The Virginia Wesleyan College Office of International Programs in conjunction with the Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education are pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 International Education Week "Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally" photo contest.

First Place:

Rebecca Knight from Old Dominion University Togo, Africa- Our team of nine was there for a month-long trip. A year of stateside preparation gave us the chance to make a difference in these children's lives, not only by playing with the children, but also through assistance in well-building, church planting, and ministry. Photo depicts me with one child there. Making a difference, whether stateside or abroad happens through encounters with one person at a time.

Second Place:

Joanna Choi from Regent University "This is a picture of one of the children who attends the school described previously with his mother and younger sister, standing in front of their home. This too, illustrates the theme by depicting the prevalence and depth of poverty. At the young age of 4, he awaits funds and the means to have surgery due to burn scars from his chest all the way down to his ankles. His mother proceeded to take his pants off, explaining through a translator that he had burned himself with steaming water on the stove. With no means of money for daily meals, she was unable to have her son treated. Despite the agency's attempts to provide free clinical health checkups for the children, many in the Gypsy community do not benefit from such means due to lack of awareness and education."

Third Place:

Jervone Bowens from Old Dominion University "Harajuku Barbies" is a photo of me alongside a local Japanese fashionista taken in a high fashion area in Tokyo, Japan called Harajuku. We had a brief chat and admired each other’s attire.