open market insurance was initially successful, primarily due to government subsidies for low income members, by 2020 the new coverage requirements – no lifetime or preexisting conditions limitations and the inclusion of emergency, maternity, mental health, and preventive services – had doubled both costs and deductibles, and driven away many customers. Also doubling was the cost of the plan to the federal government, which rose from \$21 billion to \$45 billion annually.

The pharmaceutical industry was able to whittle a \$13 billion a year demand from Congress down to \$8, thanks to the work of Billy Tauzin, CEO of their manufacturer's association, and a \$70 million contribution to two of their political action committees. Also falling by the wayside were other potential savings: prescription drug importation; negotiated drug prices; cuts in Medicaid payments; and the moratorium on biologic patents.

Mr. Schewel endorsed universal health insurance – either the German or Canadian plan – as the best solution to the health care cost problem. He said the U.S. is halfway there, considering that the entire population's health insurance is either paid by the government through Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans' Administration or subsidized directly through credits or the tax deductibility of employer funded plans. He claimed universal care offers more choice, produces better outcomes, and costs much less than the current system.

Mr. Schewel is not sanguine about the prospects for universal health insurance in this country. He said domination of the industry by corporate power, Congress's lack of courage and political will, and indifference and complacency on the part of both employers and employees effectively forecloses any hope for meaningful change.

Mr. Schewel concluded his talk by providing his own prescription for avoiding the health care system altogether.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 9:18.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,469th meeting of the SPHEX Club
January 6, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1469th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 7th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Delzingaro, Doyle, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Gillette, Hendricks, Langhorne, Light, Lucas, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka, Wright.

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were:

Bateman, Bradford, Hansen, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Salmon

Sphex's special guest for the evening: John Hughes IV

President Frantz introduced Dr. Reid Wodicka our speaker for the evening:

Dr. Reid Wodicka was appointed Deputy City Manager for the City of Lynchburg on June 13, 2018. Prior to his service in the City, Dr. Wodicka served as Deputy County Administrator for nearby Bedford County and Town Manager for the Towns of Woodstock and Elkton in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

A graduate of E. C. Glass High School, Dr. Wodicka was born and raised in the City of Lynchburg. He later graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg with a BS in Public Policy and Administration. He continued at JMU to earn a Master of Public Administration degree while serving as the Town Manager in Elkton. After several years of working in local government, he earned a PhD in Public Policy with a concentration in Urban and Regional Development from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is currently pursuing the Executive Master of Science in Cities at the London School of Economics.

Dr. Wodicka serves as a member of a number of local community boards and organizations. He is also a member of the Virginia Local Government Management Association and the Government Finance Officers Association.

Our presenter, Dr. Reid Wodicka, provided this abstract of his presentation entitled: "Wait, what happened?"

Dr. Wodicka began his talk, entitled "Wait, what happened", with a request for the Club to remember the number 68 throughout the discussion. This statistic represents the percentage of children in Virginia who have been released from juvenile detention or locked corrections facilities and are reconvicted within two years of their release, the first 50 percent of which recidivate within the first year. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the challenges facing the juvenile justice system throughout the United States, and with particular

focus on Virginia, finishing with a celebration of some preliminary accomplishments in Lynchburg's juvenile services in order to better serve children and the community as a whole.

Over the last 120 years, there have been three phases of the development of the juvenile justice system. First, the system was very individual-specific, with focus on addressing the unique needs of each child. While that worked in some cases, the considerable discretion of judges and prosecutors led to miscarriages of justice in the form of harsh punishments for minor crimes. Beginning in the late 1960s, the system became more focused on requisite due process reform to ensure uniformity in decision-making. By the 1990s, similar to national conversations surrounding criminal justice, which encouraged harsher punishments, the juvenile justice system became far more punitive and far less focused on rehabilitation of children who had committed crimes.

At the same time, there has been a movement to develop a stronger understanding of the *reason* that some children engage in criminal acts, particularly violent criminal acts. Dr. Wodicka discussed the impact that brain development has on decision-making in adolescence and how those realities should moderate how we choose to address criminal behaviors. But why some children engage in these behaviors and others do not is really the more interesting question. While there are many sociological explanations that discuss criminal acts, Dr. Wodicka focused on the impacts that significant psychological traumas in childhood have on the structure of the brain and how those traumas impact the child's later behaviors. There is a clear connection between those children who have extensive psychological trauma in childhood and those who, untreated, go on to commit serious criminal acts as teenager.

Unfortunately, the juvenile justice system throughout the United States is poorly equipped to address significant childhood trauma and to recognize the children that need significant mental health care. In fact, the de-institutionalization of human services may have even made it more difficult to adequately address the serious mental health challenges that many of our children are experiencing. Sadly, most children involved in the juvenile justice system throughout the United States have experienced dramatic traumatic experiences in their homes or in their communities.

Virginia is no different and a recent Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report outlined some of the significant challenges that are facing Virginia's juvenile justice system. In total there are approximately 3,000 children involved in the juvenile justice system at any one time – 20% of which are housed in locked detention or correctional facilities. The vast majority of these children are between the ages of 14 and 17, which is when the brain is in its most vulnerable state. Unfortunately, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, through the JLARC study, found that in the majority of locked juvenile facilities in Virginia, no evidence-based practices designed to reduce recidivism were employed, nor had they evaluated the impact of any program that they did employ. Instead, most facilities are staffed by undertrained employees who have little to no training in dealing with children who have experienced significant trauma. So, we are taking children who have experienced significant trauma and warehousing them in an inherently traumatic place with people who are not trained to address those problems. Clearly, the system has not focused on rehabilitation.

