Photographer Varma to give visual lecture on vanishing bee population

BRUCE WALTON Staff Writer

Ending Week Six's theme, "Vanishing," Around Varma will discuss the end of the life of as humans know it. In his morning lecture at 8:15 a.m., today in the Amphitheater, Varma plans to talk about the de- clining population of bees, with added visual examples published while working for National Geographic.

Varma, a freelance photo- grapher and videographer with National Geographic, shot the the magazine's May 2015 cover story, "Quest for a Superbee."

In the story, Varma's visuals convey the story of the declining bee populations and the efforts by scien- tists and breeders to keep them alive, as well as find the cause of their disappear- ances.

"The message is kind of comparing two stories of conservation in the United States, so I'll talk about threatened species and some of the complex science behind that," he said. Varma first established his background while ma- joring in biology at the University of California, Berkeley. While studying, he started photographing more national subjects and subsequently switched to photography.

He became a "science storyteller," and began to develop stories through photographs and videos. In doing so, he hoped to pro- vide a better understanding of complex issues.

See VARMA, Page 4

Alexandra Greenwald Staff Writer

One of the defining fea- tures of Islam is its monothe- istic. Majid thinks it is also one of the religion's strongest blocks.

"The defining characteris- tic of Islam is that it is the most elaborate and the most radical expression of monotheistic tradition that emerged out of Judaism and Christianity," said Majid, vice president for global affairs and communica- tions at the University of New England. "And while Judaism and Christianity evolved over time and had to battle different circumstances, the Muslims kept rigor- ously attached to this branch of monothe- istic that is causing a lot of trouble today."

Majid will dis- cuss "Islam and the Problem of Mono- theism" at 2 p.m. today in the Hall of Philosophy.

Majid said monotheism causes problems in society because it establishes strict cultural boundaries defined by which god a person de- voted himself or herself to. "What monotheism did was impose a draconian re- ligious culture on everybody, stifled diversity, and then therefore laid the ground for Islam to emerge for the expression that we know today," he said. "Islam is an inestimable part of the Judeo-Christian tradi- tion, and that is something we need to get lost in the discussion because people think that there is a West and Judeo-Christian culture as opposed to Islam. This polar- ization is absolutely confus- ing and false."

See MAJID, Page 4

The Beach Boys today!

Longtime Chautauqua favorites surf back onto Amp stage

BRUCE WALTON Staff Writer

The Beach Boys, the band that embodies the theme of "fun under the sun," is making its return to Chautauqua. The group last played at the Institution in 2013; for nearly five years, the Beach Boys have played the Amphitheater stage, said Vice President and Director of Pro- gramming Marty Merkley. At 8:15 p.m. tonight, the Beach Boys will surf onto the Amp with their greatest hits.

Their first hit "Surfin' U.S.A." in 1961 launched a string of surf songs that changed music for better than a century. The band moved even more fans with "Surfer Girl," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "I Get Around," "Barbara Ann" and "Kokomo," just to name a few. Nearly every hit has been featured in mov- ies and TV shows — and the subjects of endless parodies.

Not only a defining voice of American youthfulness, the band is a part of American life, and provides theanthemic soundtrack to the season of summer.

"It seems like the most "beach" they could have with their clothes on." Love said in The Chautauqua Daily. "It looks like the most fun they could have with their clothes on."

Beginning in 1961, the Beach Boys took the country by storm in a time riddled with social and religious uprises and the annual Buffalo waterfront. That water- front industry declined and left in the 1960s and 1970s.

"It took a couple of de- cades to realize what to do," Rotterman said. "It took patience and having a plan.

Since that time, water- played an important role in the growth and development of the city and its people, and it will play a role in shaping the region's future. "Buffalo would not be here without the water," said Robert Shirley, dean of the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Plan- ning. "Buffalo is a mid-sized American city struggling to regenerate itself."

See BUFFALO, Page 4

George Cooper Staff Writer

If water could talk, would people listen? According to the "WNED/WBFO docu- mentary titled "If Our Wa- ter Could Talk," the answer is yes. It can take some time.

David Rotterman, vice president of television production at WNED, will present the film "If Water Could Talk" at 3:30 p.m. today in the Hall of Christ.

