Center Alum Data Reveal
A Tradition of Success

Prospective students to the Center as well as current students preparing to graduate can find a wealth of information about life after the completion of their doctoral program. A quick look into the database of Center graduates is revealing relative to the wide range of possibilities for employment.

First year of Center graduates: 1973  Total number of graduates: 173

Geography: Center graduates live and work in 33 different states and three countries. A large percentage of graduates work in Virginia (55 per cent), while 33 graduates are located in the southern region, 19 in the eastern region, 20 in the Midwest, seven in the west, one in the United Kingdom, one in Thailand and one in Korea.

Range of Professions: From teaching faculty to university presidents and administrators, consultants and foundation directors, Center graduates have found success after graduation. A rough outline of the positions finds that most graduates are active as college or university administrators in the areas of academic affairs, development, student affairs and business operations.

State Higher Education System CEO: 3  Education/Religious/Cultural Organizations: 10
College/University CEO: 10  Federal Government: 8
College/University Administrator: 80  K - 12 Teacher/Administrator: 7
College/University Faculty: 21  For-Profit Organization CEO, etc./Self Employed: 18

Web Site: Higher Education graduates, their current positions and their dissertation titles can be found on the Center website under Appendix A in the Handbook: http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/highered/studentinfo.html

Food and Fun at Annual Picnic

Center faculty and returning students celebrated the beginning of the 2003-2004 academic session and welcomed a new cohort of students at a late afternoon picnic on August 26th. The annual gathering at Pen Park featured a range of specialty dishes provided by faculty and returning students, as well as the traditional fried chicken. The picnic was the culmination of the two-day orientation program that welcomed twelve new and part-time students to the program and gave faculty, students and their families a chance to come together before the busy semester began. The successful orientation was the completion of Alyson Kienle’s duties as 2002-2003 Center Graduate Assistant.
Center Welcomes New Students

Alexis Andres earned her undergraduate degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. In May of 2003, she received a Master’s degree from the University of Vermont in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration. While at Vermont Alexis worked as a graduate assistant in undergraduate admissions.

Bill Ashby earned his A.B. from the University of California at Berkeley in Mass Communications and his M.B.A. with a concentration in Organizational Development from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Bill is currently the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Newcomb Hall and Student Activities at the University of Virginia.

A native of Virginia, Blair Brown received his B.A. degree in International Affairs at James Madison University. He then received a Master’s degree in Education Policy from the University of Virginia. His most recent position was Director of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid at the American University in the School of International Service.

Ron Buchanan is a native of West Virginia and a graduate of West Virginia University with a B.S. degree in petroleum engineering. After working for a major oil and gas company, Ron earned his M.B.A from the Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business at the University. Ron worked several years as an investment banker specializing in mergers and acquisitions as well as capital markets transactions prior to founding his own corporate finance and general management consulting firm.

A native of Staten Island, NY, Mark DeNoble earned his B.S. in Integrated Science and Technology and his M.S. in Technical and Scientific Communication at James Madison University. He taught Technical Communication at JMU, including Technical Writing, Research Methods, Workplace Communication and Legal Writing. Mark later joined Wyeth Consumer Healthcare as a technical writer.

John R. Donnelly is a history professor at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg. He has a B.A. in French from James Madison University and a B.A. in history and a M.A. in history from Virginia Commonwealth University. John is a 2003-2004 Virginia Community College System Chancellor’s Faculty Fellow.

Originally from South Africa, Margaret Peak completed her last year of high school in the United States. She holds a B.S. in Accounting from DePaul University and is a Certified Public Accountant. Her career includes public accountancy (banking and insurance), financial accounting (banking) and the controllership of a midsize law firm in northern Virginia.

Andrêa Spreter joins the program from DePaul University in Chicago where she most recently served as the Associate Director for On-Line Programs in the University’s Adult Learning College. Andrêa received her B.A. from Penn State and her M.A. from DePaul.

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New Students, cont.

A native of Herndon, Virginia, **Danny Steeper** earned his B.S in Health Sciences and M.S. Ed. in Health Sciences in Higher Education from James Madison University. For the past three years Danny has worked in University Recreation in the Division of Student Affairs at JMU. He is working as a graduate assistant in the Center for the Study of Higher Education.

**Christian Steinmetz**, also a Center graduate assistant, spent the last ten years at Eastern Oregon University in the Office of Admissions/New Student Programs, where she most recently held the position of Director. Christian has a B.A. in English/Writing from Eastern Oregon University and a Master’s degree in College Student Personnel from the University of Portland.

Center Alumni

**David Allen** (Ph.D. 1982), aka Colonel Allen, was graduated last month from the U.S. Army War College. He was awarded special honors for his writing project on “The Future of Coalition Involvement in Humanitarian Assistance Efforts.”

**Jenifer Blair** (Ed.D. 1997) has been named Vice President for Enrollment Management at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

**Patricia Brown** (Ed.D. 1985) has her own consulting firm, P2B Consulting. The firm focuses on government relations and business development for private and public sector organizations.

**Sarah Collie** (Ph.D. 2002) co-presented with **Dr. Alton Taylor** at the European Association for Institutional Research International Conference in Limerick, Ireland, on “Improving teaching quality and the learning organization.”