We are proud that in Lynchburg, after it came to light that there were very significant challenges in our local system, we have been working to transform how Lynchburg manages

juvenile detention. This was done by providing evidence-based interventions both to children and to staff to make the time we have with the children in care be the most productive possible, with assistance from throughout city government and the community. Most importantly, we are changing our question from: “What’s wrong with you?” to “What happened to you?”, and starting our intervention from there. While it is too early to determine the impacts of our work, we are seeing some very good early results.

The children in our care are not beyond rehabilitation, and if we are focused on addressing the true explanation for their behavior, we will make a significant improvement to their lives, as well as to the overall health and safety of our community.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,470th meeting of the SPHEX Club
January 20, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,470th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 20th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Elliott, Foster, Frantz, Gillette, Jablonski, Light, Lucas, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka, Wright.

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Delzingaro, Hansen, Hendricks, Jablonski.

Sphex's special guest for the evening: Maria Roberts

New Member, Dr. Michael Elliott was in attendance: Michael Elliot is Senior Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer at Centra Health.

The minutes for Sphex's January 6th meeting were approved without modification.

President Frantz reminded the membership of the value of the Sphex tradition of contacting the presenter if one is unable to attend a presentation.

President Frantz also reported sending Sphex's "Resolution of Appreciation and Respect for Dr. James Martin Elson (1932-2021)" to his daughter Elizabeth Elson who replied with deep appreciation.

Marc Schewel presented the following Treasurer's Report:

Ever since my Sphex presentation on the Health Care industry back in November, strange things have been happening to me.

After nine hours in a car with my son, his wife, and their three children and spending Thanksgiving weekend with nine other family members at a crowded resort in Bedford Springs, Pennsylvania, I came home with a serious head cold.

Just in case you're wondering, I did test myself for Covid – jamming a swab $\frac{3}{4}$ " up each nostril and rotating five times for fifteen seconds – with a negative result.

The cold lingers off and on for three weeks, during which I have a regularly scheduled annual check-up with my internist. With a cough and congestion, I manage to get past the gatekeeper at the entrance to his office, and am ushered back to an examination room. During my interview with a nurse, I am asked if I want to get a flu shot. "Sure," I say, "but I don't know if I should have it with this cold."

“Let me check with the doctor,” she says. Five minutes later she rushes back with a panic-stricken look on her face, and exclaims, “You’re not allowed to be in here,” and shoos me out like a pesky fly.

The doctor calls me while I’m sitting in my car, and tells me that, in order for him to examine me, I need to take a Covid test. “Fine,” I say, until he informs me I won’t get the result for two hours. “I don’t have Covid, and I can’t wait two hours,” I say. “I’ll come back when this cold is gone.”

My cold abates. I meet with the doctor, receive a clean bill of health, attend a party on December 23rd, and celebrate the day after Christmas with a few friends. But on the evening of December 27th, I start feeling sick again.

The next morning I subject myself to another test, and this time when I look at the test card after the requisite fifteen minute wait, I see two parallel pink lines staring back at me. I didn’t have Covid before, but I have it now.

I’m happy to report that my symptoms were no worse than a bad head cold.

Now, what does this have to do with the treasurer’s report?

During my quarantine I receive a letter from the Bank of the James advising me that the Sphex Club account has been closed due to lack of activity. This is very strange. Why hasn’t the bank noticed this inactivity for the past two years? Is it possible that the bank found out I was ill, and perhaps jumped to the conclusion that, well, I’m dead?

I need to find someone trustworthy who can attest to my identity and vitality. I look over the Sphex roster, and see it’s replete with a host of suspicious doctors, lawyers, and professors. I finally light on one member whose commanding presence and resonant tone of voice can never be questioned: Dennis Roberts. Dennis is kind enough to accompany me to the bank, vouch for me, and help me get our account reopened – where we discover the balance to be the same as it was two years ago: \$1293.56.

President Frantz introduced The Rev. Dennis Roberts our speaker for the evening:

Dennis Roberts is a native of Rural Retreat, Virginia. He graduated in 1983 from Washington & Lee University with a B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting. He then earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He served congregations in Frankfurt, Germany, and Harrisonburg, Virginia, before coming to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynchburg in January 1991. In Lynchburg, he has served on the board and as president of Interfaith Outreach Association. He currently is a member of the United Way Campaign Cabinet. He is also on the boards of the Lynchburg Chapter, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and the Lynchburg Community Action Group (LynCAG).

Dennis and his wife, Maria, are the parents of two daughters.

(Secretary’s Note: During the Covid pandemic that in March will stretch over two years of Sphex presentations, The Rev. Dennis Roberts provided links that allowed all active members, emeritus members and guests to listen, watch and interact virtually with each Sphex presenter. In addition, Dennis Roberts tirelessly and patiently coached each member that had never presented virtually and needed help understanding how to best proceed. Speaking for the entire membership of Sphex, we so greatly appreciate the outstanding work that The Rev. Dennis Roberts has done for the Sphex Club, its presenters and membership. Dr. Ken West, Secretary)

Our presenter, The Reverend Dennis Roberts, provided this abstract of his presentation entitled: “Witch Hunt”.

The term “witch hunt” has been used frequently in recent years to dismiss the ever-growing list of accusations, outrages, scandals, and unfolding saga of potential criminal offenses associated with the Trump administration. The phrase piqued a curiosity about the *real* thing: the witch craze and deadly witch hunts of the early modern European era, roughly from 1450 to 1750, with a focus on the Germanic regions of western Europe.

