A Note from the Director

Brian Pusser, Associate Professor

This Spring/Summer edition of the Quarterly signals the end of another academic year, a time of transition for our students, faculty, alums and other constituents of our program. The past year has been marked by joy and sorrow. We find joy in the graduation of the many wonderful students who will go forth to represent our program, the Curry School, and the University of Virginia. We share the sorrow of our students and others close to our program that lost those most dear to them this year. Through it all, we will go forward with optimism for our new cohorts and fond memories of those who have gone before.

This has been an unprecedented year on many dimensions. The fourteen students who have completed their Ph.D.s comprise the largest program cohort in more than a decade. When added to the seven students who have earned the SAPHE master’s degree, our graduating class is the largest in over a decade. With the addition of a concentration in higher education administration to our master’s program and the continuing development of online delivery, we expect continued growth in the future.

Thanks to the commitment of our donors and friends of the program, this year we were also able to distribute the largest amount of scholarship funding ever awarded to our outstanding students. Our new master’s and doctoral cohorts are exceptionally talented groups with a diverse set of interests and experiences. We look forward to introducing them to you in the fall.

Finally, please feel free to send me an email or give me a call if you have any questions or comments. It’s always great to hear from you.

Introducing Our New Ph.D. Students

Holly Foster hails from the Washington, DC metropolitan area and holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in English from George Mason University as well as a master’s degree in Higher Education from the University of Virginia. She has taught composition in the Virginia Community College System for three years and currently interns at U.Va.’s Center for Alcohol and Substance Education.

Tundrup Tendzin joins us from Tibet. He obtained a B.A. degree from Minzu University in Beijing and a M.Phil degree from University of Oslo, Norway. Tundrup’s research interests are focused on international and comparative higher education as well as student access and success.

After graduating with a B.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Claire Mitchell received her Master's of Arts in Teaching Social Science from Boston University. Claire’s high school teaching experience fostered a desire to help students overcome roadblocks to postsecondary success, eventually leading her to earn an M.A. in Higher Education at the University of Michigan. Claire is currently working with Assistant Professor Heather Wathington to examine summer bridge programs for students in need of developmental courses.
Spotlight on Recent Graduates

The Higher Education program is pleased to congratulate the following fourteen students who received their Ph.D. degrees during finals weekend:


**Barbara Schmertz**, Dissertation: *Bridging the Class Divide: The Qualitative Evaluation of a Summer Bridge Program for Low-Income Students at an Elite University*. Heather Wathington, Advisor.

**Marc Shook**, Dissertation: *Students Disciplining Peers: Student Involvement when Adjudicating Misconduct Infractions at American Four-Year Colleges and Universities*. Margaret Miller, Advisor.

**Gerald Starsia**, Dissertation: *Strategic Planning in Higher Education: An Examination of Variation in Strategic Planning Practices and Their Effect on Success in NCAA Division I Athletic Departments*. Brian Pusser, Advisor.

**Daniel Steeper**, Dissertation: *The Effects of Selected Undergraduate Student Involvement and Alumni Characteristics on Alumni Gift-Giving Behavior at the University of Virginia*. Heather Wathington, Advisor.

(see GRADUATES, 3)
Support the Center for the Study of Higher Education

You can support the CSHE with your earmarked gift in care of the Curry Foundation. For more information, please contact the Curry Foundation, (434) 924-0848, or visit the campaign web site, http://campaign.virginia.edu/curry.

Recent Graduates (from GRADUATES, 2)

In addition, the Higher Education program would like to congratulate the following ten students on receiving their Master of Arts degrees in Student Affairs Practice:

**Stephanie Austin**, Capstone Project (with Emily Goodson): *Community Service Involvement and Student Learning Outcomes*

**Margaret Baxton**, Capstone Project: *The Financial Literacy and Habits of Students at the University of Virginia School of Medicine*

**Amy Bulgrien**, Capstone Project: *Motivations of the Residence Staff*

**Abigail Coulter**, Capstone Project: *Program Directors at Madison House: An Exploration of the Leadership Experience and Needs of Student Leaders at a University Volunteer Center*