In the story, Rotterman to present film on development of Buffalo waterfront

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Briefly

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GROUNDS

The Briefly column appears on Page 2 daily and is intended to provide news of interest from institution-related organizations. If a meeting or activity is featured that day is in progress, it shall not be reprinted in Briefly. School information is at Lacon Schett in the Daily’s editorial office. Please name of organization, time and place of meeting and one contact person name with phone number. Deadline is 5 p.m. four days before publication.

Help choose Aug. 9 Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra repertoire
Vote now! The orchestra asks the community to choose its favorite pieces from a list including Bach, Brahms, Mozart and even John Williams’ “Star Wars.” Listen to excerpts and select up to four pieces at concerts. The four pieces with the most votes will be performed at the special free matinee concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, in the Amphitheater.

Women Seeking Serenity
A Women Seeking Serenity meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. today in the Hurlbut Chapel. Parish center.

Non-Poritable food drive
Chautauqua can dispense of sealed, non-poisonous foods, such as boxed and canned items, in the gold-painted cartons on the floor inside the north entrance of the post office. Maryville Food Pantry makes the food available to needy families in Chautauqua Lake Central School District. For more information, contact Lou Witten at 716-357-5015.

Chautauqua Women’s Club News
CWC offers a short bridge lesson followed by social bridge for both men and women from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays at the House. We welcome players at all levels to come for either the lessons or both lessons. If you need a partner, come early, and we will try to pair you with another player. There are separate fees for the lessons and play.

CWC Flea Market is new, open from noon to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays behind the Colonnade.

Dessert Delivery
Lemon tarts, chocolate surprises and summer pudding can be ordered for delivery any day, any area on the grounds, call 716-757-8404 or 716-357-3449. All of the money raised goes to the Chautauqua Fund.

Student Artists take lead roles in Scenes Program
KARA TAYLOR

After a season full of recitals and supporting roles, the Student Artists of Chautauqua Opera Company’s Young Artists Program can try their hand at leading roles in scenes from a selection of famous productions at 4 p.m. today in Norton Hall.

“Actors are almost strictly song literature made for intimate venues,” said Justin Griffith Brown, a stage director. “We will take 10 minutes from a two- or three-hour show and give them a taste of the characters they will either play now or in a couple of years.”

Brown and Cara Consilvio, also a stage director, each directed four scenes in the eight-scene program. Brown will direct the first half of the recital. Consilvio will lead the second half. They worked collaboratively toward giving everyone a moment to shine in each scene.

“Scenes are a great part of the program here, because they give everyone a chance to shine,” Consilvio said. “The music really tries to pick scenes that are challenging — but not too overwhelming — so everyone gets to show their stuff.”

The scenes feature trio, duets, quartets and ensembles, and was a challenge to create a balance where everyone would receive “that moment,” Brown said.

The scenes are a great part of the program here, because they give everyone a chance to shine.

The works of Shakespeare and Mozart are featured via famous classical scenes from Hamlet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Le nozze e il finto. To name a few. Repertoire is performed in English, Italian and French.

Brown and Consilvio worked with the Student Artists to develop their presentation of the pieces being performed. With the program showcasing dances, romance and comedy, each scene requires different preparation.

“It depends on the scenes,” Consilvio said. “For the comedy, you want it to be clear and the movement of the scene to be comic and precise, because that is what makes comedy.”

In Hamlet, however, it is very much about what is going on internally, she said. Helping the artists figure out their objective in the scene is important.

Brown insists on understanding what the motivation lies in the productions and with the Student Artists.

“How do you take something that is so heightened and motivating and bring it down to a human level?” Brown said. “Let the music speak, and not try to upstage the music or yourself as a performer.”

The two directors will give introductions to each performance, explaining what has taken place in the particular scene leading up to the scene. Although the plots remain the same, some of the scenes might look a bit different from the original.

“People might see something that they wouldn’t have seen otherwise — since the shoes are condoned, it gives Cara and I the opportunity to put a different spin on it,” Brown said.

Consilvio enjoys collaborating with the costume shop and the musical directors while preparing for the show.

