The Don G. Creamer Fund

2006 Proved to be a Very Interesting Year
Progress Continues and Goals are Achieved

As most of you are aware, the Higher Education program at Virginia Tech faced an uncertain future during the late winter and early spring of 2006. For a short while a moratorium was placed on the Master’s program. Due to the hard work of several upper-level administrators, the program faculty (both full-time and affiliated), students, and friends of the program; the Provost, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences reversed their decision and reaffirmed their commitment to the program this past November. The Master’s program was authorized to reopening for the fall of 2007.

Despite this interruption, alumni and friends continued to give generously to the Don G. Creamer Fund for Excellence and Joan Hirt and Steve Janosik remained steadfast in their commitment to the purposes of the Fund, the program, and their students. As the books close on the fourth quarter of 2006, fifty-nine separate gifts have been received. Current pledges and gifts total $43,750.

Major Purpose Achieved
Research Grants Awarded

In keeping with one of the major purposes of the fund, applications for research grants were received in the early fall and the first annual research awards were made on November 16, 2007.

This year’s recipients were: Kristin Albright, Master’s Candidate, (shown second from the right) for her project on Academic and Social Integration; Sharrika Davis, Doctoral Candidate (shown at the far left) for her project on Women’s Expectations to Enroll in Graduate Study; and Beth Zielinski, Master’s Candidate (not shown) for her project on Length of Study Abroad and Level of Cross-Cultural Adaptability. The Selection Committee included Don Creamer, Professor Emeritus (shown at the center); Diana Ridgwell (’02), Director of Student Services for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (shown second from the left); and Ellen Plummer (’06), Chair and Director of the Women’s Center (shown on the right). The process was very competitive.
These annual awards were made possible by all of those alumni, friends, and colleagues who have contributed to the Don G. Creamer Fund for Excellence. Our plan is to fund more and more of our students’ research and professional activities as the Fund grows.

Make Giving a Habit

Gifts and Pledges

In the past year, Tom Goodale, Lindsay Morlock (‘06), Vanessa Nelson-Reed (‘92), and Susan Salvador added their names to our list of donors. In addition, the Association for Student Development gave its 2006 donation in honor of Joan Hirt, Steve Janosik, Vicki Meadows, and Deb Olsen.

Several individuals have extended their commitment to the Don G. Creamer Fund by making multiple gifts. The Foundation would like to recognize and thank Charles and Sara Dassance, Joan Hirt, Steve (‘87) and Rhoda Janosik, Ellen Plummer (‘06) and Liz Scharman for their continued giving.

And finally, Don Creamer and Ken Smith added their names to the list of Foundation Leaders with their generous gifts.

Thanks so much to everyone for your important contributions.

Special Thanks and Recognition

First Benefactors Named

And with their second gift, Ellen Plummer (‘06) and Liz Scharman became the Foundation’s first Benefactors this December. Their specially designed lapel pins are in the mail!

A complete list of contributors appears below. Benefactors have contributed $1000 or more through one or multiple gifts. Leaders have contributed between $500 and $1000 to the Fund, and Patrons have contributed between $25 and $500. Additional information and forms for those who would like to contribute can be found at the Fund’s website - www.elps.vt.edu/hesa/Fund.

Founders

- David Alexander
- Laura Bayless ‘00
- Denise Collins ‘01
- Valerie ‘02 & Tom Conley
- Elizabeth Creamer
- The Creamer Family
- Charles & Sara Dassance
- Aristides Maza Duerto ‘04
- Cathy Engstrom
- Don Gehring
- Robert Hamm

Founders (continued)

- Joan Hirt
- Pat & Mike Hyer
- Steve ‘87 & Rhoda Janosik
- Cynthia Johnson
- Phyllis Mahle
- Ted & Gay Miller
- Gretchen Naff ‘80
- Dan ‘84 & Judy Nix
- Ed & Norrine Spencer
- Cathy Turrentine & David Ostroth
- Patricia ‘93 & Roger Winston
- Chun-Mei Zhao ‘02 & The Carnegie Foundation

Benefactors

- Ellen Plummer ‘06 & Liz Scharman

Leaders

- Gail Catron ’97 & Nationwide Insurance
- Don Creamer
- Jutta Green
- Ken Smith

Patrons

- William R. Butler
- Deborah L. Floyd ’79
- Tom Goodale
- Dennis Gregory
- Cliff Hayes ‘04
- Ruth & Warren Hirt
- Tom Hunt
- Valerie Jones ‘83
- John McQuary
- Vicki Meadows
- Rosemary Mennuti ‘87
- Lindsay Morlock ‘06
- Harold D. Murphy
- Carmen G. Neuberger
- Erin Ogburn ‘00
- Deb Olsen
- James T. Parsons ‘82
- Teresa Pickarski ‘04
- Vanessa Nelson Reed ‘92
- Pam Roy ’04
- Susan Salvador
- Weldon Tallant
- Art Wexler ’95
- Sarah Yeh ’93