The Brocken mountain in north-central Germany figures prominently in “Witches’ Night” legends as the location for the annual April 30-May 1 fly-in to commune with the Devil in a bacchanalian orgy. The witches’ revelry is referenced by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in *Faust*, Part I.

Historian Brian Levack explains that early modern Europeans used the word “witchcraft” to describe the practice of maleficent magic and/or the alleged relationship that existed between witches and the Devil. The combination of black magic and diabolism made witches not simply felons but heretics and apostates who could be executed for their crimes. There is no scholarly consensus on why the great European witch-hunt took place, but it is “attributed, in whole or in large part, to the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, the Inquisition, the use of judicial torture, the wars of religion, the religious zeal of the clergy, the rise of the modern state, the development of capitalism, a series of agricultural crises, the widespread use of narcotics, changes in medical thought, social and cultural conflict, an attempt to wipe out paganism, the need of ruling elites to distract the masses, opposition to birth control, the spread of syphilis, and the hatred of women.”

The paper then explored the religious dimension and hatred of women in more detail. While there may not be a causal relationship between religious reforms taking place at the time, it is certainly true that forces unleashed by the Reformation and Counter-Reformation did serve as a catalyst for witch hunting in both Roman Catholic and Protestant areas. Statistically, witchcraft prosecutions were more likely to occur in areas where there was more religious conflict.

Historian Anne Barstow details how patriarchy and misogyny helped fuel the witch hunt movement, writing that of the approximately 100,000 people executed under the guise of “witch hunts” from 1450 to 1750, most (80-90%) were women. She continues, “...women were accused primarily by men, tried by male juries, burned to death by male executioners—while being prayed over by male confessors.” The stories of Walpurga Hausmannin and Elisabeth Strupp, executed in 1587 and 1599 respectively, are examples of a recurring theme: the victim is almost always female, old, poor, illiterate, and widowed, often falling prey to the Devil because of sexual desire and economic need. She is a lower-class female judged by the male oligarchy of her town. Her execution will be a brutal spectacle, often with sexual violence.

Even though the oppression of women had a long history before the early modern European period, the witch hunt era appears to be the first time that women were criminalized as a group. Their vulnerability to mass persecution was proven, their alleged propensity for evil dramatized. The lengths to which men in power would go in order to control women became more violent, more public, and more organized. The public execution of witches was a powerful way to keep women in their place.

Intimidation is certainly a factor in all centuries, in all places. Such intimidation – the scapegoating of women for the ills of society, the “ethnic cleansing” of independent women, the desire of some men to control women’s bodies and reproductive health – continues to influence our culture today. Violence against women and girls is one of the more prevalent human rights violations in the world, knowing no social, economic, or national boundaries. Women who challenge the patriarchal order are often assailed, including in our own country and community.

Today, one has to wonder if the repetitive use of the term “witch hunt” is *more* than a throw-away line. What if it is an intentional dog whistle to further demonize women and subconsciously unleash misogynistic forces, just as racism and xenophobia have been subtly validated with a wink and a nod in recent years? Human rights in general, and women’s rights in particular, are under attack – whether by populist forces desperate to gain power, religious forces enmeshed in unholy alliances with the powers that be, or authoritarian governments eager to maintain and extend their power.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**A Resolution of Appreciation and Respect
for
Dr. James Martin Elson (1932-2021)**

Whereas Dr. James Martin Elson was a respected teacher of music and administrator in higher education before coming to Lynchburg:

Whereas he was a retired Colonel of the United States Army and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal:

Whereas since Dr. Elson came to Lynchburg as Executive Director of the Academy of Music Theater, he has been an enthusiastic and productive participant in the cultural life of the community:

Whereas he served as Executive Vice President of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation from 1988 until 2000:

Whereas James Elson authored an informative and entertaining history of the first two-hundred years of Lynchburg:

Whereas our colleague Jim Elson was a devoted member of the Sphex Club from 1997 until his death:

Whereas he served as Secretary of the Club for several years and strengthened it by reminding and encouraging members regarding the responsibilities of membership:

Whereas Jim Elson's notable presentations, wit and love of history are and will continue to be missed by the Sphex Club, now therefore be it

Resolved that the members of the Sphex Club express their heartfelt appreciation for the outstanding membership of Dr. James Martin Elson, their deep sorrow at his death, and their support, condolences and best wishes for his family.



**Minutes of the 1,471st meeting of the SPHEX Club
February 3, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,471st meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3rd. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Hendricks, Light, Lucas, Manian, Marion, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wright.

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Dawson, Delzingaro, Elliott, Gillette, Hansen, Jablonski, McDonald, Morrison-Shetlar, Schewel, and Wodicka.

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Chris Webb, Francie Webb

The minutes for January 20th were approved without modification

Resolution Honoring The Rev. Dennis Roberts:

President Frantz presented the following resolution honoring The Rev. Dennis Roberts for his service during the pandemic. The resolution was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS: During the Covid pandemic that in March will stretch over two years of Sphex presentations, The Rev. Dennis Roberts provided links that allowed all active members, emeritus members and guests to listen, watch and interact virtually with each Sphex presenter;

WHEREAS: Dennis Roberts tirelessly and patiently coached each member who had never presented virtually and needed help understanding how to best proceed,

And WHEREAS: The Rev. Dennis Roberts enabled the Club to cast secret ballots virtually for the induction of new members,

BE IT RESOLVED, The membership of Sphex, express their appreciation and thanks for the outstanding work that The Rev. Dennis Roberts has done for the Sphex Club, its presenters and membership.

