At Fall Convocation this October, President Casteen presented Dr. Annette Gibbs with the university’s highest honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award, which is given each year to a member of the faculty, administration, or staff who has exemplified in character, work, and influence the ideals and principles of Mr. Jefferson. Coming during Dr. Gibbs’ last semester as the director of Center for the Study of Higher Education, this award was an excellent way to end her sabbatical and help her make the transition into retirement. Not that she needed any help, as her often-quoted phrase demonstrates: “If sabbatical’s this good, I can’t wait until retirement!”

Dr. Gibbs’ commitment to the Center began in 1970, when she was added to the faculty on a part-time basis as an assistant professor. Joining the faculty was a condition in her coming to the University of Virginia that year as associate dean of students. Fifteen years later, she was named director of the program, taking over for Dr. Jennings Wagoner who had been appointed chair of the newly formed Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. As Center students, alumni, faculty, and affiliates both past and present will testify, Dr. Gibbs’ unique influence on students’ lives and the impact that she has made on the program are immeasurable. As a tribute to Dr. Gibbs, several students who had studied under Dr. Gibbs contributed thoughts about what she has meant to them.

One common thread that ran through the comments was that Dr. Gibbs challenged students to grow into professionals, but with that challenge always came an enormous amount of support. As Linda Andrews (Ed.D. 1993) says, “Dr. Gibbs was the one person that I could always count on to be there for me and to answer questions as they arose in the course of study. He r dedication to us as future colleagues was simply outstanding and we knew she genuinely cared about us and what we were doing in our work.”

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Center Faculty Honored at National Conference

Two members of the faculty of the Center for the Study of Higher Education were honored with awards at the 30th annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), on November 18, 2005, in Philadelphia.

Assistant Professor Brian Pusser was chosen to be the 2005 recipient of the Association’s Early Career Award. 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.”

Associate Professor Emeritus, Dr. Sam Kellams, who retired from the Center in 2001, received a Special Merit Award at the conference. The Special Merit Award is presented “to a person, group or organization in recognition of distinctive support for the purposes and goals of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.” Dr. Kellams was one of the founders of the association and was the first editor of The Review of Higher Education. Since his retirement, he has been enjoying gardening, bicycling, and five grandchildren living in the Charlottesville area.

The Center for the Study of Higher Education was exceptionally active at the ASHE meeting. Through session attendance, presentations and in helping plan the conference, our faculty, students, and alumni were well represented.

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Gibbs (cont.)

Jeff Doyle (Ph.D. 2001), who identifies Dr. Gibbs’s student affairs class as the deciding factor in his choice of career, seconds Linda’s sentiment as he writes, “Although she challenged me to grow in many areas, I always knew that she wanted what was best for me. It only took a few words of encouragement from Dr. Gibbs to keep me going for several months at a time. I will always be indebted to her and remind my mentees of her guidance.” Carole Copeland Grove (Ph. D. 1991) adds that when she wanted to go back to school and get a doctorate even though she was raising a family and working, it was Dr. Gibbs who assured her that she could do it. Dr. Gibbs taught her about “professionalism, working with students with enormous responsibilities, and, of course, good writing. She remains a powerful role model for her students, especially [those] fortunate to have been her advisees.”

Current students have similar feelings about working with Dr. Gibbs. Center student Blair Brown writes, “She is still a very important mentor in my professional life. She combines academic intelligence with the strong ability to understand human nature and professional relationships. I always felt welcome to discuss anything with her at any time—school related or not.” Others acknowledge her as a true leader and a pioneer in her field, and some used the phrase “tough love” as a way to describe her mentoring style. “Thank you” is not strong enough to express the appreciation many of us feel for the demanding, yet loving, advising we continue to receive from her.

There is no way to include the countless responses about what Dr. Gibbs has done for so many, but the words of our current director, Dr. Margaret Miller, are a nice summation of Dr. Gibbs’ legacy: “Annette Gibbs is a hard act to follow. Program faculty, both old and new, know that we have inherited the stewardship responsibility that she so ably met over her many years at Curry.”

Curry Teams Up With Shanghai Jiao Tong University for Higher Education Conference In China

If you were a student of higher education today and wanted to observe the most dynamic and potentially consequential system of higher education worldwide, where would you go? University of Virginia students asked themselves that same question. Their answer: The People’s Republic of China.

Between June 10 and June 24, 2006, University of Virginia students and faculty will work with peers from Shanghai Jiao Tong University to gain a deeper understanding of each other’s systems of higher education. UVa attendees, including faculty and graduate students, will pair with Chinese learning partners to research and prepare instructional materials relating to current issues in higher education for use in a week-long, classroom-based shared learning experience. The SJTU group will also host the UVa contingent in visits to destinations of cultural interest in and around Shanghai and Beijing.

Crystal Goodman, current Curry student, anticipates a rich cultural exchange with her Chinese learning partner through e-mail even before the conference begins. “This is a rare opportunity not only to learn about the Chinese higher education system, but also to establish contacts with foreign scholars and learn about Chinese culture,” she states. According to another student, Justin Thompson, future higher education scholars and administrators must be familiar with China. “America is the top destination for Chinese students who study abroad,” says Justin. He adds, “The number of American students studying in China increased by 90 percent between 2002 and 2004. I can’t think of a better place to study.”

