

Pathways to General Education



Welcome to the first Pathways to General Education Newsletter

We are nearly midway through the Spring 2017 semester... the sun is shining, the birds are chirping... and Pathways Implementation is in full swing! We have developed this Pathways newsletter to update you on where we are in the process of implementing our new curriculum, inform you of upcoming Pathways events, news, and professional development opportunities; and showcase the innovative Pathways courses and programs being piloted around campus. We will distribute new editions as needed, likely 3-5 times per year.

I have seen firsthand the work and dedication that has gone into every aspect of Pathways development to date, which assures me that not only will the program be ready for the Fall 2018 rollout... but it will be amazing! Thanks to everyone for the great work and dedication!

Stephen Biscotte

Coordinator for General Education

"Undergraduate students at Virginia Tech deserve a vibrant, flexible, and meaningful general education program, one that helps them to integrate their learning for use throughout their lifetimes. Participation in Pathways presents an exciting opportunity for faculty to engage in a university-wide initiative, designed to guide students to examine the world from multiple perspectives and integrate their knowledge across disciplines and domains of learning through a hands-on, minds-on approach." Pathways Curriculum Plan



In this edition:

- **Pathways 2017 Development and Delivery Grant Recipients Announced** | p.2
- **Updates on the Pathways Implementation Process** | p.3
- **Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States as a new Pathways Core Outcome** | p.3
- **Online Pathways Pilot Showcase** | p.4
- **Upcoming and Ongoing Pathways Professional Development Opportunities** | p.4



Pathways 2017 Development and Delivery Grant Recipients Announced

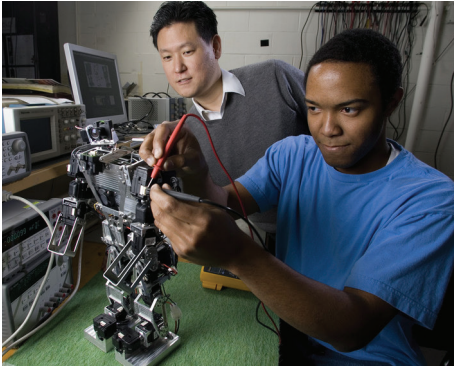
We are pleased to announce the latest group of faculty who will work to develop and/or deliver innovative Pathways courses, Pathways Minors, or Alternative Pathways. These exciting new courses and programs will align with the Pathways Core and Integrative Outcomes, include student-centered pedagogies, and/or feature experiential learning opportunities.

- **Rick Ashley (Economics):** Introduction to Forecasting
- **Julia Beamish (Apparel Housing and Resource Management):** Introduction to Design for Consumers
- **Trudy Becker (History):** Classical World in Modern Culture
- **Lori Blanc (Biological Sciences) and Angie De Soto (Sustainability Institute):** Applying Environmental Sustainability Principles Within Local Communities
- **Jay Crone (Music):** Listening to Music in the Digital Age (Flying in a Musical Cloud)
- **Susan Day (Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation):** Ecological Cities Pathways Minor
- **Matt Eick (Crop and Soil Environmental Science):** Ecosystems, Health and Culture Alternative Pathway
- **Suqin Ge (Economics):** Poverty and Discrimination
- **Adrienne Ivory (Communication):** Introduction to Health Communication
- **Brett Jones (Educational Psychology):** Motivation
- **Gary Kirk (VT Engage):** Community Systems and Engagement Pathways Minor
- **Matt Komelski (Human Development):** Human Development II: Adulthood and Aging
- **Shelley Martin (Architecture):** Design Thinking: Exercises and Prototypes
- **Vickie Mouras and Mandy Cron (Civil and Environmental Engineering):** Preparing 3-course sequence in Civil Engineering for Advanced Discourse
- **Bob Oliver (Geography) and Ralph Hall (School of Public and International Affairs):** Urban Sustainability
- **Kathleen Parrott (Apparel Housing and Resource Management):** Housing: Energy and the Environment
- **Todd Schenk (School of Public and International Affairs):** Data and the Art of Decision-Making
- **Rob Stephens (History):** History of Political Violence

Through the Pathways Grant program, faculty members are provided with time, financial support, peer collaboration, and targeted professional development to get their ideas off the ground and ready for the Pathways General Education program.



