Center Students and Faculty Members Travel to China for Conference
Photos by Kirt von Daacke

In June, 23 Center students and faculty members traveled to China for the Symposium on Higher Education-China 2006, a conference jointly sponsored by the Curry School and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). The event involved nearly a year of preparation by Center students Crystal Goodman, Sean Jenkins, Gerry Starsia and Justin Thompson, who worked closely with the faculty at SJTU’s Office of Planning and the Institute of Higher Education to plan content and make logistical arrangements. Presenters at the conference included Curry School Dean David Breneman, who provided an overview of U.S. higher education, and Center Director Dr. Margaret Miller, who spoke about U.S. higher education governance.

In addition to learning more about Chinese educational research and governance structures, Curry School participants were also treated to warm hospitality from their Chinese hosts. EDLF Chair Dr. Carolyn Callahan said the planning on the part of the Shanghai students and faculty was “unbelievable,” with no detail left.

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Center Welcomes New Faculty Member

The Center for the Study of Higher Education began the year by welcoming a new faculty member, Heather Rowan-Kenyon. Professor Rowan-Kenyon joined the Leadership, Foundations, and Policy Department as an assistant professor, and will teach classes in addition to assisting Dr. Johan Madson with the administration of the Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education (SAPHE) master’s program. She will assume directorship of the SAPHE program next year.

Dr. Rowan-Kenyon, who originally hails from the Philadelphia area, served as assistant dean of student development at Mt. Saint Mary’s College in Maryland for three years prior to her doctoral work at the University of Maryland, College Park. While at the University of Maryland, she worked in the Office of Judicial Programs and served as a graduate research assistant for a faculty...
Center Welcomes New Students

Margaret Baxton (SAPHE)
Margaret received her BA from UVA in 2002 with a major in psychology and a minor in political science. After spending a few years in banking and working with undergraduates as a manager at Kaplan Test Prep, Margaret has found her career in financial aid at the medical school at UVA.

Amy Burge (PhD)
Amy received her BA from Columbia University in May 2004, majoring in American History. After graduating, she taught in the summer enrichment program for the Norfolk public schools in Norfolk, Virginia. She then moved to Washington, DC, where she worked for a bi-partisan, nonprofit, anti-crime organization, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. She received an MEd from the University of Virginia in summer 2006 in social foundations.

Julie Innes Caruccio (PhD)
Julie received her BA in history and American studies from UVA in 1994 and in 2000 earned an MEd in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont. Her professional experience includes residence life, orientation and first-year programs, graduate fellowship programs, and fundraising.

Eric Childers (PhD)
Eric graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina, with a double major in English and business administration. After graduation, Eric worked for his alma mater for five years in institutional advancement, first directing the annual fund and later the institutional marketing effort. Additionally, Eric holds a master of divinity from Wake Forest University Divinity School and a master of sacred theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is currently a candidate for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Eric lives in the Charlottesville area with his wife, Kristi, a fifth-grade teacher in the Charlottesville city school system.

Alexis I. Ehrhardt (SAPHE)
Alexis graduated from Emory University with a double major in Latin American and Caribbean studies and Spanish and a minor in history. After spending four years first as the associate director and then director of admission and financial aid at Chatham Hall, Alexis joined Marks Counseling Associates, LLC, where she is an independent college counselor. Alexis also assists in providing similar counseling services to the scholars in the Collegiate Directions program, which supports low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Montgomery County, MD. She resides in Danville, VA.

Kristen Fleming (SAPHE)
Kristen is currently working towards an MEd in student affairs while also working full-time for the University in the Dean's Office of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Lauren Germain (PhD)
Originally from Syracuse, NY, Lauren received a BA in political science from Providence College and a master's degree in student affairs practice in higher education from UVA. She is a member of the research team for the Young Women Leaders Program and volunteers with the VISAS program through the Center for American English Language and Culture.
New Students (continued)

Sarah Rebecca Hebble (SAPHE)
Sarah attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of the crew team for four years and received a BA in psychology in May 2006. She came to UVA directly afterwards to attend the SAPHE program.

