

Destination Area and Strategic Growth Area Quarterly Update

Compiled by the Office of the Vice Provost for
Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness (LSIE)

March 2019

In an effort to communicate the achievements and ongoing work of Virginia Tech's transdisciplinary research and education communities, the Office of the Vice Provost for Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness (LSIE) circulates a quarterly update to the Virginia Tech community. Further information about the nine thematic stakeholder groups can be found at: https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas.html

OVERVIEW

- The work that is emerging from Virginia Tech's transdisciplinary communities is receiving regional, national, and global attention. The communities have participated in and led proposals that have been submitted to the NSF NRT program, NSF ERC program, USDA, and NIH. The LSIE Office is working with these groups to provide funds to assist with proposal development.
- Research and teaching highlights have been featured regularly in the VT news. Many of these stories highlight grants that have been awarded to varying transdisciplinary communities and this information can be found at: https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas.html.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- Quarterly DA/SGA updates will be available on the Provost website (PID protected) for review by internal VT stakeholders. As the need arises for broader and more public distribution to external audiences, Provost Communications will design a more "plain language" version of the info appropriate for public/media consumption.

STUDENT EXPERIENCES

- **Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Experiences:** Two of six potential DA/SGA Pathway minors have made it through governance. The minors will provide opportunities for students to integrate their content specific learning with general education.
 - *Innovation Pathway Minor* was officially launched in the fall of 2017. This minor is connected to the C+I SGA and housed in the Department of Engineering Education. The Innovation Pathways Minor integrates knowledge practices across disciplines, helping students from a wide range of majors perform ethical, globally-

mind innovation practices. Students will question assumptions, examine observable data, make inferences, and consider multiple explanations and contexts as they develop ideas that are responsive to user needs.

- *Data and Decisions Pathway Minor* has been developed by the Data and Decisions DA and has recently completed the governance review process, and will be housed in the Academy of Integrated Science. The minor is intended to help shape the students of today to become tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, politicians, industrial leaders, patients, parents, volunteers, neighbors, etc. who will make important decisions that will impact both themselves and our society. To make these decisions, data serve as an important resource for gathering “objective” information and evaluating risk (or lack thereof) from multiple perspectives. It is our obligation as an educational institution to develop students who can think critically and use data responsibly to formulate judgements beyond their personal inferences/preferences. Although some departments fulfill the obligation, some do not or cannot, considering field and resource constraints. This pathways minor takes the burden away from departments, and offers an opportunity for all students, regardless of major, to learn and apply fundamental concepts related to data and decisions.
- **Transdisciplinary Graduate Experiences:** The Policy SGA is developing a 4+1 certificate program. The program targets STEM majors and recently launched their first course in spring 2019. The curriculum leaders are currently working across existing curricular offerings to enhance content. The LSIE Office will continue to work with the Graduate School to see how emerging transdisciplinary programs can complement the Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Programs (IGEP) framework.
- **Student Experiential Learning:** The ESM SGA along with contributions from Oak Ridge National Lab will support undergraduate research experiences this summer on the Oak Ridge National Lab campus.
- **Collaboration with Undergraduate Affairs:** The Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and LSIE offices have been developing support mechanisms for the implementation of DA/SGA Pathway minors. This includes holding on-going joint meetings with curricular leads of the DA/SGAs as well as department heads, office of University Advising, and Undergraduate Affairs. To date these meetings have yielded important cross-DA/SGA curricular issues that are currently being addressed, as well as specific issues related to the particular character of each Pathway.

RESEARCH EFFORTS

- **Transdisciplinary Research:** The building of a dynamic transdisciplinary research community is a central aim of the Destination Area and Strategic Growth Area initiative. This past Fall the LSIE office coordinated an Institute-DA/SGA seed grant initiative for two thematic areas: Rural Health and Infectious Disease. Individual DA/SGAs have also

supported seed grants related to their specific areas of focus. As the spring 2019 semester ends, the LSIE office is planning two events for the campus community that will highlight these research efforts.

