Dr. Jennings Wagoner to Retire at End of Academic Year

After thirty-seven years on the faculty at the Center for the Study of Higher Education, Dr. Jennings Wagoner is retiring. Wagoner has been an integral figure in the Curry School and the Center for the Study of Higher Education since its inception. Dr. Wagoner arrived at the University in the fall of 1968 as an assistant professor in the Social Foundations Department. When the Center was founded in 1969, he offered to teach a new course, “History of Higher Education,” as part of the core curriculum. In 1975, Dr. Wagoner assumed the role of Director of the Center and held the position for ten years until asked to serve as chairman of the Department of Leadership, Foundations and Policy. He also coordinated the Center’s Internship program for many years.

In addition to his numerous involvements and accomplishments within the Curry School, Wagoner has been an active presence at the University as well. He served on the Faculty Senate, and numerous other committees at the University including: the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, Provost’s Advisory Committee, and Promotion and Tenure Committee. Wagoner is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), Phi Delta Kappa (PDK), and the Raven Society. He received the Raven Society Faculty Award (1994), U.Va. Alumni Association Distinguished Professor Award (1996), Curry Memorial Faculty Award (1993), and Outstanding Professor Award (1987).

Of all these activities, Dr. Wagoner most enjoyed teaching the thousands of students who enrolled in his courses and interacting and keeping in touch with them over the course of their lives. He is most proud of the many students who have gone on to become college presidents, deans, headmasters of private schools, and those who are outstanding professionals in higher education, well published, and continuing their scholarship. Wagoner is pleased to be in touch with many former students and invites any who “feel guilty” about not being in touch, to be in touch once again.

Of course, as all who know him, no mention of Jennings Wagoner is complete without also referencing Mr. Jefferson. In considering the state of higher education today, Wagoner believes Jefferson would “lament the declining public support” at The University, across Virginia, and nationally, and that “the rising cost of tuition places a heavy burden on students who can least afford the additional outlay.” However, Wagoner thinks Jefferson would be “delighted” with the technological advances that have been and continue to be made directly out of higher education, particularly at U.Va. Finally, he suggested that Jefferson would remind and stress to this generation that the real purpose of education is to advance the public good and not private gain, a purpose Jennings Wagoner lived out to the fullest at the Center.

Looking ahead to retirement, Wagoner plans to spend more time doing those things which he didn’t have time for—hiking, canoeing, and enjoying the outdoors. He says it has been “a sheer delight teaching at Thomas Jefferson’s university,” and would not change anything about his experience. “I would just like to do it all over again,” he said with satisfaction. Dr. Annette Gibbs, who followed Wagoner as Director of the Center, stated that “Jennings Wagoner is one of the most admired and respected members of the faculty, not only in Curry, but the entire University community. He cannot be replaced.”
Center Welcomes New Students

Betsy Ackerson is from McLean, Virginia. She holds A.B. degrees in public policy and Spanish from Duke University and received her M.B.A. from The College of William & Mary. In addition to her professional experience in higher education, Betsy’s background includes working in the corporate, non-profit and public policy arenas. Most recently she served as Corporate Gifts Officer and Interim Manager of PR & Communications for the William & Mary School of Business.

Nicole Eramo is originally from Oakland, New Jersey. She is a member of the Vice President for Student Affairs staff at U.Va. and serves as the special assistant to the University of Virginia’s student-run Honor Committee. Nicole received a B.A. from the Political and Social Thought program at U.Va. in 1997. In May 2003, she completed an M.Ed. in Social Foundations of Education. In addition to working with the Honor System, Nicole is a teaching assistant for a liberal arts seminar regarding honor and integrity.

Crystal Goodman received both her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Texas A&M University. She served as the advisor for an English honor society for two years. Crystal taught Composition and Rhetoric at A&M while completing her graduate work and then received a teaching position at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. There she taught developmental English classes as well as Composition I and II.

Sean Jenkins is from Knoxville, Tennessee. He earned an undergraduate degree in English and Business from Wake Forest University. Following graduation he worked for a consulting firm in Atlanta, Georgia, before completing an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration at North Carolina State University. While pursuing his degree he interned for the Center for Academic Integrity at Duke University, the Vice Chancellor’s Office of Student Affairs at UNC Chapel Hill, and served as research and teaching assistant for the Department of Adult and Community College Education at NC State University. In his free time Sean enjoys hiking, fly-fishing, and running.

Mary Beth Knight is a South Carolinian and earned her undergraduate degrees in English and French from Wofford College. She did her graduate work in journalism as part of a Rotary Foundation fellowship at the University of King’s College in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Before joining the development community at U.Va. in 2001, she served as a business editor and political speechwriter.

Rachel Miller is from Weaverville, North Carolina. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, North Carolina, and an M.A.Ed. in School Counseling from Western Carolina University. For ten years she served in a variety of positions at Mars Hill College including Director of Retention and Director of Counseling. She lives in Lake Monticello, Virginia, with husband Scott and daughters Audrey and Leah.

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Marc Shook was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and reared in Montgomery, Alabama. He received his undergraduate education at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and his graduate degree from The University of Alabama School of Law. Before coming to U.Va. Marc served as the assistant dean of students at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, where he also taught on an adjunct basis in the Department of Political Science and the Department of English.

