Academics and Research Tops the Program’s Agenda

Important Measures of Productivity

As the school year came to a close, the usual annual report had to be written - it’s called the “Progress Toward Degree Report.” Not surprisingly, it was another very productive year for the Higher Education (HED) program at Virginia Tech.

Most importantly, Joan and Steve, along with the help of the program’s affiliated faculty, graduated nine Master’s students and eight doctoral students. This is a large number given the size of the faculty.

Several of the doctoral students were Don’s former advisees so this feat was even more satisfying. Four of the eight graduates received financial support from the Don Creamer Fund and these funds were crucial in helping these students complete their dissertations. This is a clear indication of your donations at work! Thanks so much for your generosity.

Each year at the recruitment weekend and fall orientation programs, Joan and Steve emphasize the values of the Higher Education program - Learning, Involvement, Scholarship, and Giving. These values are enforced and “lived throughout the year.” As examples of this effort, 95% of HED students (Ph.D. and M.A.Ed.) held memberships in professional associations, 67% attended one or more professional conferences, 54% made one or more professional presentations, 21% published manuscripts in professional journals, and 36% have manuscripts in process. This publication record is also directly connected the Don G. Creamer Research Awards and is another indicator of the Fund’s activity.

As the Creamer Fund grows, so will our ability to support our students’ research and professional development. Off in the future, we have plans to fund at least one scholarship to help recruit especially promising students to the program. So as you think about your careers as HED alumni, the profession, and how you can contribute, think about donating to the Don G. Creamer Fund and help us prepare future generations of higher education and student affairs administrators.

Goal Reached Despite Difficult Economy

In the fall newsletter, we set a goal to reach $60,000 by the Creamer Fund’s 4th Anniversary. Some thought the goal was a little too ambitious given the recession. We are pleased to report, however, that as we close the books on the first half of 2009 and prior to the 4th year anniversary of the Fund, all pledges and gifts now total $60,000.

http://www.soc.vt.edu/highered/Fund/
Make Giving a Habit

Gifts and Pledges

In the past six months, Brian Chishom (’08), Mary Kate Havlik (’06), Matt (’09) and Rachael Stimpson (’09) and Beth Zielinski (’07) added their names to our list of donors. Thanks so much!

Several individuals also extended their commitment to the Don G. Creamer Fund by making multiple gifts. The Foundation would like to recognize and thank Melissa Bealafeld (’00) & Jim Espinoza (’99), Donna Cassell Ratcliffe (’84 & ’88) and Sam Ratcliffe (’04), Joan Hirt, Steve (’87) and Rhoda Janosik, Julie Lassalle (’06), Phyllis Mable and Lisa Virga (’06), for their continued giving.

Special Thanks and Recognition

Two Donors Are Redesignated

Teresa Conaway’s (’81) latest gift moves her to Benefactor status. Her specially designed lapel pin has already been placed in the mail! And Deborah Floyd’s (’79) latest gifts moves her to Leader status! These donations represent a real commitment to the program and the Fund. Both are deserving of this special recognition. Thank you.

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. For those who would like to contribute, additional information can be found at:

http://www.soe.vt.edu/highered/Fund/

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