New Faculty Members Arrive at the Center

The Center for the Study of Higher Education began the 2005-2006 academic year by welcoming two new faculty members. Heather Wathington and Jennifer de Forrest joined the Leadership, Foundations, and Policy Department as assistant professors and will teach in the higher education program. Professor de Forest will share her time in the Center with the Social Foundations program.

Dr. de Forest comes to the Center from Harvard University, where she recently finished her Ed.D. Her research areas include the historical relationship between philanthropic foundations and education, large urban school districts and their place in the American child welfare system, and the history of children’s rights. In past work de Forest has written on Julius Rosenwald’s daughters’ philanthropy in New York City and the way they influenced public school reforms efforts in the 1940s. Her article in the January issue of *Teachers College Record* will examine a school reform effort in New York City, where a group of psychologists and psychiatrists tried to replace teacher-licensing exams with personality tests.

In coming to the Center, Professor de Forest was drawn by “the rare opportunity to focus on the teaching and research of educational history in a school of education.” This semester she is teaching History of Higher Education, and she plans to teach a course on the American college presidency next semester. When de Forest is not doing archival research, she is an avid cook and likes “nothing more than spending an evening trying to make a new Indian dish.”

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Annual Higher Education Picnic Begins the Year

Center faculty and returning students welcomed a new cohort of students at the annual picnic. Once again, Center director Margaret Miller and her husband, English professor Alan Howard, graciously hosted the picnic at their farm in Gordonsville, which provided a beautiful setting for the event. The traditional fare of fried chicken continued, and faculty and returning students provided a variety of side dishes and desserts. The picnic was the culminating event of the two-day orientation for first-year students. Students, faculty, and family members all enjoyed the chance to get to visit with new and old friends.
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Arriving at the Center with de Forest is Heather Wathington, who recently earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and has prior experience as a senior research officer at the Lumina Foundation for Education. She came to the Center for the Study of Higher Education for the opportunity to do research concerning college students and to study the academic performance of minority students. Wathington is excited that there are “graduate students in the Center interested in studying college students as well.”

Wathington’s academic interests include access, equity, and diversity in higher education and the persistence and attainment of students of color, students with low skill sets, first-generation students and low-income students. Currently, Wathington is working on a project called “Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count.” As part of this project she is studying the educational outcomes and academic progress of students in community colleges. This semester she is co-teaching Contemporary Issues in Higher Education with Dean Breneman, and she welcomes students and others to “stop by to discuss ideas and hot topics” concerning higher education. Outside of academia, Wathington is an avid tennis fan and went to 12 straight US Open tournaments before missing the Open this year.

The Center is excited by the edition of de Forest and Wathington and the level of expertise they bring to the program. Margaret Miller, director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education, commented that it’s “wonderful for the program to have such promising young faculty” and that the future of the program will be in “good hands.” “And besides that,” she added, “they are a pleasure to work with.”

Center Welcomes New Students

Herbert “Bruce” Bruce
Bruce received a bachelor of science in Biochemistry and master of education in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University. He is also a Commander in the US Navy Reserves. Bruce currently serves as the first-year programs coordinator at Lynchburg College.

Troy Buer
A native of Marshall, Minnesota, Troy earned his BS in psychology from Brigham Young University and an MS in exercise & sport science from the University of Utah. Prior to coming to UVA, Troy was the assistant dean of students at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista, VA. Troy lives in Charlottesville with his wife Courtney.

Jason Cottrell
Jason completed his MEd at VCU in 2002 while working as a counselor in the Office of Financial Aid. At VCU, Jason currently serves as the Monroe Park Campus representative of AAUP and the faculty advisor for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Virginia Chi colony. Jason lives with his partner J.D. in Richmond, VA, with their dog, Darby, and cat, Tom.

Brian Cullaty
Brian earned his BA in history from the University of Virginia in 1999. He did his graduate work at the College of William and Mary where he received an MEd in Educational Leadership. Before returning to Charlottesville, Brian worked for four years as an academic advisor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida. He lives in Charlottesville with his wife Martha and enjoys running and hiking in his free time.
New Students (con’t.)

Angie Harris
Angie attended Meredith College, where she earned a BA in music and then went on to receive her MEd in higher education & student affairs from the University of South Carolina. She worked in residence life programs at Peace College, the University of South Carolina, and Southern Methodist University before taking her current position at the University of Richmond. Angie resides in Richmond with her yellow lab, Zoe.

Janelle Perron Jennings
Janelle earned a BA in history from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH, and her MEd from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has ten years of professional experience in student affairs, most recently serving as associate dean of Westhampton College, the women’s coordinate college at the University of Richmond. Janelle lives in Charlottesville with her husband, Jay, and their dog, Sonora.

Barbara Schmertz
Barbara received her BS degree in journalism from The Pennsylvania State University in 1990. She worked for four years at UVa, most recently as associate director of the Curry School of Education Foundation. She received her MEd degree in social foundations from the Curry School in 2005. Barbara lives in Charlottesville with her husband, Andrew.

