Center Faculty Members Receive Grant from Lumina Foundation to Focus on Nontraditional Learners in Postsecondary Education

Dr. Brian Pusser and Curry School Dean David W. Breneman will direct a two-year, multi-faceted research project on issues of access and equity for nontraditional students in higher education. The project will be located at the Center for the Study of Higher Education with the support of a $950,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education.

As co-principal investigators, Dr. Pusser and Dean Breneman will conduct original research and collaborate with Curry faculty members Dr. Bruce Gansneder and Dr. Sarah Turner, as well as colleagues outside Curry. The project focuses on nontraditional learners in postsecondary education, a varied and growing group that includes independent students, part-time students, and those who have delayed postsecondary enrollment after high school, who work full-time, or who have dependents.

One goal of the project is to determine whether existing public policies, finance mechanisms and institutional arrangements in higher education offer nontraditional students the same opportunities for access to degrees, training and credentials that traditional students receive. As Dr. Pusser describes the endeavor, “Nontraditional learners are a very important cohort in contemporary higher education. These learners are at the center of a key transformation in higher education. This transformation includes an increased provision of certificates and degrees through such new or newly expanded mechanisms as continuing education programs, distance and virtual programs, and corporate and for-profit postsecondary organizations.”

The project will address a number of questions and issues emerging from this arena, including the demographics of nontraditional learners, the types of programs they enter, how they finance their educations, how long it takes them to complete their programs, and how well they fare in the labor market after completion. For more information, visit the project Web site: http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/edpolicy/projects/lumina/Lumina.html
Societies Tap Center Students

The Raven Society initiated three new members from the Center: Cameron Howell, Brian Prescott, and Kirsten Turner. The Raven Society is the oldest and most prestigious honorary society at the University. Founded in 1904, the Raven Society has sought over the years to honor and promote superior academic and extra-curricular achievement. This organization also sponsors scholarships and fellowships in recognition of academic and scholarly excellence.

On Sunday, October 13th, the following higher education students were inducted into Phi Delta Kappa, the honorary leadership fraternity in education: Ronda Bryant, Robyn Dietter, Christopher Foley, Daniel Friedman, Alyson Kienle, Nicole Loyd, Timothy Merrill, Shizuka Modica, and David Schein. Phi Delta Kappa is an international association of professional educators. The mission is to promote quality education, with particular emphasis on publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life.

On November 13th, Omicron Delta Kappa initiated new members including three higher education students: Brian Prescott, Kirsten Turner, and David Wolcott. 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 Participate in Academic Integrity Conference

Center students were a major part of the success of the national Center for Academic Integrity Conference held on Grounds, October 4th-6th, 2002. Volunteers included Kristine Dahm, Cathy Pales, and Brian Prescott. Dr. David Bush (Ed.D. 2000), who is currently Director of Residence Life at Drew University, presented his dissertation research at the conference. Leanna Blevins was co-chair of the conference.

Center Students Celebrate the Holiday Season

Center students gathered to spread the holiday cheer on Saturday, December 14th, 2002. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to second year student, Cameron Howell, for hosting the event at his home.
Center Alumni

**Dr. David Allen** (Ph.D. 1982), also Colonel Allen, is now in Afghanistan serving as a Security Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. His address is CJ CMOT f-k, 360th CA Bde, APO AE 09356.

**Roy W. Baker** (Ed.D. 1991), served as the keynote speaker at two Mid-Year Regional Leadership conferences of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. One conference was in Charlotte, North Carolina on January 4, 2003, and the other was in St. Louis, Missouri on January 11, 2003. Dr. Baker will also join North Carolina Central University Chancellor James H. Ammons on a panel to discuss “Critical Issues In Higher Education” on February 7, 2003, at the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP) Annual Conference in Durham, North Carolina.

**Dr. Bonnie Clevenger** (Ph.D. 1987), is now Management and Program Analyst and Coordinator of External Training for the U.S. Department of State. She and her husband Ken relocated to D.C. where he is an Appellate Judge on the U.S. Army Court of Appeals.

**Dr. Sarah Collie** (Ph.D. 2002), has accepted a position with Duke University as Director of Youth Programs in the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Session. Sarah also participated in a Symposium at ASHE in Sacramento, CA titled “New Perspectives on Organizational Theory in Higher Education.” She presented her paper, “The Learning Organization and the Improvement of Teaching.”


**Dr. Pryor Hale** (Ph.D. 1990), was named The 2002 Outstanding Faculty Member at Piedmont Virginia Community College. Dr. Hale is professor of psychology and was a founding faculty member at PVCC. Hale was credited with not only being an outstanding teacher but one who also was considered by students as among the most, if not the most, “helpful and inspiring professor they had ever had.” Numerous students spoke of Professor Hale’s passion for teaching and for making a difference in their lives.

**Dr. Pattie Helton** (Ph.D. 2000), has been named Associate Provost for Student Life at the University of Denver. She says she is excited about being the chief student affairs officer at the University of Denver and about living in the metropolitan Denver area.

**Dr. Jay Martin** (Ph.D. 1993), and Pam welcomed Bradford Cole on November 13, 2002. He joins Madelyne, Troy, and Hartley as well as his happy parents.
Center Alumni (continued)

Dr. Pamela J. Richardson Murray (Ph.D. 1987), has been elected National Vice President of the Association for Continuing Higher Education.