“We are working on some great costumes for Hamlet, and we want to have a lot of kerosene, metal and fur, but it is a cold visceral scene,” she said. “The directors are fantastic at preparing musically and shaping the arc of the musical language and have a pleasure to work with.”

Consilvio said it was a pleasure to see the Young Artists at the beginning of their careers, but knows they’ll move on to bigger things.

“We should come see the show while it’s fresh,” she said. “Later, you spend a lot more money.”

Take a look at the news from around the grounds.

#Chautauqua #ChautauquaInstitute #Hastings #Conferences #Summer #-season
**Boguski to speak on ceramics, sculptures, and ‘intimate art’**

**HARLEY ROSS**

The Chautauqua Property Owners Association is presenting an author and art curator, who is known for his “hands on” approach to contemporary art. Mark Boguski is an artist who works with ceramics, sculpture, and painting. The event will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, August 8, in Alumni Hall. All are welcome.

The Chautauqua Property Owners Association (CPOA) is dedicated to preserving the history of Chautauqua Institution. According to the association, it is “essential that the history of the Institution and the community best.”

Boguski’s work includes installations and projects that explore the relationship between art and community. His projects have included the creation of sculptures that are placed in public spaces, such as parks and plazas. These sculptures are intended to engage the community and foster a sense of connection with the environment.

Boguski’s work is characterized by its use of traditional techniques and materials. He often uses handmade clay and ceramic techniques to create his sculptures. He also incorporates found objects and other materials into his work to create a sense of connection with the environment.

In addition to his work as an artist, Boguski is a curator and writer. He has written extensively about contemporary art and has curated several exhibitions. His approach to contemporary art is informed by his understanding of the historical and cultural context of the art he creates.

Boguski’s work is also characterized by its use of visual and haptic elements. He uses visual elements, such as light and color, to create a sense of atmosphere, while using haptic elements, such as texture and touch, to engage the viewer in a more direct way.

His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. He has also received numerous awards and honors for his work, including a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

The CPOA is hosting this event as part of its ongoing efforts to preserve the history and heritage of Chautauqua Institution. The association is committed to preserving the history of the community and to fostering a sense of connection with the environment.

For more information, contact the CPOA at 716-379-5080, or visit their website, cpoa.org.
**MAIDEN FLOTILLA**

In the decades after the advent of oil, the shipbuilding industry has been renewed optimism. “Everybody’s got a new hope for Buffalo,” said Peg Overfield, executive director of the Valley Community Arnold Center. “In the beginning of the 20th century, we had a lot of shipbuilding.”

The optimism largely stems from the fact that the Western New York area had an early champion of its natural resources in Frederick Law Olmsted, who, in the 1800s, wanted to save the beauty of the mighty Niagara River in the area as a place to harness it. “We are making more informed decisions — almost like we learned from 100 years ago,” Overfield said. “It’s the same story with regard to the Buffalo River.”

BUFFALO THEATRE PROJECT

“The false dichotomy set up by these monothetic lines means that Islam is frequently misunderstood by non-Muslims, Majid said.”

“Because we’re so new in Western New York, people have very little idea about this.”

And the optimism largely stems from the fact that the Western New York area had an early champion of its natural resources in Frederick Law Olmsted, who, in the 1800s, wanted to save the beauty of the mighty Niagara River in the area as a place to harness it. “We are making more informed decisions — almost like we learned from 100 years ago,” Overfield said. “It’s the same with regard to the Buffalo River.”

**SOURCE:** The Athenaeum Hotel - **Thursday, August 7, 2015**

Thursday, August 7, 2015
The greatest tragedy, Wilkerson said, was the missed opportunities for human potential to flourish in those generations. What she realized then was that “you will be doing those things for the first time in African-Americans. She told a story of one such opportunity. The city of Cleveland was a failed destination among African-Americans in America, so much so that two parents named their son James Cleveland, or JC. For him, the mother convinced the father to make the trek to the lakeside city. The child’s first day of school, the teacher pronounced JC. “Jim, so. Then his parents took to calling him Jesse as well. At the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany, under the glare of the Nazi regime, Jesse Owens won four gold medals, crushing Hitler’s myth of Aryan superiority.