**Jeff Doyle** (Ph.D. 2001) is the new Director of Residence Life at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Jeff and his family are excited about the move to North Carolina as well as joining the University administrative staff.

**Phebe Kerr** (Ed.D. 1981) last month accepted the Associate Dean of Students position at Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL.

**Julie Hren Piercy** (Ph.D. 1999) has been named Interim Dean for Science, Math and Engineering at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg.

**Ken Rockensies** (Ed.D. 1995) began his position as Dean of Students at Barry University, Miami Shores, FL in August 2002.

**Larry L. Rowley** (Ph.D. 1999) has been appointed Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Afroamerican Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**Steven E. Titus** (Ph.D. 1998) will be inaugurated, officially, as President of Midland Lutheran College (Freemont, NE) on October 10, 2003.
Center Students

Leanna Blevins and Dr. Alton Taylor, along with Doug Lee from the University of Iowa, presented “Economic Effects on University Mission and Management” at the International European Association for Institutional Research Conference, Limerick, Ireland, in August. Also this summer, Leanna assisted with a higher education policy audit in Virginia for the National Collaborative for Postsecondary Education, a joint venture between ECS, NCPPHE and NCHEMS.

Laurie Casteen’s review of the book Compelling Interest: Examining the Evidence on Racial Dynamics in Colleges and Universities, edited by Mitchell J. Chang, has been accepted for publication in the Journal of College Admission, a publication of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Robyn Beck Dietter was elected as 2003-2004 President of the UVa Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, an international association for professional educators whose mission is the promotion of quality education through innovative programs, relevant research, visionary leadership, and dedicated service.


Beth Harper organized a panel titled “Virginia Teachers in the Old and New South” for the Southern Association of Women Historians conference at the University of Georgia in June. The panel included her paper, “Elevated to a Proper Standard: The Normal School at Hollins Institute 1864-1880.”

Chris Loss’s article, “Party School: Education and Political Ideology during the Cold War,” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Policy History (Winter 2004).

Matt Newman has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Athletics at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

On July 17 Brian Prescott successfully defended his dissertation proposal tentatively titled “Grant Aid as an Entitlement: Institutional Responses to Virginia’s Tuition Assistance Grant.”

Kirsten Turner graduated August 2003 after successfully defending her dissertation, “Leadership Development and Access: The Case of the University of Virginia” (Dr. Pusser, Advisor).

On October 17, 2003 Dave Wolcott will present with Curry alum Nicole Eramo at the Center for Academic Integrity conference in San Diego, CA.
Center Faculty

Dr. Annette Gibbs is the author of “Maintaining a Safe College Campus: Principles for Practice.” The research focuses on legal liability issues during the past decade and appears in Developments (May-June 2003), Vol. 30 No.2. Dr. Gibbs also delivered the keynote address at the Tennessee College and University Deans’ Invitational Fall Conference in Knoxville.

Dr. Margaret Miller’s article, “The Meaning of the Baccalaureate,” will appear in the Sept/Oct ‘03 issue of About Campus.

Dr. Brian Pusser has been nominated for the 2003 Promising Scholar/Early Career Award by the Association for the Study of Higher Education. The award is given 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. The recipient of the award will be announced at the annual meeting of the Association in November.

Dr. Pusser and David Wolcott, a graduate student in the Higher Education program, presented their co-authored paper, “The Role of Political Lobbying in the Rise of For-Profit Higher Education,” at the conference “Markets, Profits and the Future of Higher Education” at Teachers College in New York in May of this year.

In May, Dr. Penny Rue gave a keynote address titled “The Millennial Generation Comes to College” at the 6th Annual Conference on Teaching, Learning and Technology at the University of Southern California. Dean Rue was also involved with the National Conference on Suicide, Violence and Disruptive Behavior as a Planning Committee member, opening speaker and workshop presenter at the University of Virginia, June 2003.

Dr. Sarah Turner is on sabbatical this year and has been appointed to the Russell Sage Foundation where she will be continuing her research on the effect of the availability of educational opportunities in colleges and universities on the labor market. The Russell Sage Foundation, located in New York City, is devoted to research in the social sciences.

The 3rd edition of American Education: A History by Wayne Urban and Jennings Wagoner has just been published by McGraw Hill (2003). Professor Wagoner is also serving as a consultant to an independent film company that is developing a documentary history for PBS on the collaboration between Thomas Jefferson and Joseph Cabell that culminated in the founding of the University of Virginia.

Center Hosts First Brown Bag Presentation

Dr. Watson Scott Swail, President of the Educational Policy Institute, was the featured speaker at the Center’s first Brown Bag presentation on September 24. Dr. Swail presented on “Issues of Accountability and Access in Higher Education.”

The Educational Policy Institution is a non-profit research organization dedicated to research and evaluation focusing primarily on the issues related to educational opportunity from early childhood education to graduate and professional studies, including adult education and workforce development.
“A liberal education assumes that a little bit of serendipity is a good thing. Allow young people to go away from home, give these young people a good deal of freedom, coupled with some new challenges and new responsibilities, and some good things will happen. Often we really have no idea what these good things will be, but the students will seldom disappoint us.”