**Carol DelVitto**, Capstone Project: *The International Student Experience at Darden Graduate Business School*

**Megan Garner**, Capstone Project (with Laura Haskins): *Assessing Undergraduate Interest in Expanding Course Offering with American Indian Content and Perspectives*

**Laura Haskins**, Capstone Project (with Megan Garner): *Assessing Undergraduate Interest in Expanding Course Offering with American Indian Content and Perspectives*

**Mary Elizabeth Luzar**, Capstone Project: *An Assessment of Class-Year Connectedness: University of Virginia Class of 2009*

**Sara Prince**, Capstone Project: *College Theatre Diversity Learning at Eastern Mennonite University*

**Adam Seid**, Capstone Project (with Laura Sahar): *Assessing the Gender Gap among College Study Abroad*

Source: Todd Parks
Alumni News

**Brian Cullaty** (Ph.D. 2009) received the Burns B. Crookston Doctoral Research Award from the American College Personnel Association. Brian was recently named Assistant to the Vice Provost for Academic Programs at the University of Virginia, where he assists in the development and implementation of projects related to academic planning. In particular, Brian has worked closely with the new Jefferson Public Citizens program which integrates students’ service and research experiences throughout their time at the University.

**Eric Childers** (Ph.D. 2010), his wife, Kristi, and their son, Jack, welcomed the arrival of their daughter Katherine Marie on May 27th. Katherine weighed in at 7 lbs. 11oz. and measured 20 inches long. Both mother and child are healthy and well.

Piedmont Virginia Community College has appointed **John Donnelly** (Ph.D. 2006) Vice President for Instruction and Student Services. John previously served as Provost/Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Massachusetts Bay Community College.

**Karen Dowd** (Ph.D. 1993) recently became the Executive Director of the Suitts Center for Career Services at the University of Denver’s Daniels College of Business. Karen also serves as co-lead of Corporate Engagement in her capacity at the university.

In recognition of her outstanding work with student leadership programs, sexual assault education, and adjudication, **Nicole Eramo** (Ph.D. 2010) has been promoted from Assistant Dean to Associate Dean of Students at the University of Virginia.

**Adam Seid** (M.A. 2010) was promoted to Associate Director of Academic Affairs and Registrar for the University of Virginia’s Semester at Sea program. Adam will be sailing as Assistant Academic Dean & Registrar on the Fall 2010 voyage.

**Terrell Strayhorn** (M.Ed. 2000), Associate Professor of Higher Education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has been awarded the prestigious 2009 Early Career Award from the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). The award is given to a recipient for a significant body of scholarship or a single extraordinary research achievement by a higher education scholar and in recognition of potential for future research. Strayhorn has published four books, 30 book chapters, and over 70 refereed journal articles and other scholarly publication. His areas of expertise include college student learning and development, the impact of college on students, and contexts/interventions that promote student retention and success. Strayhorn is a member of the governing board for American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and editorial boards for the Journal of College Student Development, Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice, among others.

Source: University of Tennessee

Student News

**Troy Buer** was appointed Assistant Dean for Medical Education Support & Director of Educational Program and Undergraduate Medical Education Administration in the U.Va School of Medicine. Troy also presented a poster with Susan Pollart titled, “Faculty Development for the ‘Next Generation’ Curriculum,” at the Academy of Distinguished Educators Medical Education Research Poster Session. His piece, “Organizational complexity: The athletics department and the university,” appeared in *New Directions for Higher Education*.

(see STUDENTS, 5)
**Student News** (from STUDENTS, 4)

**Tom Bowman** published an article with D.A. Bradney and T.P Dompier titled “Epidemiology of concussion and laceration rates among men’s lacrosse athletes” in *Athletic Training & Sports Health Care*. Tom also recently made a presentation with D.A. Bradney and D. Kremer at the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching titled “Creating Communities: Living and Learning.”