Dr. Larry Rowley (Ph.D. 1999), has been selected as one of sixteen national scholars to participate in the invitational “Intergenerational Research Symposium” sponsored by the Kellogg Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good. The symposium was held in November, 2002 at UCLA. It “paired” junior and senior scholars who are doing work in one of several research areas that promote higher education as a public good.

Karen W. Wigginton (Ed.D. 1996), has been named the Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at Sunnyside Communities in Harrisonburg, VA.

Dr. Lamont “Monty” Dalton Nottingham, (Ed.D. 1983), has passed away. Dr. Nottingham served as statewide deputy director of the Area Health Education Program and established the Southern West Virginia Health Education and Training Center and statewide Area Health Education Centers. He was an adjunct faculty member with the Department of Community Medicine at West Virginia University and at Marshall University.

Center Students


Dudley Doane gave a guest presentation titled, “Developing Proficiency While Preparing Students for the TOEFL” at the University of California Berkeley’s English Language Center, Berkeley, CA July 25, 2002. Dudley Doane and Alton Taylor presented, “Summer Session and Internationalizing the Curriculum: Institutional Strategy at the University of Virginia and Survey on Summer Sessions and Internationalization” at the 39th Annual Conference of NAASS, Baltimore, MD in November, 2002.


Chris Foley has accepted the position of Associate Director of Development & External Affairs for the Library at the University of Pennsylvania. Chris and his wife Dottie have moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania, and they are expecting their first child in early March.
Center Students (continued)

**Tom Galbraith** (with his wife Janelle and daughter Elena) welcomed Olivia Mackenzie Roes on January 8th. Little sister weighed in at 7lbs. 7 oz. and is 20 inches long.

**Jess Hoffman** passed her proposal defense in December.


**Matha Thornton** has been named Director of Student Housing at Haverford College, Haverford, PA.


**Higher Education Peer Mentoring Network (HEPMN)**

**HEPMN Meets with State Leaders**

Center students in the Higher Education Peer Mentoring Network (HEPMN) traveled to Richmond on Tuesday, January 14th to tour the SCHEV offices and General Assembly building. They met with Commonwealth government leaders, including: Peter Blake, Deputy Secretary of Education; Rob Lockridge, UVa’s Executive Assistant to the President for State Governmental Relations; Senator Creigh Deeds; Delegate Mitch Van Yahres; and Delegate Rob Bell.

Students discussed contemporary issues related to higher education with the state legislators, as well as budgetary concerns and bills currently up for review by the State House and Senate Committees. Additionally, students attended a State Legislative Liaison Officers meeting and various committee and subcommittee meetings, including the Senate Finance Committee. Brian Prescott, organizer of the trip commented, “I thought our trip to Richmond was very worthwhile. The opportunity to observe the political process in action added richness and texture to the academic rigor of the Center for the Study of Higher Education program.”

**New Link to the Center’s Web Site**

The HEPMN recently added a link to the Center’s Web site to showcase resumes and research interests of current students:  
http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/highered/Student%20Bios%20page.htm
Center Faculty


Dr. Annette Gibbs has been on the college and university lecture circuit and leading College Faculty Orientation Programs relative to Confidentiality of Student Records, new FERPA interpretations, and Colleges’ Responsibilities for Student Safety. Her research continues to focus on the legal and ethical relationships between students and their colleges. Her most recent publication is titled, “The U.S. Constitution, More Courts, and Student Fees.” It appears in the November (2002) issue of *Developments*, Vol. 39 No. 4.

Dr. Brian Pusser presented the following papers at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Higher Education in Sacramento, California, “Community Colleges and the Market for Continuing Education,” “A Political Theory of Organizational Adaptation In Higher Education,” and ‘Playing the Board Game: An Empirical Analysis of University Trustee and Corporate Board Interlocks,” with Sheila Slaughter and Scott Thomas. Dr. Pusser also served as Chair on the Keynote Symposium “The Production, Measurement and Distribution of Public Goods From Higher Education: A Global Context,” in the International Forum at the conference.

Dr. Alton Taylor has a paper accepted for Society for College and University Planning, Mid-Atlantic Region’s 2003 Conference in Washington, DC, April 6-8, 2003. “Emerging Strategies for Self Sufficiency in a Public University,” by Alton Taylor, and Center students Leanna Blevins and Timothy Merrill.

The Center’s Electronic Resources

The Center has a list-serve for friends, supporters, alumni, faculty and current students. If you are not included in the list-serve, please e-mail he-friends@virginia.edu to subscribe. Visit the Center’s web site, http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/highered/ to find information about center activities, faculty, alumni, and the most recent additions of *The Quarterly* along with links to educational resources. The Center’s list-serve (he-list@virginia.edu) is also available for use by students, faculty, and alumni. There is a separate list-serve for the Center’s Internship Program (he-intern@virginia.edu).
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The Quarterly encourages Center alumni, students, and faculty to submit information for future issues. Forward your items of interest to Alyson Kienle in the Center at (434-924-7782)/ highered@virginia.edu. Also, contact us with any changes in address or position so we can keep the Center’s records up-to-date.

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.

Edgar Allan Poe, “Eleonora”