President Frantz introduced Katie Webb Cyphert our speaker for the evening:

Katie Webb Cyphert was born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma to two native Virginians, and moved to Lynchburg when she was two. Katie attended school in Lynchburg from kindergarten to her graduation from E.C. Glass in 1998. In 2002 she received her Bachelors of Science in Psychology-Special Education from Lynchburg College (now the University of Lynchburg).

After 6 years as a Special Education teacher at E.C. Glass, Katie ventured into financial services for 5 years. She held licenses in Life & Health, Property & Casualty, Variable Products (Series 6/63), and Long Term Care Insurance. Katie returned to the classroom in 2013 to teach Earth Science at Linkhorne Middle School.

Katie is currently a building rep for the Lynchburg Education Association and a Board Member of the Shawn Moss Wellness and Growth Foundation. Katie's past activities include

serving on the boards for Young Professionals of Central Virginia and Friends of Rivermont, serving as Chair of the Lynchburg Democratic Committee, and as a Daisy Troop Girl Scout Leader. She spends her summers working at Camp Alleghany for Girls in West Virginia.

Katie and her husband Mark have two daughters: Rosalie is 12 and in 6th grade at Dunbar Middle. Brea is 15 and in 10th grade at E.C. Glass. On the weekends, Katie tests her patience and prays to the gods of driving while teaching Brea to drive a stick shift. Tonight Katie will present her third paper for SPHEX: "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do".

**Our presenter, Katie Cyphert, provided this abstract of her presentation entitled:
"Breaking up is Hard to Do"**

Not available at this time.

Here is the link to Katie's presentation:

https://youtu.be/c3_5TFFLuDA

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

Resolution Honoring The Rev. Dennis Roberts
February 3rd, 2022

President Frantz presented the following resolution honoring The Rev. Dennis Roberts for his service during the pandemic. The resolution was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS: During the Covid pandemic that in March will stretch over two years of Sphex presentations, The Rev. Dennis Roberts provided links that allowed all active members, emeritus members and guests to listen, watch and interact virtually with each Sphex presenter,

WHEREAS: Dennis Roberts tirelessly and patiently coached each member who had never presented virtually and needed help understanding how to best proceed,

And WHEREAS: The Rev. Dennis Roberts enabled the Club to cast secret ballots virtually for the induction of new members,

BE IT RESOLVED, The membership of Sphex, express their appreciation and thanks for the outstanding work that The Rev. Dennis Roberts has done for the Sphex Club, its presenters and membership.

**Minutes of the 1,472nd meeting of the SPHEX Club
February 17, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,472nd meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 17th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Doyle, Elliott, Foster, Frantz, Gillette, Hansen, Hendricks, Jablonski, Light, Lucas, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wright

Emeritus Members Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Bradford, Delzingaro, Edwards, Salmon, Wodicka

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Edie Light, Paige Light, the Reverends Diane and Todd Vie, Megan Lucas, and Sumner Jenkins.

The minutes were approved without modification.

New Officers Announced for 2022-2023

Dr. Michael Gillette on behalf of the Nominations Committee announced the new officers for the next Sphex year:

President	Katie Cyphert
Vice President	Joe Stinnett
Treasurer	Marc Schewel
Secretary	Dr. Jim Wright
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Ken West

Membership Committee

Mike Bradford, Chair
Julie Doyle
Travis McDonald

Nominations Committee

Dr. Michael Gillette, Chair
Dr. Reid Wodicka
Dr. Crystal Edwards

Ad Hoc Library Committee

Ted Delaney, Chair
Dr. Jim Wright

Dr. Tom Tiller
Nancy Marion

Program Committee

Dr. David Frantz, Chair

Nominations for New Members

Please send your nominations for new members to any member of the Membership Committee. Also, please send with your nomination a brief biography of your nominee(s):

Mike Bradford, Chair (mvbradford@gmail.com)
Julie Doyle (jdoyle0463@gmail.com)
Travis McDonald (travis@poplarforest.org)

President Frantz introduced Cham Light our speaker for the evening:

Cham Light served for over 30 years, from 1985 to 2016, as an Assistant General Counsel and Claims Director with state, regional and national responsibilities for Nationwide Insurance Company. He is also in his 16th year as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Liberty University Law School teaching courses in Land Use and Zoning Regulations, Insurance Law and also Real Estate Transactions and Development Law.

Cham has been very active in community service organizations over the years including serving as a Founding Director and Executive Committee member of the Free Clinic of Central VA for nine years, for fifteen years on the Board of the Library of VA including two terms as President, five years as President of the Old City Cemetery, two years as President of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, a term as Chair of the Arbitration Committee of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Carriers and is presently President of the Board of Trustees of Jones Memorial Library.

Cham has been married to his wife Edie for 38 years and they have two children: Tray, who is an Episcopal seminary student at Sewanee University and Paige, who is a marketing representative for Tableau Software.

Our presenter, Cham Light, provided the following abstract of his presentation entitled: "The City of Secrets"

Cham Light spoke from the lectern in the sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 605 Clay St. in Lynchburg. He invited SPHEX members who were present to sample wines and cheeses from the area of the city in Italy about which his presentation was based before the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and also after his presentation in the narthex of St. Paul's. At the end of his presentation Cham said he had done this partly to get members of the SPHEX back in the habit of meeting in person.

Cham's guests were his wife, Edie, Megan Lucas, CEO of the Regional Business Alliance and wife of SPHEX member Tory Lucas, the Reverends Diane and Todd Vie, co-priests of St.

Paul's, Sumner Jenkins, organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's, who had prepared the photos and video segments of Cham's presentation and who operated the video and sound system that evening, and Cham and Edie's daughter Paige Light, who viewed the presentation via Zoom. SPHEX members who attended in person were Jim Wright, Tory Lucas, John Cook and Billy Hansen.