**Brian Reed** published a number of pieces related to masculinity, including “Factors affecting low-SES white male persistence to graduation: Excerpts from preliminary research” in the *ACPA Standing Committee for Men Briefs*, as well as two forthcoming book chapters: “Authentic masculinities: A gender-aware approach to leadership development and mentoring,” in *A new wave of male teachers reflecting on gender in K-12 classrooms: Generating ideas, challenging ideologies, providing inspiration* (with C.L. Wilcox-Elliot); and “Socio-economic and work identity intersections with masculinity,” in *Masculinities in higher education: Theoretical and practical implications*. Brian made a presentation at the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers titled, “Campus Housing as a Foundation of Low-SES Student Persistence.” Finally, Brian recently served on the Editorial Advisory Board for Harper and Harris’s volume, *College Men and Masculinities: Theory, Research, and Implications for Practice*.

**Jesse Rine** was awarded a research grant by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles. Jesse was one of 12 national award recipients selected to analyze a longitudinal dataset created as part of HERI’s Project on Spirituality in Higher Education, a multi-year initiative supported by the John Templeton Foundation. In addition, Jesse was recently inducted into the University of Virginia’s chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honorary society.

**Amy Swan** recently presented three research posters: “Pre- and Early Adolescents’ Math Interests: Social Cognitive Factors, Support and Engagement” (with Marie Shoffner, Heather Rowan-Kenyon, Christian Steinmetz, and Mary Deacon) at the 2009 National Science Foundation (NSF) Joint Annual Meeting; “Educating Engineers for Multiscale Systems Design in a Global Economy: The Technology Leaders Program” (with Reid Bailey, Benjamin Choo, Heather Rowan-Kenyon, and Marie Shoffner) at the annual conference of the American Society for Engineering Education in Austin, Texas; and “Women in Engineering: Exploring the Experiences of Female Students in Introductory Project-Based Engineering Courses at Two Community Colleges and a Four-Year Institution” at the 2009 annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Also at ASHE, Amy co-presented a research paper (“Social and Cultural Predictors of Low-SES Student Persistence in College,” with Heather Rowan-Kenyon, Rebecca Blanchard, and Brian Reed) and served as an invited panelist for the Presidential Session, “Celebrating the Mentor and Mentee Relationship.” Finally, together with Heather Rowan-Kenyon, Nancy Deutsch, and Bruce Gansneder, Amy co-authored a chapter in *Understanding the Working College Student: New Research and Its Implications for Policy and Practice*, titled “Academic Success for Working Students.”

**Faculty News**

**David Breneman** will be sailing with Semester at Sea this fall on a voyage themed, “National Identity in a Globalized World.” While aboard the *MV Explorer*, he will be teaching two courses. “Higher Education in a Global Economy” will explore central policy issues facing the systems of higher education operating in each country visited on the voyage, while “Topics in Public Policy” will examine the issues central to key debates in domestic and foreign policy through an exploration of the analytic methods used to evaluate policy interventions.

*(see FACULTY, 6)*

*Source: Curry School of Education*
Faculty News (from FACULTY, 5)

Peg Miller has joined the advisory boards of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment; the Association of Governing Boards’ project on Faculty and Institutional Governance; the board of editors of the journal International Educator; the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability; and ETS’s Culture of Evidence project, its Accountability Investigations Using a Longitudinal Study (AILS) project, and its newly formed higher education advisory board. She was interviewed by John Merrow’s Learning Matters on the Obama agenda for higher education, was on a panel for the State Higher Education Officers (SHEEO) annual meeting, gave keynote speeches at the annual meeting of Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences and the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College’s assessment forum, and met with students and alumni of the University of Pennsylvania’s Executive Ed.D. program.

Peg continues to serve on the boards of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), the National Learning Outcomes Assessment project (NILOA), Measuring Up, and the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability (NLA/SLA). She is also a TIAA/CREF Institute Fellow.