Among other examples, she said, of books that wouldn’t have been able to borrow a library book if her parents had stayed in the South, Berry Gordy Jr. wouldn’t have started Motown, the legendary record company. And Miles Davis wouldn’t have had access to the instrument that would trumpet his musical genius. Change begins with the past, but it ends in our hearts and minds, she said.

“When you have a storm, you might not want to go into the basement because you don’t know what you might find,” she said. “But if you open it, you ignore it at your own peril. Whatever rises up will come back to haunt you. Whatever we have ignored can’t just fade away, it will have to be dealt with.”
Zuckerman explains why religion is fading

Phil Zuckerman, author, and professor of sociology and secular studies at Pitzer College, spoke Wednesday in the Rockefeller Chapel on "Imaging Religion: Why More Americans Are Becoming Secular." Zuckerman shared some statistics covering religion's low point and explained some of the reasons behind this loss of religiosity.

"We've never seen this before," he said of the unprecedented rate at which religion is fading. "This is historically unprecedented." He explained that this trend was not limited to the United States, but was being observed all over the world. People today go to church less frequently and are more likely to identify as secular, as opposed to religious.

Zuckerman explained why religion is fading, mentioning several factors such as the rise of other ideas and the need for religion to adapt to the modern world. He cited the growth of decline of religion as a response to the shift from a religious to a secular society.

"People's lives are more secular," he said. "When people have food, shelter, medicine, education, when life is less precarious, the need for religion tends to go down." Once Zuckerman cast a spotlight on emerging religiosity in the U.S., specifically the conversation surrounding marriage and the LGBT community, he mentioned that religion is fading because people are less inclined to go to church or to follow religious teachings. He also pointed out the high rates of employed people and the secularization of society.

"Other reasons behind this trend, Zuckerman said, there are some cat-eudities of thinking: general human needs and culture-specific religiousness. With the formerly

"Some people feel going to church is a better state today than it ever has been," he said, noting that people feel less compelled toward religion as the increase of things like education and literacy, new technology, urbanization, and social change have contributed to the decline.

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Giving is more than receiving — or even expecting anything in return. But for Bill and Debbie Currin, their efforts to give back are their own reward.

The Currins have served as volunteers for the Chautauqua Fund for nearly 10 years, the latter half of which has been spent as team captains, where they give even more of their time to help the organization in any way.

"Just kind of goes with the way that we live our life," Bill said. "And that is trying to be good community members."

The Currins have been coming to Chautauqua for 31 years, each visit growing. Once their daughters grew up, and the community members."

"It's more about a common bond of pursuit of inclusiveness, the pursuit of the four pillars, the pursuit of quality of life and a deeper understanding, and wanting as many people as possible to share in that," Bill said.

Their community involvement has been balanced by their enjoyment of getting to know other members of the community. Debbie said the couple had an unspoken understanding that they wanted to be actively involved in anything they participated in.

"We have a strong belief that, when you're blessed in life, you need to give back," she said. "And we feel we’ve had a very good life, so we want to give back."

Some Chautauqua Fund volunteers have asked to be a part of the Currins’ team by name.

"That really is a validation that we're doing a good job and that it's something we need to continue with," Debbie said.

The Currins also enjoy volunteering with other volunteers and the Foundation.

"We feel very well-thanked, with all the activities they include us in and the luncheons and the honor of being with speakers and so forth," Debbie said. "I think they do a fine, fine job with thanking us."

The Currins said they plan to stay as team captains for the foreseeable future. "We just want to help where they need us," Bill said.

For information on volunteering for Chautauqua, please contact foundation@ciweb.org or call 716-357-6243.
Scholarships make study at Chautauqua possible for talented arts students

Bruce Walton

People come to Chautauqua from different backgrounds, from all over the world, and their reasons for coming are usually the same: They want to learn and enrich themselves.

That’s why Chautauqua makes many efforts to attract the best and brightest talents from around the country to learn, particularly in Chautauqua’s Schools of Fine and Performing Arts. It’s a place that strives to help young, aspiring artists and musicians hone their skills, work with renowned teachers and grow with their peers. This year, about 80 percent of students receive some level of financial aid, which on average covers 15 percent of the cost of attendance, according to the Chautauqua Foundation. The total support awarded in 2015 was nearly $695,000.