Work from previous Pathways Scholars and Grantees: Introduction to Poetry by Gyorgyi Voros, Digital Sound Manipulation by Eric Lyon, and Survey of Western Art I by Ann-Marie Knoblauch.



> Resolution

Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States as a new Pathways Core Outcome

A joint resolution submitted by the University Curriculum Committee for General Education (UCCGE) and the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD), with support from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, has proceeded to official review at University Council (UC).

This resolution calls for the addition to the Pathways curriculum of a 3-credit (double-counting) Core Outcome on *Critical Analysis of Identity and Equity in the United States*. Students meeting

this outcome would “explore ways in which social identities related to race, ethnicity, gender, class, disability status, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, economic status, age, and other socially salient categories and statuses, influence the human condition and experience, with focus on the United States in particular or in comparative perspective.”

A vote to approve this resolution is anticipated at University Council in March/April.

> Implementation

Updates on the Pathways Implementation Process

It has been a busy year so far for all involved in making the Pathways General Education Program student-ready for Fall 2018. At the time of publication, over 120 Pathways courses and 5 Pathways Minors have made it through the college and into formal governance review with many more under development.



Here is a reminder of the Pathways review process:

Once a proposal is approved at the college level, it is posted for university-wide 15-day review. During 15-day review, representatives from the Office of the Registrar and Office of General Education provide feedback to strengthen the proposal. Once this review is complete, the Pathways Ad Hoc Review Committee, made up of UCC and UCCGE members and college representatives, reviews the updated proposal. Upon approval, the proposal moves forward for final review at CUSP before the Registrar’s Office prepares it for the timetable.

Rough deadlines

To be approved for inclusion in the Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE) for Spring 2018 (applies to new courses and courses which are new to general education), proposals should complete 15-day review by March 31, 2017. To be approved for Pathways and CLE for Fall 2018, proposals should complete 15-day review by the end of September 2017.

3rd Annual Pathways Summer Institute Save-the-Date

Dates: June 12 - June 14, 2017



Upcoming and Ongoing Pathways Professional Development Opportunities

March 17, 8:30am-3:30pm, Newman 207A:

Gateway Course Design (CIDER), with Dr. C. Edward Watson (Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia). Register at tinyurl.com/IDCourseWorkshop.

April 17 from 1pm-2:45pm, GLC Room B: Pathways Data-Collection Methodology (Assessment): Register through NLI (<https://app.nli.tlos.vt.edu>)

June 12-14: Pathways Summer Institute, the Inn. Registration opens in March. See <http://tinyurl.com/PathwaysInstitute2017>.

Ongoing: Pathways one-on-one consultation (Email biscotsm@vt.edu or sign up through NLI at <https://app.nli.tlos.vt.edu>).

> Pilot courses

Online Pathways Pilot Showcase

Wondering how your fellow faculty are developing or revising their courses to be 'Pathways-approved'? Want to see what a Pathways General Education course looks like in action? Wish there was a better way for students to hear about exciting new Pathways courses, other than Koofers and RateMyProfessor?

Staff from CIDER and the Office of General Education are currently working with a group of senior Computer Science students to create an updated Online Pathways Pilot Showcase. This repository will feature flyers, course videos (like a movie trailer for the course), a podcast and interview with the professor, and pictures and quotes from the students. You can find a beta version at the Pathways website (www.pathways.prov.vt.edu/3Pilots/pilots.html) with the new student-developed version coming soon. There you will find great insights like the examples on the right.



"I like this class because a lot of what we do with neuroscience is knowing how different chemicals work and interact in the brain to give someone certain thoughts and how certain parts of the brain develop throughout social psychology. This class has been great for me to expand my knowledge."

Eric Lamberton, Senior, Psychology major

Introduction to Chemistry, by Jeannine Eddleton



"This class is very multicultural. You learn a lot and you get to try foods from all over which is my favorite part. Not only do we learn how food tastes, we also learn how to cook it and get to take recipes home with us."

Kayla Bond, Senior, Crop Genetics and Breeding major (Crop and Soil Sciences)

World Crops and Cropping Systems - Ozzie Abaye