Gerry Starsia has a BA in English from Hofstra University and an M.B.A. from the University of Connecticut. Gerry is currently the Associate Dean for Administration at the McIntire School of Commerce. Prior to this appointment at McIntire, he owned and operated a commercial real estate and construction business in the northeast. He also provides business consulting services specializing in start-ups, finance, new product launches and technology transfer. Gerry lives in Ivy with his wife Marianne and sons Jeremiah and Zachary.

Justin Thompson earned a B.S. in cell and structural biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an M.S. in College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University. Before enrolling in the Center, Justin worked as the executive director of the James Madison University Alumni Association and the director of membership services for the North Carolina State University Alumni Association.

Center Students

Bill Ashby presented “If They Design It They Will Come--Including the Campus Community in Project Planning Processes” at the Society for College and University Planners Annual International Conference held in Toronto in July.

Ron Buchanan is serving as a student representative on the Board of Directors of the Curry School of Education Foundation for the 2004-2005 academic year. He also served as a proposal reviewer for the “Open” and “Policy and Finance” divisions for the 2004 ASHE Conference.

Beth Harper was elected chair of the Washington Educational Coalition for Adults Returning to Education, a non-profit organization of over 50 DC area colleges and universities with programs especially for adult students.

Christopher Loss was awarded a 2004-2005 national fellowship in contemporary history and public policy at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

David Schein participated in a panel at the 2004 AACSB Teaching Business Ethics Conference. He also was one of sixteen candidates selected to present a dissertation proposal at the Social Issues in Management Division of the Academy of Management Dissertation Consortium. In July and August, he taught labor law for Central Michigan University.

Dave Wolcott has been named Director of the Parents Program at the University of Virginia Alumni Association.
Center Alumni

Aruna Viswadoss (Ph.D. 1998) was promoted to Assistant Director for Technology and Process Improvement in Residential Life at Arizona State University.

Kerstin Soderlund (Ph.D. 1998) recently returned to Virginia and is serving as Director, Leadership and New Student Programs at Longwood University.

Robert A. Barnhardt (Ed.D. 1974) was named Interim Chancellor of North Carolina State University. Barnhardt, a former dean of the NCSU College of Textiles, was most recently serving as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for NC State.

Roy W. Baker (Ed.D. 1991) has been named Associate Dean of Students at Syracuse University. He formerly served as Director of Residence Life at Slippery Rock University.

Karen Dowd (Ph.D. 1993) has accepted the position of Senior Director of MBA Career Development for the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, effective January 1, 2005.

Dudley Doane (Ph.D. 2003) has been promoted to Director of the Summer Session at the University of Virginia after having served as Interim Director last year. He is also Director of the Center for American English Language and Culture.

Sarah Collie (Ph.D. 2002) has returned to the University of Virginia (from her position in Continuing Studies at Duke University) to the position of Assistant to the Vice President for Management and Budget.

Kirsten Turner (Ph.D. 2003) has been named Assistant Dean for Academic Planning in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

John Noftsinger, Jr., (Ed.D. 1997) was promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure, at James Madison University this summer. He is also serving as President of the National Association for Consortium Leadership. He co-authored “Getting a Grip on Strategic Alliances” in the current issue of Trusteeship.

Bill Haarlow (Ph.D. 2000) published a three-part series entitled “History of Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences” at Northwestern University that was published in the college’s Crosscurrents magazine.
Center Faculty

**Dr. Margaret Miller** continues to serve as editor of *Change* magazine and the director of the National Forum on College-Level Learning. She made numerous presentations on the Forum including: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, Oklahoma Board of Regents, and Education Commission of the States. She and Center student Margaret Peak presented papers at the Association of Institutional Researchers and the American Association for Higher Education Assessment Forum. Dr. Miller also presented at the National Press Club at the release of *Measuring Up 2004*.

**Dr. Imanol Ordorika** has joined the Center this year as the Frank Talbott, Jr. Visiting Professor. Dr. Ordorika is a professor at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

**Dr. Brian Pusser**’s book, *Burning Down the House: Politics, Governance and Affirmative Action* at the University of California, has been published by the State University of New York Press. He has been named co-editor for the *ASHE Reader on Comparative Education*, published by Simon and Schuster, for the Association for the Study of Higher Education.


**Dr. Jennings Wagoner**’s book *Jefferson and Education* has just been published as part of the Monticello Monograph Series.


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**Annual Picnic Welcomes New Students**

Center faculty and returning students once again welcomed a new cohort of students at the annual picnic. This year, Professor Margaret Miller and her husband English Professor Alan Howard hosted the picnic at their farm in Gordonsville, which provided a wonderful setting for the event. While the venue changed, the traditional fare of fried chicken continued, and faculty and returning students provided a wide variety of tasty side dishes. 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 visit and “catch up” before the semester got underway. The picnic also marked the completion of the terms of both Danny Steeper and Christian Steinmetz as Center Graduate Assistants.

“Education is a kind of continuing dialogue, and a dialogue assumes, in the nature of the case, different points of view.”

- Robert Hutchins (1899-1977)
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Forward your items of interest to Betsy Ackerson
in the Center at 434-924-7782 or highered@virginia.edu.

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

**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 Listservs**
cshe-list@virginia.edu
available to all Center faculty, alumni and students

he-list@virginia.edu
available to all Center faculty and students

**Center Internship Program Listserv**
he-intern@virginia.edu

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. That everyone may receive at least a moderate education appears to be an objective of vital importance.”
*Abraham Lincoln* (1809 - 1865)