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Fall 2004

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Graduate School Events

Fall Orientation

Orientation for graduate students took on a new look this fall as the event moved from the Ag Quad to Squires. Program components included a welcome from Provost Mark McNamee, a discussion on Transformative Graduate Education by Graduate Dean Karen DePauw, and presentations from the Graduate Student Assembly and Graduate Honor System. Two students and an outstanding ISE faculty member discussed the components of a good advisor-advisee relationship. Spring Orientation will be held on January 14, 2005 at



1:00 pm. The location and additional information will be posted on the Graduate School's website.

Emerging Leaders Workshop

The Graduate School hosted the sixth annual Emerging Leaders Workshop from August 5 through 8, 2004 in the Hotel Roanoke Inn and Conference Center. The program consisted of 3 1/2 days of workshops and seminars designed to prepare rising sophomores and juniors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities for graduate school and career opportunities. This year, 18 schools participated in this workshop that was co-chaired by Marilyn Kershaw, Director of



Graduate Student Recruiting at Virginia Tech.

Alumni Homecoming

The first Graduate Alumni Homecoming Breakfast was held September 11 prior to the Western Michigan football game and was a resounding success. Graduate alumni were presented with a flash memory drive that had been preloaded with the home pages of the Graduate School and the Research Division, joint presenters of the gift. The flash memory drive was given as a symbol to commemorate the official establishment of the



Virginia Tech graduate alumni community.

News Briefs

J-1 Scholars Program Moved

As of July 1st, 2004 the J-1 scholars program has moved to the Office of International Research, Education, and Development as the final step in the separation of the Graduate School from the Research Division. The Graduate School will continue to process immigration paperwork for J-1 students. Dr. Gerald Berkely-Coats is now the contact person for J-1 scholar questions. His telephone number is 540/231-6459, and his e-mail is gberkley@vt.edu.

Graduate Student Listserve

The Graduate Student Services Office maintains a listserv of all registered graduate students and a listserv of international graduate students. The listserves are used to inform students about timely concerns such as the deadline to claim the insurance subsidy, notice of special events, and similar topics.

Dialog with the Dean Series

Karen DePauw will be continuing the "Dialog with the Dean" series this academic year in response to favorable comments from students who attended the dialogs. The monthly forum offers an informal setting to discuss topics of interest to graduate students. Dates of upcoming "Dialogs" are posted on the Graduate School calendar.

Nominations for Outstanding College Students

Start planning now! Notices calling for nominations for the outstanding college graduate student, outstanding dissertation, outstanding graduate teaching assistant, and outstanding graduate student service awards will be sent to all departments in November. The awards will be presented at a dinner during Graduate Education Week, March 21—25, 2005.

Graduate School People

Graduate Ambassadors

A new Graduate Ambassadors program has been developed to provide opportunities and venues for students to be actively involved in building and promoting a graduate community and to create a network of

communication and assistance among prospective, current, and former graduate students. Membership is open to graduate students who are interested in serving the graduate community. For more



information contact Monika Gibson at gradam@vt.edu.

New Faces

Kevin Rooney comes to the Graduate School from the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning, bringing 10 years of IT experience. He has a bachelor's degree in communication studies from VT, and he will

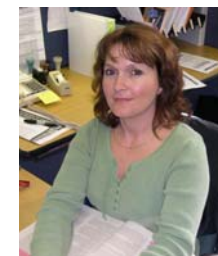
be completing a master of information technology degree next fall. In his new role, Kevin will coordinate and facilitate the integration of Graduate School IT systems with the university's IT systems.



Kevin Rooney

Cindy Stover is the Graduate School's newest admissions processor. She previously held two part-time positions at Tech in the geosciences department and the Provost's office. Cindy

holds three associates degrees in information technology from New River Community College. Cindy is engaged to be married, and she has two children.



Cindy Stover

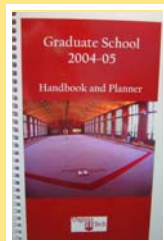
Erika Golart flew in from the Azores, Portugal (where her Air Force husband was stationed) to become the newest member of the Graduate Student Services team. She will be working with

programming and with international student services. Erika has a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.



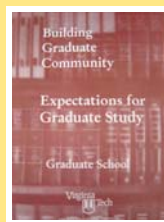
Erika Golart

Publications



Graduate Handbook and Planner

For the second year the Graduate Student Services Office has distributed the Graduate Handbook and Planner, providing academic dates and information pertinent to graduate students at Virginia Tech. This planner has become very popular with graduate students and all 1500 copies have already been distributed.



Building Graduate Community

To date 10,000 copies of *Building Graduate Community: Expectations for Graduate Study* have been delivered to all faculty, graduate coordinators, and graduate students at Virginia Tech. This publication was initiated by the Graduate Student Assembly and the Student Relations Committee of the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies. It represents a joint effort between faculty and students to define expectations and accountability for graduate education at Virginia Tech.

Funding Updates

Work-Life Grants

To date, six graduate students have received Work-Life Grants, a new program developed by the Graduate School, College Deans, and the Provost's office to provide temporary financial assistance to

departments to enable them to continue support for female graduate students during pregnancy and childbirth. Departments can request financial assistance equivalent to a graduate assistantship for six weeks. The

Graduate School will provide one half of the stipend and the College Dean will provide the other half. For more information, refer to: <http://www.grads.vt.edu/worklife>.

Revised Cunningham Doctoral Scholars Program

Distribution of Cunningham Fellowship funds has been reorganized as matching funds to allow departments to recruit top doctoral candidates. Offers made by departments are matched in time and funds by the

Graduate School (some terms and conditions apply). There are currently five outstanding graduate students who have been recruited under this program in the departments of biological systems engineering, human

development, forestry, biology, and psychology. A notice will be sent to departments when the next funding cycle is open. For more information contact Pat Goodrich at grads@vt.edu.

2004-2005 Health Insurance Subsidy

The Board of Visitors approved a forty-five percent increase in the insurance subsidy for graduate assistants this year. The insurance

subsidy is \$380, and nearly 2,000 graduate students are eligible to receive this benefit. Students must show proof of insurance in

order to claim the subsidy, offered in fall and spring semester allotments of \$190 each. See details at <http://www.grads.vt.edu>.

More NSF Fellows Choose Virginia Tech

This year Virginia Tech is home to twelve active and four reserve National Science Foundation graduate research fellows. Select fellowship and scholarship recipients will be honored at a reception hosted by President Charles W. Steger and Dean Karen P. DePauw at The Grove on October 26, 2004.