Cham started his presentation by stating this was his fourth paper since being invited into membership in January, 2009. His previous papers dealt with the acquisition and use of political power, the Virginia Brigade in the War of 1812 which was led by his ancestor General Joel Leftwich, and a review of the Electoral College which elects U.S. Presidents.

Cham said this paper, while it may seem like a travelogue, had a more serious purpose, which was to identify characteristics of a city that had different factions but was still unified, and what lessons Lynchburg residents might learn from this city to better our own community.

The title of Cham's paper, "The City of Secrets," was taken from a book written by Professor Jane Tylus entitled *Siena City of Secrets*. He mentioned that Tylus had numerous YouTube segments that would be of interest to those wanting to learn more than would be provided in his presentation.

Cham stated that the city in question was Siena, Italy, in the heart of Tuscany, which was built on three hills but did not have a dependable source of water since it was not built on a river. It depended on wells until an aqueduct was constructed in the 1910s. He also noted that there was a series of eight walls surrounding the city, the first of which was built in the 11th century and the last finished in 1460. Most of the walls are still standing and make navigation in the city confusing and difficult.

Cham had Sumner show two panoramic photos of Siena and two of the campo or city center of Siena. Siena has struggled for centuries, especially against Florence, to preserve its identity and heritage and does not want the city to be overrun with tourists like Venice and Florence.

Cham gave a brief history of the country of Italy, pointing out that the country was not unified until 1861 and that before that it had been a collection of city states that had been unstable politically and constantly at war since the disintegration of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD.

Siena is about 143 miles north of Rome and 45 miles south of Florence. It grew from a Roman trading post in 30 AD and prospered based on wool, wheat, salt, some mining, and money lending, and because a stopover for pilgrims on the Via Francigena, the 1,181 mile pilgrimage route from Canterbury, England to Rome, Italy.

Cham pointed-out that all great cities have great buildings, great institutions and great historical figures. He then identified the Cathedral of Siena, the Hospital of Santa Maria della Scala and the Monte dei Paschi Bank as key buildings or institutions in the city. Photos of all these were shown. The hospital, dating to the 12th century, was the oldest and one of the largest in Europe. The bank, established in 1472, is the oldest bank in the world. The hospital was dedicated to caring for pilgrims, the poor and abandoned babies and the bank was founded to provide loans for pilgrims and the poor so they could avoid private money lenders.

Cham identified St. Catherine of Siena as the most famous citizen of Siena. She was born in Siena in 1347, started to have religious visions at an early age, was a lay member of the

Dominican Order, developed stigmata, became quite influential, helped persuade the Pope to leave Avignon, France and return to Rome and died in Rome from constant fasting in 1380, age 33 (the same age as Jesus Christ when he was crucified). She has subsequently been declared by the Pope as co-patron saint of both Italy and Europe and was the second woman to be proclaimed a Doctor of the Roman Catholic Church. Photos of her torso, which is in a glass coffin at the altar of the Basilica di Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome, and her head, which is in a glass reliquary at her home church, San Domenico in Siena, were shown.

Cham then explained how Siena is divided into 17 Contrada, or neighborhoods, each with its own shield, clubhouse, chapel and museum. At birth children are given a scarf with the shield of the Contrada in which they are born and they cherish it for life. Cham and Edie had scarves they had purchased at the Aquila (Eagle) Contrada dinner the night before with scarves from the Contrada being distinguishable by Sienese from those bought at a souvenir shop.

Cham then provided details about the Palio, or banner horse race, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and which is held every year on July 2 and August 16. He included video clips of Contrada members marching and singing in the streets and a Rick Steves clip of various scenes from a Palio.

Cham and Edie have been to Siena four times: for several hours as day trippers in 2002 and 2007 and to attend the Palio for five nights in August 2016, and with his adult children for six nights in August 2019. He stated he is more perplexed now about Siena than he was after his first visit.

Cham pointed out that Siena has very little crime, typically no murders and very little violence, even during the Palio, and then asked a series of questions about Lynchburg and how aspects of our city compare to Siena:

- How about comparable buildings? Perhaps Monument Terrace or the Old City Courthouse.
- Comparable institutions? Perhaps Centra Health or BWXT.
- A comparable person that could be unifying and inspiring? Leland Melvin was Cham's personal choice.
- A song? Maybe Lynchburg needs to commission one.
- What about a shared activity like the Palio? Is that the Ten Miler?

Cham pointed-out one advantage Lynchburg has that Siena does not is the James River. We need to continue the positive momentum.

Cham closed with asking what lessons can be learned from Siena. He has raised some questions and asked his listeners if they had other questions or any answers.

There were some questions and answers after his presentation. Julius Sigler said he was surprised Cham did not include reference to the fresco of the Allegory of Good Government and the Effects of Bad Government. Cham explained that the fresco is in City Hall, which borders the Campo and is distinguished by the large tower seen in the photos. He simply did not have enough time to cover all aspects of Siena. There were also comments and questions by George Dawson and Katie Cyphert.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,473rd meeting of the SPHEX Club
March 3, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,473rd meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 3rd. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Frantz, Hansen, Hendricks, Jablonski, Light, Manian, Marion, McDonald, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Schewel, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka, Wright

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Dawson, Delzingaro, Elliott, Foster, Gillette, Lucas, Sigler

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Peter Doyle, Mckayla Warwick

The minutes were approved without modification.