Brian Ullman
Brian is returning to his alma mater, where he studied political and social thought as an undergraduate. During his five-year hiatus from Charlottesville, Brian performed community development work in the Russian city of Perm, developed relationships among high school educators worldwide for the Global Young Leaders Conference, and earned a master’s in public affairs from Indiana University.

Center Student News

Andrea Spreter has been selected as the 2005 Association for Continuing Higher Education Wayne L. Whelan Scholarship recipient. The scholarship is awarded to a graduate student who has demonstrated commitment to the field of adult/continuing education through a minimum of 5 years experience and who shows promise in advancing the field through research and practice.

Grant Azdell has been asked to serve on the editorial advisory board in the area of “Best Practices” for the Council on Law in Higher Education (CLHE) weekly edition. He will be writing and evaluating articles in the area of best practices for this year.
**Center Alumni**

**Leanna B. Blevins** (Ph.D. 2004) is working to help start a baccalaureate college in rural Southside Virginia. She is serving as vice president for student and community development for the New College of Virginia initiative in Martinsville. In late May, she was featured in a *New York Times* article, along with President Casteen and her brother, Andy Blevins. The article related to her current endeavors as well as her dissertation, which was a study of rural students and their access to and persistence in college.

**Sarah Collie** (Ph.D. 2002) has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the executive council of the National Consortium for Continuous Improvement (NCCI). Formed in 1999, NCCI’s mission is to advance academic and administrative excellence in higher education by identifying, promoting, supporting, and sharing effective organizational practices among member institutions.

**Dudley Doane** (Ph.D. 2003) and **Brian Pusser** coauthored “Entrepreneurial Organization at the Academic Core: The Case for Summer Sessions” in the Spring 2005 issue of *New Directions for Higher Education*. Doane was named an advising fellow in the College of Arts and Sciences at UVA for 2005-2006 and is completing his term as President of Virginia Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (VATESOL), 2004-2005.

**John Downey** (Ed.D. 2005) completed the American Association of Community College Future Leaders Institute (FLI) in Boston, MA, in July 2005. FLI is a five-day leadership-development seminar designed to prepare future leaders of the nation’s community colleges.

**Jeff Doyle** (Ph.D. 2001) published “The Community Development Curriculum: An Innovative and Comprehensive New Model for RA Programming” in the Association of College and University Housing Officers – International’s *Talking Stick*.

**Barbara Millar** (Ed.D. 1999) has moved to a new position as director of Darden’s MBA program for executives. Her responsibilities include all aspects of program leadership including marketing, admissions, financial aid, and operational logistics.


**Alyson Kienle** (Ph.D. 2005) accepted the position of associate dean of student life at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.
Center Alumni (con’t.)


Charlynn Miller (Ph.D. 2005) has been given the position of learning & teaching coordinator for the School of Information Technology and Mathematics at the University of Ballarat, Australia.

Julie (Hren) Piercy (Ph.D. 1999) was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of psychology at Central Virginia Community College. This is a correction from the spring 2005 edition of The Quarterly, which stated that Julie was promoted to Assistant Professor. Our apologies for this mistake.

Larry L. Rowley (Ph.D. 1999) has an upcoming article entitled “The Rise of DuBoisian Studies in the American University: Implications for 21st Century Scholarship on Race.” The article will be published in African American Research Perspectives, an occasional report published by the program for research on black Americans at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Furthermore, Larry has been appointed to the Advisory Board for the Center for African American Research and Policy (CAARP), as well as the editorial board of the newly created Journal of the Professoriate. This past summer, he served as faculty advisor to the University of Michigan's summer research opportunity program.

Janet Kerr-Tener (Ph.D. 1984) was recently elected secretary of the American Red Cross of the National Capital Area. Additionally, Kerr-Tener is chairman of the Fairfax County Public Library Foundation and the mother of John Tener a physics major, due to graduate from UVa in May 2006. She is also CEO of her own nonprofit management consulting firm based in Oakton, VA.

Steven Titus (Ph.D. 1998) was elected by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to the board of trustees of Augsburg Fortress, the publishing house of the National Church. On a personal note, Steven and his family returned from China on September 15 with their newly adopted daughter, Lilian Starr Titus. Lily was born September 9, 2004, in the Hunan Province of China. Steven, his wife, and daughter Emma (4 years old) are deeply grateful for the gift of growing their family with Lily.

Center Faculty

Dr. Margaret Miller was appointed director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education in July. She also became a judge for the Virginia B. Smith Award, given by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPHE) and the Council on Adult Education (CAE), as well as vice chair of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) board. In June she presented the final report on the National Forum on College-Level Learning to the NCPPHE board, and in July she spoke to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA).

Dr. Brian Pusser has been appointed program chair of the 2006 annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education. The conference will be held in Anaheim, California, November 1-4, 2006. He has also been named an associate editor of Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research, published by Kluwer Academic Publishers.
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The principal goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done. --Jean Piaget