- **Institute-Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Area Seed Grant Research Symposium:** The event will be held on April 2nd from 3:30-5:30 in the Moss Arts Center and will showcase the research efforts of faculty funded teams. Attached is a flyer with further information about the event.
- **Collaboration Incubator:** The workshop will be held on April 27th and is being led by the Center for Communicating Science. The workshop is designed to support collaboration among faculty and explore new possibilities for developing research communities. Support for this event is being provided by Institute-Destination Areas Seed Grant initiative. Interested faculty should RSVP by April 1st. Attached is a flyer with further information about the event.

Several transdisciplinary communities ran seed grant proposals and the awardees of those grants are featured on the groups' websites found on the Destination Areas website:

https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas.html.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE PROGRAMMING

- **Transdisciplinary Programming:** Since the last Quarterly Update, there have been several campus-wide, transdisciplinary programs. Programming efforts have been posted on the Provost's website, distributed on interest lists that are cultivated by the stakeholder groups, and shared with the list of cluster hires. This includes:
 - **Advancing the Human Condition Symposium:** This event was hosted in November 2018 by the Equity for Social Disparity and the Human Condition SGA (ESDHC) and chaired by Michele Deramo, the ESDHC co-program manager. The two-day symposium brought together faculty, students, and staff from across the university campus, along with outside artists, experts, and community members, to explore the critical questions of our age, with equity premised as the driving force. Topics of inquiry addressed at the event included equitable infrastructures, ethical economies, global climate change, human migration, human well-being, and technology for humanity. Video proceedings from the event are archived in VTech Works. Building on the success of this event, a series of regional symposiums are being planned for the NCR campus in spring 2019, Roanoke campus in fall 2019, and Blacksburg campus in spring 2020.
 - **Infectious Disease and Rural Health Seed Grant Meetings.** This purpose of this activity was to provide a networking opportunity for applicants and awardees of the Institute-DA/SGA seed grant opportunities. The meeting allowed for participants to share their research interests and make connections with other scholars working on

related topics. It also highlighted the opportunities for expanding the social dimensions of these projects further in the future.

- **Brown Bag Lecture Series: Building Transdisciplinary Communities:** This series will highlight the ongoing work of the Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Areas by inviting stakeholders to reflect on their experiences working on inter-/transdisciplinary projects and activities. Unlike a formal lecture series, this series aims to explore through critical reflection and dialogue, what it means to build transdisciplinary communities at Virginia Tech. Future lectures are listed below and additional information can be found on the Destination Areas website. Attached is a flyer with further information about the March 20th lecture.
- **Intelligent Infrastructure for the Human-Centered Communities (IIHCC) TRAIN Talks.** The concept of the TRAIN Talks embodies the core belief of IIHCC in strengthening social connections by creating opportunities to explore the interdependencies of technology, community, and infrastructure. We invite you to this unique opportunity to meet and interact with faculty and researchers from around the Virginia Tech campus, enjoy complimentary food and beverages, and welcome our special guest to the inaugural IIHCC Train Talk. The first talk was held in February 2019 and additional talks are currently being planned.
- **Data and Decision Research Acceleration Modules (DDREAM)** lecture series. The newly created series has a three-fold purpose: 1) To create an event and environment to allow our newly hired faculty to introduce themselves to others from around campus highlighting their research areas; 2) To allow for networking; 3) To let the VT community know what research is occurring in the Data and Decisions Destination Area. The first lecture was held February 26th and future lectures are listed below.