Christian Steinmetz begins her second year as lecturer and coordinator of the Master of Education in Higher Education program. This year will see changes to the program with the addition of a new concentration in Higher Education Administration, a program Christian was instrumental in designing. While maintaining a strong focus in student affairs with the continuation of the SAPHE concentration, the new concentration will round out the program for students interested in the administrative side of higher education. The program has also seen growth in the number of part-time professionals joining the program. Christian joined the program after a year of post-doctoral research work with Dr. Marie Shoffner. She completed her Ph.D. in Higher Education at the University of Virginia in 2008. Prior to doctoral work, Christian worked in student affairs at Eastern Oregon University, serving in admissions, judicial affairs, and first-year experience programming.

Heather Wathington presented a research paper titled, “Delivering Useful Learning?: Public Colleges and Postgraduate Outcomes in North Carolina” with U.Va. doctoral students Josh Pretlow and Dana Nowell at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Vancouver, British Columbia. At ASHE, Heather also served as discussant for a research paper session titled, “How Diversity Experiences Affect Student Learning,” and participated in a symposium called “Using Random Assignment Designs to Test Post-Secondary Success Strategies for Underprepared Students.”
Student Awards

Through the generosity of a number of benefactors, the Higher Education program is able to annually recognize and support its outstanding students through the Curry Foundation student awards program. If you are interested in contributing to supporting the educational and professional development of students in the Higher Education program, please contact Jay Jackson, Director of Development, Curry School Foundation, at jaj5zh@virginia.edu or (434) 924-3010. The winners of the 2010 student awards are as follows:

Alton L. Taylor Award
The Alton Taylor Award was established by former students of Alton L. Taylor. This award is given to a doctoral student in the Higher Education program who demonstrates academic and professional promise and need. The award is to be used for the purpose of professional development.

Joshua Pretlow

Annette Gibbs Research Award
This award was established by graduates of and students in the Center for the Study of Higher Education to honor Dr. Gibbs for excellence in teaching and advising.

Julie Caruccio and Holly Foster

Bonnie McKee Mason Clevenger and Daniel W. & RosaLee McKee Mason Fellowship in Education
This fellowship was established by Kenneth H. Clevenger and S. RosaLee McKee Mason.

Natalie Perry and Mary Hall

Jay L. Chronister Student Award in Higher Education
This award was established by former students and advisees of Jay Chronister in honor of his scholarship and in his name upon his retirement from the faculty of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the Curry School of Education. It provides financial support for doctoral student attendance at national scholarly conferences and conventions dealing with higher education.

Tundrup Tenzin and Tom Bowman

Johnnie E. Merritt Graduate Fellowship
This fellowship was established by friends in memory of Johnnie E. Merritt, former president of Central Virginia Community College.

Todd Parks

In Memoriam

Dr. Eric Dey passed away unexpectedly while traveling to the ASHE conference on November 5, 2009. Dr. Dey was a Professor in the Higher Education program of the Curry School and Director of the University of Virginia’s Effective Teaching Initiative. Dr. Dey came to the Higher Education faculty in the summer of 2009 from the University of Michigan. He earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from the University of Wichita and his Ph.D. at UCLA. Dr. Dey made a unique contribution to the study of higher education and to the development of young scholars in the field. He will be deeply missed.

Source: University of Michigan
The Quarterly

The Newsletter of the Center for the Study of Higher Education
Todd Parks, Editor
Dr. Brian Pusser, Advisor

Center Electronic Resources

Center for the Study of Higher Education

http://www.curry.edschool.virginia.edu/highered

information on Center activities, faculty, alumni and The Quarterly

Center Electronic Mailing Lists

cshe-list@virginia.edu

available to all Center faculty, alumni and students

he-list@virginia.edu

available to all Center faculty and students

Center for the Study of Higher Education
Department of Leadership, Foundations and Policy
Curry School of Education
The University of Virginia
405 Emmet Street South, 179 Ruffner Hall
PO Box 400265
Charlottesville VA 22904-4265

The Quarterly is published two times a year
and encourages Center alumni, students and faculty to
submit information for future issues.
Forward your items of interest to the Center at highered@virginia.edu.

Help us keep the Center’s records up-to-date: contact us with any changes in address or position.