Looking into a window of one of the lines of three shacks near the shacks, Laura Spector said, “I think everybody was talking that this is the free America I feel like it’s becoming more diverse. Chautauqua is attempting to become more diverse.”

But at the moment, she wants to go back, either to an orchestra or give recitals. “I love it,” she said. “It’s kind of exclusive but with function in this way,” Spector said. “It’s interesting because it’s kind of exclusive but with the same time, which is kind of an odd feeling.”

Spector started playing piano at the age of 3 with his grandfather, a saxophone player, and continued playing through his blood like a metronome. Thanks to a family friend who was a piano teacher, Spector started her journey to success. Currently, she is a rising senior at Oberlin College and plans to obtain her master’s in piano performance; after that, she said she dreams to become a part of a contemporary ensemble.

Lawrence Mitchell-Matthews

Lawrence Mitchell-Matthews grew up in Detroit, where he performed his first solo at Mr. Elen Missionary Church at the age of 9. Mitchell-Matthews first became interested in opera after hearing a spiritualist competition. The prize was to sing at the Institute. He took up the opportunity last year. For Mitchell-Matthews, this year was his first as a student rather than a guest, backed by the Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Noble Scholarship.

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“All I had to pay for was my housing and food,” Mitchell-Matthews said. “I was blessed, man, beyond measure.”

Currently, Mitchell-Matthews is a rising senior at In- stant Diploma at South Bend. As a black man, Mitchell-Matthews said he loves how Chautauqua is attempting to become more diverse.

“I think Chautauqua is a magical place,” he said. “I feel like it’s becoming more diverse since I was here (in 2012). It’s really color- ful. I was telling my friends, this is the free America. I think everybody was talking about our forefathers, here at Chautauqua. I just think every- body should experience it.”

After Mitchell-Matthews graduates, he said he’d like to be invited back to Chau- tuaqua as a student but would truly like to return as a teacher. He’d also like to obtain his master’s from the Julliard School. After Julliard, he wants to start his singing career, something he said Chautauqua has helped him get closer to achieving.

“Chautauqua taught me how to prepare and how to connect with people who you come in contact with, who want to support the arts,” he said. “There are so many connections here and they’re all interested in investing in what we do.”

Laura Spector

“People come to Chautauqua from different backgrounds, from all over the world, and their reasons for coming are usually the same: They want to learn and enrich themselves.”

Javier Gonzalez

The talent that brought 18-year-old violinist Javier Gonzalez from Venezuela to Chautauqua’s Schools of Fine and Performing Arts was first brought to her by Vamos. While in America, Gonzalez first came to the School of Music after entering the Sphinx Competition for Mack and Latin Music Students. In 2014, she reached the final. After the competition, she received a pamphlet that listed different summer music schools. One of them was Chautauqua Institution.

“I already knew about Chautauqua because of my friends,” Gonzalez said. “So I was like, ‘Yes, I want to go to Chautauqua,’ and I started searching for it in the pamphlet, and I found it.”

Returning again with scholarship support, Gonsa- lez said her time in Chautau- qua has been bliss.

“I love Chautauqua so much,” she said. “I think it’s an amazing place. Maybe I would go somewhere else next year, but we will go back, probably to Chicago (for music). It’s fun.” Just something I have to do again. Loves.”

Gonzalez said she’s still trying to figure out her long- term professional plans, but her music is her passion. She knows she wants to play in an orchestra or give recitals.

While in America, Gonzalez is glad she can study in Chautauqua and Chicago because, in Venezuela, things have gotten difficult, she said. The economy is going down, and inflation is on the rise. Her parents work hard because, in Venezuela, things are not making their daughter’s dreams come true. She dreams for a future in America where she can play in an orchestra or give recitals.

“If things improve in her country, she might go back, Gonzalez said. But for now, her future remains in Amer- ica. Even though she remem- bered, Gonzalez said she’d probably be back in Venezuela.

“People come to Chautauqua from different backgrounds, from all over the world, and their reasons for coming are usually the same: They want to learn and enrich themselves.”

Laura Spector

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