Murielle Kervizic (PhD)
Originally from France, Murielle completed her undergraduate education at the University of Bordeaux. She earned a master's degree in international relations at Syracuse University. Her professional experience in international higher education includes teaching French as a foreign language and working in international student and study abroad services at private and public universities in France, Finland, Canada and the United States.

Tiffany Meertins (SAPHE)
Tiffany is a 2005 University of Virginia graduate with a BA in foreign affairs and sociology. After graduation, she spent a year with UVA’s College Guide Program as a college guide in South Boston, VA.

Josh Nupp (SAPHE)
Josh received his BA in French from Wake Forest in 2001. For the last four years, he worked at a non-profit foreign exchange organization in Boston.

Kedrick B. Perry (PhD)
Kedrick received his Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his Master of Public Administration and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management at North Carolina State University.

Steve Sherman (PhD)
Steve earned an MBA from Darden Business School at the University of Virginia and an AB in Psychology from Duke University. His professional background is centered primarily in development and alumni relations and is supplemented by experience in student affairs as well as in for-profit organizations.

Laura Stufflebam (SAPHE)
Laura earned a BA in Spanish from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. After graduation, she moved to the Shenandoah Valley, where she taught Spanish at Robert E. Lee High School in Staunton for two years. Her extra-curricular interests include theatre and public speaking.

Amy Swan (PhD)
Amy earned a bachelor's degree with honors in women's studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996 and a master's degree in arts management from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in 2005. Prior to graduate school, she spent several years in Washington, DC, working for organizations including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Washington University, and VSA Arts.
Center Students

Betsy Ackerson was named academic affairs associate in the office of the vice president and provost at the University of Virginia.

Brian Cullaty published a review of *University Presidents as Moral Leaders* by David G. Brown in the August 2006 issue of *Education Review*.

Nicole Eramo was named assistant dean of students at the University of Virginia.

Brian T. Ullman served as a faculty advisor for the International Scholar Laureate program in China. He also presented on China’s educational transformation at the 10th Annual Curry Summer Policy Institute.

Center Alumni

Leanna Blevins (PhD 2004) is serving as associate director of the New College Institute, working with Barry Dorsey (PhD 1980), who was appointed executive director in July. She and her husband, Gavin Russell, also welcomed their second daughter, Ainsley Anna-Jane, on June 16, 2006.

Alan Fortescue (PhD 2005), director of education at the Earthwatch Institute, recently presented at the United Nations Department of Public Information conference on education for sustainable development, as well as at the regional conference of the New England Environmental Educators Association. He was invited by UNESCO to participate in a roundtable discussion about next steps for the remaining nine years of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and he has been asked to help develop the concepts for and participate in the next meeting of the UN Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations at next year's Commission on Sustainable Development meeting. He has also been invited to help develop concepts for and participate in future UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development conferences.

Dennis Gregory (EdD 1987) co-authored “The Views of Senior Residence Life and Housing Administrators on the Clery Act and Campus Safety” in *The Journal of College and University Student Housing*. He also co-authored “State Support of Public Higher Education Institutions and Resulting Limitations on Continuation of the Community College Open Door Policy” in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*. He was selected as one of nine nominees from Old Dominion University for the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV)'s 2007 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award and also received the 2005-2006 Darden College of Education Sarah and Rufus Tonelson Award in recognition of outstanding teaching, research, publications, and service. Along with co-author Dr. Steve Janosik, Dr. Gregory was awarded the Betty Harrah Manuscript of the Year Award by the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) at the ACUHO-I annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2006. In addition, he was elected 2006 chair of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education Campus Police and Security Standard Review Committee.