- **EXAMPLES OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March 20 Arron Brantly will present a lecture for the Destination Areas Brown Bag Lecture Series in Kelly 210 at 12:00 pm
- March 22 Data & Decisions Research Acceleration Modules (DDREAM) Lecture Series – Decision Science, GLC Meeting Room F from 12:20pm-1:30 pm
- March 28 Policy, Technology and Society mini-series, On Water: In Conversation with Amy Pruden and Leigh-Anne Krometis, 2:00-3:30 pm, 209 Norris
- April 2 Institute-Destination Areas and Strategic Growth Area Seed Grant Research Symposium, 3:30-5:30 pm Moss Arts Center
- April 11-12 Daniel Galper Invited Address and Workshop: Neuroscience Informed treatment for Depression/Anxiety with Michelle Craske, PH.D. Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm in Owens Banquet Hall. Friday from 9:00-11:00am in the Graduate Life Center

- April 17 Ann Khademian will present the final lecture for the Destination Area Brown Bag Lecture Series in Kelly 210 at 12:00 pm
- April 24 Data and Decision Research Acceleration Modules (DDREAM) Lecture Series – Social Analytics in GLC Meeting room F, from 1220-1:30 pm
- April 27 Collaboration Incubator Workshop led by the Center for Communicating Science (see attached flyer for more information)
- May 7 ESM Materials Innovations and Instrumentation Expo, in Moss Arts Center, 1:00-5:00 pm

Further information, including time and location, for these and other events can be found on the Destination Areas website: https://www.provost.vt.edu/destination_areas.html



**VT VIRGINIA
TECH.**

Brown Bag Lecture Series:

INTEGRATING SECURITY ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Simulating Reality



Aaron Brantly
Speaker

MAR 20th 12:00-1:00 pm
Kelly Hall 210

*Integrated Security Destination Area
and Department of Political Science*

Transdisciplinary Communities

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Showcasing the research currently being conducted by the 2018-19 Institute-Destination Areas Seed Grant awardees and recipients of DA/SGA granting programs.

3:30-5:30 PM »
Moss Arts Center

02 APRIL

3:30-4:30
Poster
Session

4:30-4:45
Opening
Remarks

4:45-5:15
Keynote
Presentation

5:15-5:30
Closing
Remarks

Hosted by the Vice Provost Office for Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness (LSIE) and Institute-Destination Areas Seed Grant Fund. The LSIE office would like to thank ISCE, Fralin, ICTAS, and ICAT for their generous support of this event.

Collaboration Incubator

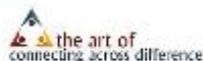


27 April | 9am-9pm
lunch and dinner included

Collaboration is challenging. Creating psychological safety for teams, identifying problems that prevent effective collaboration, and "unlearning" old assumptions and behaviors all are necessary elements.

Fortunately, the skills and behaviors that facilitate collaboration can be learned and practiced. We offer a day filled with experiences that will help participants strengthen their abilities to listen deeply, express themselves effectively, interact personally, directly, spontaneously, and responsively, and bridge the divides that can prevent us from communicating and collaborating. Participants will have opportunities to deepen human interaction and strengthen their empathy and awareness of others, keys to successful collaborative team development.

Facilitated by faculty at the Center for Communicating Science at Virginia Tech, the Collaboration Incubator will engage participants in the basic principles of collaboration, allow them to put the principles into action, and send them home with the tools they need to help their teams learn to connect, communicate, and collaborate effectively.



THE CENTER FOR
COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

This event is made possible by support from the Institute-Destination Areas Seed Grant Fund. We thank the ISCE, Fralin, KITAS for their generous support of this program. The Center for Communicating Science is supported by the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment and the Destination Areas initiative is supported by the Office of the Vice Provost for Learning Systems Innovation and Effectiveness.

WHO - Faculty and postdocs interested in strengthening their collaborative skills. Groups and teams may apply together; individuals looking for collaborators or just wanting to develop their skills also are welcome to apply

*Participation is capped at 20 faculty and postdocs

WHERE - NCB 170

COST - Free, but we ask that you apply only if you are committed to full engagement for the entire day

REGISTER - by April 1, 2019
virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3qG0DcGMKdh6W4B

NIL CREDIT - Attendees can get credit for attending the workshop - The direct link for registration can be [found here](#).

QUESTIONS? - For information or additional questions please email Todd Nicewonger at toddn@vt.edu