President Frantz congratulated the Nomination Committee (Dr. Michael Gillette, Chair, Dr. Reid Wodicka, and Dr. Crystal Edwards) for their work in the selection of officers for the 2022-2023 Sphex year:

President	Katie Cyphert
Vice President	Joe Stinnett
Treasurer	Marc Schewel
Secretary	Dr. Jim Wright
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Ken West

The Membership Committee continues to accept nominations for new members:

Please submit your nominations and the required background information by Sunday night, March 13th to any member of the committee.

Mike Bradford, Chair -- mvbradford@gmail.com

Julie Doyle -- jdoyle0463@gmail.com

Travis McDonald -- travis@poplarforest.org

Treasurer's Report – Marc Schewel

In order to avoid being “cancelled” as I was after my reelection as Treasurer at the last meeting, I have decided to make tonight's report mercifully brief. Recently the Club has been the beneficiary of an unexpected windfall. My fellow members will recall that I was unable to attend our meeting four weeks ago as I was preparing to leave early the following morning for a trip out of the country. That trip was to the Patagonia region of Chile.

However, I am embarrassed to admit that there was another unpleasant reason for my absence: the Sphex Treasury had been stripped of its funds. Yes, my friends, on the eve of my departure I found myself short of cash, and so took the liberty of borrowing the bank balance of \$1293.56 to tide me over, fully intending to repay it upon my return. Of course, immediately upon arriving in Santiago I converted the money to Chilean pesos. Then I discovered that I had prepaid almost all of my travel expenses and could use a credit card for any incidentals. I did spend ten dollars on a travel guide. Two days after I got home I went straight to the Bank of the James, and deposited what I had left in the Sphex Club account.

So, I am pleased to report that the Treasury now stands at 1,034,848 pesos. This puts us well ahead of the curve when the current inflation spiral reaches 800%.

President Frantz introduced Julie Doyle our speaker for the evening:

Our speaker was born in Los Angeles and raised in Portland, Oregon. She is one of five sisters. Ms. Doyle received her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame and a Master's in Business Administration from George Washington University. Her first job after college was as a Sales Engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Afterwards, Ms. Doyle was an Education Account Executive at Honeywell, Inc. In 2005 Ms. Doyle became the President and Executive Director of The Education & Research Foundation. She retired from this position in 2021.

Ms. Doyle has contributed generously to the Central Virginia Community. Presently she is a member of the Centra Health Board of Directors, the University of Lynchburg Board of Trustees, the Bank of the James Board of Directors and The Lynchburg Education Foundation Board of Directors. Formerly she was Chairperson of the Lynchburg City School Board and the president of the Kids' Haven Board of Directors.

Julie moved to Lynchburg in 1993 and is married to Peter Doyle who is a native of Lynchburg. The two met at Notre Dame where Julie lettered in volleyball. Julie and Peter have three children—all Notre Dame graduates. Kevin lives in Chicago. He and his wife Caitlin have two children, Grace and Callahan. Sarah, their second child, lives in Seattle. And, their youngest child, Maggie, lives in Philadelphia. Incidentally, Julie became the first woman to be President of Notre Dame's prestigious Monogram Club.

Our presenter, Julie Doyle, provided this abstract of her presentation entitled: *This Road Less Traveled Moves Like Water*

The practice of Restorative Justice – found in court systems, schools, communities and the workplace – has been said to move like water, since it represents flexibility and fluidity, and can flow around obstacles in powerful ways.

Julie's talk was inspired by the restorative justice work being done in Philadelphia by Lynchburg native and University of Pennsylvania graduate, Mckayla Warwick. Mckayla and two of her UPenn classmates received a \$250,000 President's Engagement Prize in 2020, and have been working in west Philadelphia to train and empower BIPOC youth (black, indigenous, people of color) on restorative justice practices which can have a meaningful impact on

incarceration rates and improve harmony within communities. (Mckayla attended the talk as Julie's invited guest.)

Although the meaning of "restorative justice" can vary widely depending on the setting, a common thread is that these practices will emphasize the acknowledgement of a harm and its impact on people, relationships and community, and will focus on bringing about a resolution that is not only centered around punishment.

Restorative justice is sometimes referred to as a "victim-centered approach", addressing weaknesses in the traditional court processes, which result in those impacted *most* by a crime, often having the *least* to say about the outcome of the criminal proceeding.

In a successful restorative justice process, the offender will recognize the effects of the harm and, wherever possible, repair the harm in a manner that is satisfactory to the victim.

With origins tied to Native American and other indigenous communities, restorative justice practices have been around for many years. However, it was not until the 1970's that these practices began to surface in some U.S. courts.

Cook County, Illinois – located in the greater Chicago area – has a restorative justice champion in their Chief Judge, the Honorable Timothy C. Evans. Chief Judge Evans has established three (3) stand-alone Restorative Justice Community Courts (RJCC) in Cook County. These courts focus on providing alternative adjudication pathways for non-violent, first time "emerging adult" offenders, ages 18-26 years old, who are willing to accept responsibility for the harm they have caused. The RJCC restorative justice process includes Peace Circles facilitated by trained professionals and attended by the victim, the offender and representatives from the community, and a Repair of Harm Agreement (RHA) co-authored by all parties. Once the terms of the RHA have been met by the offender, the case is dismissed and the offender's record is cleared.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has not integrated restorative justice practices into its court systems as proactively as has been seen in other states. But recent efforts by the legislature – including the addition of language in Section 16.1 of the Code of Virginia and in the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) - give reason to believe that support is growing for the use of restorative justice practices in Virginia, especially for juvenile court cases.

Following Reid Wodicka's January 2022 SPHEX paper on the challenges facing the juvenile justice system, several SPHEX members expressed an interest in finding ways to engage with and support juveniles in the justice system. With some winds of change on the horizon, there may be opportunities for all to play a part in enabling restorative justice efforts to flow into our community.

