Cocktail Reception Held to Celebrate Gibbs’s Retirement

A cocktail reception was held on Friday, March 31, at the University Art Museum to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Annette Gibbs. Center faculty, students, alumni, and others gathered to express their appreciation for the Center’s former director. Center student Marc Shook reflected on the evening, “The reception was attended by a large cross-section of people from the University. There were administrators from multiple departments, faculty members from different programs, and students of all ages, which shows just how much Dr. Gibbs meant to the institution as a whole. She is the consummate professional who is always willing to provide her expertise where it is needed.”

On Saturday, Dr. Gibbs and her dissertation advisees met for dinner. A number of toasts were made to her, and Pat Lampkin (Ed.D. 1986) read the citation presented to Dr. Gibbs when she won the Thomas Jefferson Award. Jay Lemons (Ph.D 1991) made the final traditional Jeffersonian toast.

Spring Brown Bag Speakers Series

Dr. Sue Gaylor spoke on “Presidential Power at Small Liberal Arts Colleges” on February 28. Dr. Gaylor is the executive assistant to the President at Lycoming College.

On April 17, Dr. Ron Ehrenberg discussed his previous role as the vice president for academic programs, planning and budgeting at Cornell University. Currently Dr. Ehrenberg is the Irving M. Ives Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations and Economics and the director of the Higher Education Research Institute at Cornell University.

Professor Sarah Turner presented “Increasing the Enrollment of Low-Income Students at Selective Colleges” on February 3, as part of the Curry Risk and Prevention Series.
Congratulations to Center Graduates

Debra Carter, “Providing Inclusive Classroom Environments at a Small Liberal Arts College” (Annette Gibbs, advisor)

Laurie Casteen, “Immersion and Reentry: The Undergraduate Experience of Foreign Study” (Brian Pusser, advisor)

Kristine Dahm, “Post-Secondary Organizational Adaptation: Women’s Colleges in the 21st Century” (Brian Pusser, advisor)

Robyn Dietter, “Connecting High School Dropouts to Higher Education: A Study of the Virginia Community College System Middle College” (Brian Pusser, advisor)

John Donnelly, “The Effect of Faculty Employment Status on Grades and Student Ratings of Instructors” (Brian Pusser, advisor)

Catrina Murphy, “Differences in Academic and Social Expectations of First-Generation and Non First-Generation Undergraduates at a Historically Black University” (Annette Gibbs, advisor)

Andréa Spreter, “Adult College Students: Changes in Economic, Social and Cultural Capital from High School to College” (Brian Pusser, advisor)

Matha Thornton, “A Gender Comparison of Factors Influencing Students’ Perceptions of the Educational Climate in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia” (Annette Gibbs, advisor)

Student Awards

Four Center students received Curry School of Education Foundation Awards at the Education Awards Day Ceremony held on April 20, 2006.

Brian Cullaty, who is completing his first year in the Center, received the 2006 Annette Gibbs Research/Publication Award, established by graduates and students to honor Dr. Gibbs for excellence in teaching and advising. The award is presented to a student in the Center for the Study of Higher Education who shows early evidence of research/publishing promise.
Awards Con’t

Margaret Peak, who is currently working on her dissertation proposal, was the 2006 recipient of the Johnnie E. Merritt (Ed.D. 1974) Graduate Fellowship, founded by friends in memory of the former president of Central Virginia Community College, which honors student leadership contributions.

Betsy Ackerson and Troy Buer were the recipients of the Jay L. Chronister Student Award, established by former students and advisees of Dr. Chronister. The award funds professional development opportunities for current students. Betsy is completing her second year in the Center, and Troy is a first-year student.

Leadership Society News

Congratulations to Center students Betsy Ackerson, Sean Jenkins, and Justin Thompson on their induction into Omicron Delta Kappa. Omicron Delta Kappa is a national leadership honor society for college students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni that recognizes and encourages superior scholarship, leadership, and exemplary character.

Center Students


Nicole Eramo published a review of Rethinking Student Affairs Practice by Patrick G. Love and Sandra M. Estanek, published in the January/February 2006 issue of the Journal of College Student Development.

Center students Laurie Casteen, Alexis Andres, and Marc Shook assisted UVa. dean of students Penny Rue and UVa. senior associate dean of students Shamim Sisson conduct a pre-conference workshop at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) annual conference in Washington, DC. The pre-conference workshop was entitled “Supporting Our Students: Current Practices in Sexual Assault Adjudication.”
Center Students

In March, Center student **Marc Shook** led two presentations at the *College Student Educators International (ACPA)* annual convention in Indianapolis, IN. The presentations were entitled “Liberal Arts Colleges: How Many Today and For How Long?” and “Strategies for Success: Effectively Leading Your First Student Affairs Staff.” Marc's co-presenter for both sessions was Roland Bullard, a doctoral student at Indiana University.

**Brian Cullaty, Crystal Goodman,** and **Sean Jenkins** were elected to Ed Council positions for the 2006-2007 school year. Brian will serve as the EDLF department representative on the council, and Cyrstal will serve as the Curry School representative on the University Judicial Committee. Sean will return to his position as Honor Committee Representative.

Center Alumni

**Dennis Gregory** (Ph.D. 1987) was appointed associate editor of the *NASPA Journal*. One of his responsibilities will be to coordinate book reviews. At the *ASJA* Conference in Clearwater, FL, this February, Dennis served as a judge for the case study competition and co-presented three programs, including “Framing the Discussion of Campus Crime: A New Approach for Judicial Officers to Examine Crime.” Dennis was also active at the *NASPA* conference in Washington, DC, this March, co-presenting four programs, including “Working with International Programs in Higher Education: From Individual Acts to Collective Understanding.” In addition to his presentations, Dennis published two pieces this January in the proceedings of the *Valencia Conference on Legal Issues in Community Colleges*.

**Dan Friedman** (Ph.D. 2004) and his wife Sally had a baby last July. Julia Banks Friedman was born on July 7, 2005.

Center Faculty


**Dr. Heather Rowan** will join the Center faculty this fall. Dr. Rowan comes to the Center from the University of Maryland, where she was a postdoctoral research associate. Previous to earning her Ph.D. in higher education at the University of Maryland, Dr. Rowan worked in several student affairs positions.

‘Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is, at once, best in quality and infinite in quantity.”
-Horace Mann
Dr. William Harvey, the newly appointed vice president and chief officer for diversity and equity at the university, has also joined the faculty of the Center as a tenured professor. With his wide range of expertise—in diversity issues, policy, leadership, organization, and international education—Dr. Harvey will be an invaluable addition to our growing program.

Dr. Brian Pusser presented a paper entitled “What Are Those Data Worth? The Problem of Conducting Research on For-Profit Institutions” in the session “Education and the Public Interest: For-Profit Institutions, Public Disclosure, and Discourse” at the American Educational Research Association meeting in April in San Francisco. He also published an article entitled, “New Competition from For-profit Education Providers” in the winter issue of AGB Priorities.

Dr. Margaret Miller served on the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education’s Virginia B. Smith Award judging panel, on the technical work group that advised the US Department of Education on the financial health of institutions supported by Titles III & IV of the Higher Education Act, and as an advisor to the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Access and Excellence initiative. As a follow-up to her five-state pilot project on assessing student learning, the National Forum on College-Level Learning, she authored Assessing College-Level Learning, a policy alert that went to about 20,000 state policymakers around the nation. This spring she was an invited speaker at the University Continuing Education Association meeting, at Virginia Tech, and at the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education's associates program.
The Quarterly
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available to all Center faculty, alumni and students

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“Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten.”
—B.F. Skinner