9:15 - 9:45  Judges Meeting (Judges Only)
All judges will meet with the VAS President-Elect and review the criteria for evaluating the grant proposals and posters as well as the procedure for selecting the grant recipients.

9:45 - 10:00  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Amorette Barber, Ph.D.
Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Director of the Office of Student Research, Longwood University
VAS President-Elect and Fall Undergraduate Research Meeting Coordinator

10:00 - 11:00  Invited Keynote Speaker
Sujan Henkanaththegedara, Ph.D.
Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Longwood University
VAS Treasurer

*Putting off many fires! The journey of a conservation biologist*

Global crises such as COVID 19 pandemic, climate change and sixth mass extinction provide us with a clear indication of global environmental change that is threatening the world’s biological diversity and human wellbeing. Conservation biology is a recent response to these challenges where conservation biologists constantly trying to find practical solutions to mitigate these challenges. This talk summarizes the attempts of one such conservation biologist to find potential solutions from describing species new to science to creating new populations of endangered species, and from understanding mechanisms of invasive species impacts to work in conservation policy. Conservation biology is a crisis discipline and conservation biologists have to put off many fires.
11:15 - 12:30  **Poster Presentation Sessions**

Poster Presentations will be evaluated in groups.

Each poster and accompanying 5-10 minute oral presentation of the poster will be posted on the ForagerOne Symposium conference platform prior to the live session. Posters will be evaluated by a team of judges before this session.

During the live poster presentation session, the judges will listen to the poster presenters state their proposed research question and hypothesis and then respond to questions from the judges.

During this time, all meeting attendees are encouraged to listen to the other students present their projects.

12:15 - 1:00  **Lunch Break**

1:00 - 2:00  **Career Panel Discussion**

*Advice from Science Professionals about Careers and Graduate School*

1:00 - 2:00  **Judges Meeting (Judges only)**

During this meeting the judges will select the recipients of the 2020-2021 VAS Undergraduate Research Grant Awards.

2:30 – 3:00  **Announcement of 2020-2021 Undergraduate Grant Recipients**

**Michael Wolyniak, Ph.D.**

Dept. of Biology, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Hampden-Sydney College

VAS President