Special Guest and Participant: Mckayla Warwick

Mckayla Warwick is a Lynchburg native and graduate of EC Glass high school, currently residing in Philadelphia. Mckayla earned a full-ride QuestBridge scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2020 with a major in Sociology, and minors in Urban Education and Africana Studies. Upon graduation, Mckayla and two of her classmates – Hyungtae Kim and Kwaku Owusu – were awarded a \$250,000 President's Engagement Prize for a project they named "Collective Climb". They have been working with West Philly youth – first under the umbrella of the President's Engagement Prize and now as an

independent non-profit. Collective Climb was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in 2021 so the impactful work—of using restorative justice practices to engage and empower youth to build community and repair harm—could continue.

If you would like to learn more about Collective Climb, you can visit their website:

www.collectiveclimb.org

or email McKayla Warwick at mckayla@collectiveclimb.org.

The following video provides a brief overview of the Collective Climb project:

<https://youtu.be/KM7jcqhi860>

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,474th meeting of the SPHEX Club
March 17, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,474th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Bradford, Cook, Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Elliott, Frantz, Gillette, Hansen, Hendricks, McDonald, Payne, Roberts, Salmon, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wright.

Emeritus Member Present: Dr. Ken Garren

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Delzingaro, Foster, Jablonski, Light, Lucas, Manian, Marion, Morrison-Shetlar, Wodicka.

Sphex's special guests for the evening: Sandra Wilson (wife of Dr. Jeff Wilson) and daughters Elizabeth Betz and Melissa Watts.

The minutes for March 3rd, 2022 passed without modification.

Proposed Amendment to Sphex Constitution: President Frantz

The following amendment was proposed by President Frantz and will be voted on during the March 31st meeting.

ARTICLE IV. Officers

7. An Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and past President. They shall serve as a consultative body for any officers of the club at the officer's request.

The Membership Committee Presented Eight Candidates for Sphex Membership

(Mike Bradford – Chair, Julie Doyle, Travis McDonald)

Active Sphex members will vote on March 31 to select which candidates will be offered membership.

Sphex Survey Results: Dr. Jim Wright

A poll sent to members on February 28 garnered 22 responses. Members were given a choice between continuing virtual meetings in September or resuming in-person meetings. Ninety percent favored in-person meetings. When asked if they would attend Zoom meetings, 100% replied in the affirmative; the same applied to in-person meetings. Members were also asked if they would attend a cocktail event preceding a talk in September. Ninety-five percent indicated that they would. The survey also asked members for meeting place suggestions. Eight responded with five suggestions.

New Meeting Space for the Sphex 2022-2023 year:

Following the opening meeting on September 8 that will include a social hour, SpheX meetings will be held at the University of Lynchburg in room 232 in Schewel Hall.

The Ad Hoc SpheX Archives Committee made the following report:

(Ted Delaney – Chair, Dr. Jim Wright, Dr. Tom Tiller, Nancy Marion)

The committee is working to create a permanent, digital archive of the Club's meeting minutes, member papers, and miscellaneous documents. We have had difficulty securing a long-term arrangement with Jones Memorial Library to host the archives, but we now have a short-term solution to give members immediate access. Very soon we will email the membership a direct link to a Dropbox folder that contains 6.0 GB of materials digitized last year by Jim Wright and Nancy Marion. The documents are in PDF format, organized chronologically or alphabetically in folders, and searchable. With the link we will provide instructions for searching. We encourage members to browse and search the archives before the fall, when we will have more information on a more permanent hosting solution for our digital records.

Treasurer's Report: Marc Schewel

With the announcement that the Club may consider a social event to inaugurate its Fall 2022 season, I decided to investigate just how far our current bank balance of \$1293.56 would go before we might have to assess our membership for dues, which have been deferred the past two years. Estimating an attendance of sixty persons (thirty members plus spouses) and assuming the Club could find a venue rent-free, after shopping food prices, I calculated that there were sufficient funds in the treasury to allow us to offer the following menu for each person: ¼ glass of wine, one hot dog and bun, one pickle slice, one small cup of coleslaw, three apple slices, and ½ chocolate chip cookie. I recommend that the Club adopt this menu rather than assessing dues since, considering the current price of gas, members would have to make the difficult choice between driving several miles to our event and paying their dues.

President Frantz introduced Dr. Jeff Wilson our speaker for the evening:

Dr. Wilson was born in Charleston, West Virginia December 18, 1946, but lived in Connecticut, Kentucky, Florida, and Pennsylvania while growing up. He is Duke inbred receiving a BS in Zoology (1968) and his M.D. in 1972. He continued post-graduate medical training at Duke including internship, internal medicine residency, and rheumatology fellowship from 1972 till 1979. This was interrupted by two years of active duty Navy service (1974-1976).

He and his wife Sandra have been married since June 20, 1969. They have two children, Elizabeth and Melissa and three teenage grandchildren. The longest they have lived in any one place has been Lynchburg where he practiced rheumatology from July 7, 1979 until December 15, 2014. He saw rheumatology patients two afternoons a month in the Free Clinic and has prepared a Rheumatology Primer for the Free Clinic.

He served as President of the Lynchburg Academy of Medicine, 6th District Councilor to the Medical Society of Virginia, and was the tenth recipient of the William Barney Award in 2007.