David Wolcott (PhD 2005) was named assistant to the associate vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Virginia.
Dr. Margaret Miller presented on learning outcomes at the National Press Club release event for *Measuring Up 2006*. Her editorial, “The Legitimacy of Assessment,” was published in the September 22, 2006, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. She published a policy brief for state legislators around the country on the National Forum on College-Level Learning, which was mentioned in the report of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, and she presented on assessment as a public policy issue at the National Center for Higher Education and Public Policy’s associates program. In addition, Dr. Miller presented at a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) retreat on accreditation’s role in accountability and gave two presentations at the Symposium on Higher Education-China 2006, one on quality assurance and the other on higher education governance. Dr. Miller has also been invited to join the “brain trust” for a project jointly sponsored by Jobs for the Future and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) called *Making Opportunity Affordable*. Over the summer, she was part of a State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) working group on higher education policy indicators; she also briefed the SHEEO staff on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) *Culture of Evidence* paper. And in October, she created recommendations for former North Carolina Governor James Hunt to give the UNC System on learning assessment and consulted with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) on the same topic.

Dr. Brian Pusser, Sheila Slaughter, and Scott Thomas co-authored “Playing the Board Game: An Empirical Analysis of University Trustee and Corporate Board Interlocks,” published in the September/October 2006 issue of *the Journal of Higher Education*. In August, Dr. Pusser was named to the Research Advisory Committee of the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Dr. Heather Wathington, working with Curry School Dean David Breneman and Dr. Sarah Turner, will head the University of Virginia’s part of a federally funded, $9.8 million National Center for Postsecondary Research study examining the effectiveness of dual enrollment, as well as learning communities. Dr. Wathington’s portion of the study, based at the Community College Research Center of Columbia University’s Teachers College, will focus on whether these options improve academic success and retention for lower-skilled or average students. Dr. Wathington will manage up to five study sites participating in the research.

Center Welcomes New Faculty Member (continued)

member, as well as the house director for the Delta Gamma sorority. Her dissertation, *Predictors of Delayed College Enrollment and the Impact of Socioeconomic Status*, was first runner-up for NASPA’s 2006 Melvene D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award.

Dr. Rowan-Kenyon’s areas of research include access and equity issues related to education, particularly student perceptions of college opportunity, and student learning outcomes. This semester she is teaching EDLF 589, Assessment in Student Affairs, and she plans to teach two classes in the spring: The College Student Experience (EDLF 852) and Student Affairs in Higher Education (EDLF 855). She said that in deciding to join the faculty at the Center, working with the SAPHE program was “a big benefit,” and she is looking forward to the opportunity to “help train students going into the student-affairs profession.”

Outside of academia, Dr. Rowan-Kenyon is a runner who has completed one marathon and two half-marathons, and she enjoys traveling, especially to the national parks and Italy. She and her husband Mark Kenyon, Assistant Director of the University of Maryland Career Center, were married in June, so she divides her time between Charlottesville and their home in Cabin John, Maryland.
China Conference (continued)

unattended to. During the four-day symposium, each American participant was paired with a “language partner” from SJTU who not only attended the conference with them but also served as their guide to the city of Shanghai. Third-year doctoral student Carolyn Livingston said that having a language partner added an extra dimension to her trip. “Without that interaction,” she said, “we probably would have had a different perception of China.” Likewise, second-year doctoral student Brian Ullman said of the conference, “What made the experience remarkable was not just that we explored global issues in education and discussed the role of higher education in China’s economic transformation, but also that we were able to do so while developing friendships and professional ties with our Chinese hosts.”

Following the symposium in Shanghai, several Curry students and faculty members traveled to the town of Xi’an and the city of Beijing, where they had the opportunity to visit the Great Wall of China as well as Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Overall, said Callahan, the efforts from both the American and Chinese students to understand each others’ systems of higher education was “extraordinary.” “The most significant part of this particular trip,” she said, “was the way students’ eyes opened to possibilities for cross-cultural understanding, support, and intellectual growth.”

Congratulations to 2006 SAPHE Graduates

Lauren Germain
Cornelia Glavin
Erin Gray
Christopher Greenwood
Alexandra Moody
Jill Nester
Kemper Steele
Katherine Vaughan
The Quarterly

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