

Graduate School Reporter

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Graduate School Events

Scenes from Fall Commencement 2004

Graduate Commencement was held on December 17, 2004 in Cassell Coliseum. The ceremony recognized 812 students who received master's degrees, 34 who received the doctor of education, 209 who received the doctor of philosophy, and three who received advanced graduate certificates.



Peter Eyre, former dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM), and a professor in the department of biomedical sciences and pathobiology, delivered the keynote address. Patricia Dos Santos, a doctoral student in the biochemistry department, was the student speaker.

Reception honors fellowship recipients

On October 26, President Charles W. Steger and Dean Karen P. DePauw hosted a reception at The Grove to honor the 2004 graduate student fellows. Recipients of the Cunningham, Fulbright, GEM, NSPC, NSF, Packard, Powell, and SREB fellowships and scholarships were recognized for their academic achievements and



ongoing contributions to research and scholarship at Virginia Tech.

Graduate Education Week to be held in March

Virginia Tech and the Graduate School will celebrate the fifth annual Graduate Education Week from March 21-25, 2005 with a week of festivities and events. Graduate Education Week highlights graduate

education and celebrates the contributions of graduate students. The schedule of events will be advertised throughout campus and posted on the Graduate School's website, www.grads.vt.edu.



Dr. Anne McNabb joins the Graduate School as the new Associate Dean.



Dr. Don McKeon retires after 31 years at Virginia Tech.



Dr. McKeon was honored by Virginia Tech administrators, faculty, staff, and students at a retirement reception on December 15, 2004 at the University Club.



EMillie Shepherd is the Graduate School's newest staff member.

Graduate School People

Dr. Anne McNabb named associate dean

Graduate School Dean Karen P. DePauw has announced that Dr. Anne McNabb, professor of biology at Virginia Tech, has been appointed associate dean of the Graduate School.

As associate dean, Dr. McNabb will assist with the Transformative Graduate Education initiative and coordinate interdisciplinary programs, as well as work with the GTA Workshop. She also will be involved in recruiting and retention of graduate students and will work with the dean and senior associate dean to make admission decisions,

counsel faculty and students, interpret policies and procedures, and assist with the day-to-day management of the Graduate School.

McNabb served as an assistant department head for graduate studies in biology for seven years, and she has been involved in a number of other graduate-relevant service roles at different levels of the university. McNabb earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research is in the area of thyroid development.

Dr. Donald McKeon retires

Dr. Donald McKeon is retiring after a long and distinguished career as a teacher, lecturer, author, and advisor.

Dr. McKeon joined the Virginia Tech linguistics faculty in 1973 and became a part of the International Office in 1978. Throughout his career, Dr. McKeon's contributions have been far-reaching. He helped develop the University's English as a Second Language (ESL) program, including teaching an ESL methods course and an academic writing course. He contributed to

orientation programs for international students and scholars and provided much guidance in areas of immigration status. He created the English Language Training Program for international graduate teaching assistants and was instrumental in developing the annual comprehensive workshop for all new graduate teaching assistants.

Although officially retired, Dr. McKeon will continue to offer English language training for international teaching assistants as a part-time instructor.

EMillie Shepherd joins Graduate School staff

EMillie Shepherd joined the Graduate School staff in November. EMillie has been a part of Virginia Tech for the past four years, working in customer service at Physical Plant and as a receptionist

in Communications Network Services. In the Graduate School, EMillie will work in data entry, processing applications and assisting applicants with CollegeNet and application issues.

Publications

Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Workshop



ETD Online Workshop

The Graduate School has developed an online ETD workshop to assist students with the preparation of their electronic theses and dissertations. This presentation is available at the Graduate School's Website: www.grads.vt.edu/forms/ETD/etd_workshop.pdf

GRADUATE SCHOOL New Student Handbook

New Student Handbook

The New Student Handbook is a comprehensive online resource designed to assist newly accepted students with their transitions to graduate life on Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus. Materials provided with acceptance letters from the Graduate School will direct students to this site. The New Student Handbook is available on the Graduate School website at www.grads.vt.edu/current/student_handbook.

Student Achievements Pamphlet

The Graduate School is compiling a pamphlet of graduate student achievements. This pamphlet will be published annually each spring. Departments are encouraged to notify the Graduate School of student achievements that they would like to see included by sending an e-mail to grads@vt.edu.

Student Life Updates

Fall 2005 opening anticipated for Graduate Life Center

This fall the Graduate School announced its plans to introduce a Graduate Life Center at Virginia Tech. The Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center will be converted to a space that will provide graduate housing, meeting, and recreation areas for graduate students beginning in the Fall of 2005. The upper floors will provide housing options for single graduate students. The lower floors of the complex will become the Graduate Life Center with office space for graduate student organizations, meeting space, library resource space, seminar rooms, a technology area, a coffee shop, a wellness space and a lounge. The entire facility will also include wireless internet technology.

The Graduate School will make its new home in the first two floors of Alumni Hall, completing this new graduate complex. Plans for these arrangements will be finalized over the next few months.

Insurance benefits for graduate assistants enhanced

Graduate students with assistantships (GA, GTA, and GRA) will receive an increased insurance benefit, effective Fall 2005. The university has committed to providing 70% coverage of the insurance premium for a single graduate student — a significant increase from the amount offered as an insurance subsidy in previous years. This coverage amount will increase to 90% within two years to further promote the Graduate School's goal of attracting and



The first and second floors of Alumni Hall are the future home of the Graduate School.



Donaldson Brown, seen here from Kent Street, will become graduate housing and a Graduate Life Center.



An interior office and reception area in Alumni Hall.

retaining top students.

The new insurance benefit will become part of the graduate assistantship package. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in the university sponsored health insurance program. Additional information will be posted on the Graduate School's web site as it becomes available. Visit www.grads.vt.edu/common/ga_insurance_subsidy for updates and further details.