He has published two books: *“Hello, Friend” Dr. George B. Craddock Stories* (Warwick House Publishing 1989) and *“Let Me Tell You Something, Dr. Wilson”* (Warwick House Publishing 2016). A third book is at the printer’s—*“A Doctor in the House? Good luck!”* He has authored articles in medical journals and chapters on vitamin D and Environmental Triggers for *The Sjogren’s Book, 5th Edition*. He was the first person to discover benign familial elevation of alkaline phosphatase described in the article “Inherited Elevation of Alkaline Phosphatase in the Absence of Disease,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, November 1, 1979, 983-984.

He and Sandra reside in Lynchburg. Dr. Wilson can be contacted at (434) 444-1729 or by email at wilson1821@comcast.net.

Our presenter, Dr. Jeff Wilson, provided this abstract of his presentation entitled “TEETHBRUSH LESSONS”.

Recalling a program more than 20 years ago we are reminded of the importance of teachers. While a minority of us may know prominent CEOs of industry, almost all of us can remember a teacher who made a difference in our lives.

Personal experiences included an assumed poor educational background coming from West Virginia to Florida. In reality it provided a setting for exceptional teacher introduction to foreign languages and testing of a Teacher-mother (1950’s).

The pandemic has provided abundant discord at all levels. In a refusal to dwell on today’s miseries, the talk covers some of the “W.Va.” jokes with a reminder of mentoring—received and given.

Next we discuss three individuals with W.Va. educational backgrounds. Katherine Johnson, one of the “Hidden Figures” real life main characters, is an example of a nuclear family that valued education. She experienced an extensive, impressive faculty of teachers that made a difference (1930’s).

Homer Hickham had one teacher, Freida Riley, who was invaluable in encouraging Homer and the Rocket Boys of Coalwood, W.Va. to look beyond a future in the coal mines to college education and Homer’s career in NASA and success as an author (1960’s).

Anne Spencer had no formal education in W.Va., but attributes her literary roots to Mrs. Dixie, the black barber’s wife who read aloud to her while living in Bramwell, W.Va. Formal education was at Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg (1893-99).

Vivian Pinn was a product of segregated schools in Lynchburg (1960’s) who remembered Willie Clark as a teacher who made a difference.

The talk concludes with the hope that each member in attendance had a happy recollection of wonderful teachers, and the concern that the changed relationships due to the pandemic will not eclipse the development of such student-teacher bonds in the future.

After a question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned by President Frantz at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary

**Minutes of the 1,475th meeting of the SPHEX Club
March 31st, 2022**

President David Frantz called the 1,475th meeting of the SPHEX Club of Lynchburg to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 31st. This was a virtual meeting (Zoom).

Active members present were: Cyphert, Dawson, Delaney, Doyle, Edwards, Foster, Frantz, Hansen, Hendricks, Light, Manian, McDonald, Roberts, Salmon, Tiller, West, Wilson, Wodicka

Unable to Attend Were: Bateman, Bradford, Cook, Delzingaro, Gillette, Jablonski, Lucas, Marion, Morrison-Shetlar, Payne, Schewel, Sigler, Stinnett, Wright

The minutes for March 17th, 2022 were approved without modification.

New Meeting Space for the Sphex 2022-2023 year: President Frantz

Following the opening meeting on September 8th, which will include a social hour, Sphex meetings will be held at the University of Lynchburg in room 232 in Schewel Hall. More information about the location of the social hour on September 8th will be sent out at a later date.

1) Election of New Members –

The membership committee (Mike Bradford – Chair, Julie Doyle, Travis McDonald) received eight excellent nominations for the six open membership spots in Sphex. The Rev. Dennis Roberts provided the membership with virtual, secret balloting. With the help of Ted Delaney, Dennis received and counted votes to determine the six candidates to be invited to join Sphex. Beside the candidates' names below are the Sphex members who nominated them and will formally invite them into membership. Potential members have until May 15th to accept membership. However, if any accept but need to delay their membership for a brief time in the 2022-2023 year, that can be negotiated.

Dr. Bill Blackman (Dr Dave Frantz)

Wynter Benda and Geoffery Kershner (Travis McDonald)

Dr. Nicole Sanders (Dr. Sabita Manian)

Dr. Stephen Smith (Dr. Julius Sigler)

Walker Sydnor (George Dawson)

2) Vote on an Amendment to the Sphex Constitution

The following amendment to the constitution proposed by President Frantz was accepted unanimously.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPHEX CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V. Committees

4. An Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate past President. They shall serve as a consultative body for any officer of the club at the officer's request.

3) Vote on a member's request for emeritus status

Dr. Jeff Wilson, who presented the last presentation of the 2021-2022 Sphex year, requested emeritus status beginning in the 2022-2023 year. This request was unanimously passed along with the expression of tremendous appreciation by all Sphex members for Dr. Wilson's many exceptional contributions to Sphex.

4) Formal election of Sphex officers for 2022-2023

The following slate of officers was unanimously elected.

President	Katie Cyphert
Vice President	Joe Stinnett
Treasurer	Marc Schewel
Secretary	Dr. Jim Wright
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Ken West

The meeting was adjourned by the new president of Sphex, President Katie Cyphert, at 6:24.

Secretarial Privilege: Dr. Ken West

What a pleasure it has been to serve as Sphex's secretary for the past five years. We enjoyed exceptional leadership from five excellent presidents during these years. Particularly I would like to thank President Cham Light and President Dave Frantz for their leadership during the devastating Covid pandemics that forced us to no longer meet together in person. Another above and beyond performance during the pandemics was given by The Rev. Dennis Roberts who worked throughout the two years to allow us to attend meetings virtually. In addition, Dennis taped each presentation for the membership. I have been surrounded by outstanding leaders during these five year, and I am greatly appreciative for their sterling contributions to The Sphex Club. We have been so fortunate.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Secretary