If you are interested in attending the conference, please contact Crystal Goodman at cgoodman@virginia.edu, or (434) 924-7782. A limited number of spaces remain for this trip.
Center students Margaret Peak and Carolyn Livingston were selected as two of 50 participants chosen to attend the ASHE Graduate Student Public Policy seminar. Margaret commented that “the most valuable part of the Graduate Student Public Policy Seminar was the opportunity to discuss our research with graduate students in all phases of their own dissertation work.” First-year student Troy Buer attended his first ASHE conference. He found that “ASHE was a great opportunity to meet professors and graduate students from all over the country and hear some of the latest education research from outstanding researchers and respected higher education leaders.” Center student Mary Beth Knight was also in attendance, as was previous Center graduate Brian Prescott, who presented in the symposium entitled “Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Non-Academic Careers in Higher Education.”

Professor Heather Wathington presented a paper, “Do Community College Students Successfully Move from Remedial to College-Level Courses?” and co-presented a paper, “Gratz, Grutter and Student Activism: Michigan Students on the Frontline of the Affirmative Action Debate.” She also served as a discussant in the symposium, “Using Data to Improve Student Outcomes: The Achieving the Dream Initiative.”

Dr. Pusser participated in four symposia: “Globalized Universities on the Periphery: Theories of the State and Higher Education,” “Student Success: Research Perspective on an Emerging Policy Issue,” “Entrepreneurs, Consumers and Cultural Resistance: The Changing Terrain of Higher Education,” and “Advancing Research on Higher Education and the Public Good.” Dr. Pusser will serve as the program chair of the 2006 annual meeting in Anaheim, California. He will draw on the help of Center alumni Dudley Doane and Kirsten Turner, who will serve on the program committee.

Center Students


Nicole Eramo co-presented a pre-conference workshop entitled “Smooth Sailing Until the Tsunami Hits: Adjudicating Large Volume Academic Integrity Cases” at the Center for Academic Integrity Conference in Blacksburg, VA.

Alexis Andres, Crystal Goodman, and Marc Shook presented “Staying Current: The Power to Manage Proactively” at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) 2005 annual conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Marc Shook and Greg Nayor presented “Avoiding Pitfalls: Lessons for First Time Staff Managers in Student Affairs” at the 2005 Virginia Student Services conference in Wintergreen, VA.

Marc Shook also co-taught an on-line course focusing on staff management techniques in student affairs. The seminar was part of the student affairs e-learning series sponsored by College Student Educators International (ACPA).

Greg Nayor and his wife Jessica welcomed their first baby, Savannah Marie, who was born on December 10, 2005, weighing in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces.


Laurie Smith and her husband Steve celebrated the arrival of their third child on September 16, 2005. Samuel David Smith weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces. The family is doing very well.
**Center Alumni**

**Dennis Gregory** (Ed.D. 1999) co-authored “Affirmative Action: From Before Bakke to After Grutter” in the *NASPA Journal* and “Crime on Virginia’s College and University Campuses” in the *2003 Annual Report for Campus Safety and Student Development*. He co-presented “The Basics of Legal Issues: What’s New this Fall,” “SACSA and CAS – Back to the Basics of Program Self-Evaluation,” and “Interested in Getting Published? Strategies for Success” at the 2005 SACSA conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. He served as a co-editor of the special issue of the *NASPA Journal* on legal issues published in October 2005, and was selected as one of 30 scholars and practitioners nationally to attend the 2006 NASPA summit on scholarship in student affairs in Washington, DC, this coming March. He was also selected to serve as a member of the NASPA editorial advisory board for the joint NASPA - Council on Law and Higher Education (CLHE) monograph series on legal issues in higher education and student affairs. Additionally he was chosen to serve as a member of the editorial board of the *College Student Affairs Journal*.

**Patricia S. Helton** (Ph.D. 2000) was recently honored by the chancellor of the University of Denver with the prestigious Pioneer Award, which celebrates scholarship, leadership, compassionate spirit, and strong character. She is now serving as associate provost for student life and is an adjunct faculty member in the higher education program. She is also slated to chair the NASPA IV-west regional conference in Breckenridge, CO, in 2006.

**Karen Dowd** (Ph.D. 1993) assumed the position of senior director of MBA Career Development at the University of Notre Dame last year. Her paper, “The career life of academics: boundaried or boundaryless?” co-authored with David Kaplan, was published in *Human Relations*, v 58, no. 6, June 2005.

**Pryor Hale** (Ph.D. 1990) was appointed chair of the IRB for the social and behavioral sciences committee at the University of Virginia.

**Dennis "Skip" Parks** (Ed.D. 1983) assumed the post of president-elect of the Association for Continuing Higher Education. He will become president in October 2006 at the international meeting in Los Angeles.

**Karen Owings Clifford** (Ph.D. 1996) has served on the executive board for the Center for Academic Integrity since last year. The Center for Academic Integrity is an international consortium of colleges, universities, and secondary schools committed to promoting academic integrity.

**Chris Foley** (Ph.D. 2003) and his wife Dottie are delighted to announce the birth of Emma Ann Foley on October 13, 2005. Emma weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Dottie, Emma, and big brother John are all well. Chris will teach his second course for the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Study of Higher Education this spring, Academic Administrative Functions in Higher Education.

**Julie (Hren) Piercy** (Ph.D. 1999) and her husband John are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter Haley Ann Piercy, born Wednesday, December 7, at 11:17 a.m.

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**Center Faculty**

**Margaret Miller** has been named a TIAA/CREF Institute Associate and attended an associates meeting in New York City in November. She now chairs the judging panel for the Hesburgh Awards, TIAA/CREF’s annual award for the best faculty development program in the nation. She serves as an National Student Assessment College Survey advisory panel member—NSACS is a Pew project that administered the National Assessment of Adult Literacy to college seniors around the country. Finally, the final report on the National Forum on College-Level Learning was published in October by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. It can be found at <http://www.highereducation.org/reports/mu_learning/index.shtml>. She also presented the results of the project at SREB's 12th Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring for minority graduate students and at the associates program of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.