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APEX

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University



1872 to 1997

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The Official Newsletter of the Graduate Student Assembly

Volume 3.2

Preparing for Life After Graduation

by Janet Wojcik, GSA Secretary

"What kind of job can I expect once I finish my degree?"

"Do I have the necessary attributes to obtain the job I want after graduation?"

These are questions graduate students often ask themselves and their advisors. At the recent national conference of the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) in Santa Monica, Dr. Orlando Taylor, Dean of Graduate Studies at Howard University in Washington, D.C., spoke about career options for current graduate students. Although his address emphasized the Ph.D. degree, much of his presentation is also applicable to Masters students as well. Here are some highlights of his presentation.

Current Status of Graduate Education

Dr. Taylor began his presentation by elaborating on how times are changing for current graduate students. We live in an era of increasing technology and increasing diversity. In addition, the amount of information known to us is doubling about every two years. It is up to us to continuously integrate, apply, and transform this information.

Current Career Trends

According to Dr. Taylor, the traditional Ph.D. is a relic

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Reminder: December GSA Social

The next GSA social will be held Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30 at the Hokie House. Mark your Daytimer® and decompress with fellow education travelers before finals.

GSA's Hot Topic Corner



On-Campus Parking



If there was ever a hot topic currently, this is it. Delegates and visitors to the GSA's monthly meetings can attest to the ferocity of emotion that burns on this issue. Rather than hurling barbs and accusations though, the only way to fix this problem is to closely examine the resource, who uses it and how to fairly distribute it. Obviously selling parking space hunting licenses to all comers and letting students vie for space is immensely unpopular. Raising fees is unlikely to result in equitable resource distribution and only inflame the issue. So what we need is your ideas on how to solve this thorny problem.

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Not So Weird Science

If you are in a science field or possibly interested in a career in the area, check out the web site Science's Next Wave, An Electronic Network for the Next Generation of Scientists at:

<http://www.nextwave.org/>

In the Tooling Up area, you'll find a monthly column of nuts-and-bolts science career advice, or visit one of the open forums for discussion of key science career topics at Going Public. There are also articles covering areas like the relative values of pursuing a Ph.D. versus a Masters degree or features covering the recent three-day strike by graduate teaching assistants at University of California, Berkeley (where else) There is even a current article on preparing your resume for the en vogue electronic resume trend which should be of interest to anyone with aspirations of getting a job in the future (that is everyone, right?) If you know of similar sites of interest to the graduate body, pass them along to the editor at apex.editor@vt.edu. Our own Dean Eaton gets the nod for providing the tip on this site.

Calendar of Events

December 5, '96	GSA Cabinet Meeting 5:30 p.m. Squires 135
December 10	Deadline for GRDP*
December 11	GSA Social 5:30 p.m. Hokie House
January 9, '97	Travel Fund Program Deadline*
January 13, '97	Applications for BOV Representative available.
February 21	Application for BOV 5 p.m. Representative due.

*It was announced in the November 21 GSA delegates meeting that funding for the Graduate Research Development Project and Travel Fund Program will likely be increased from the current target of \$7,500. Be sure to get your applications in on time.

GSA Officers

President:	Delia Grenville
Vice-President:	John Aughenbaugh
Secretary:	Janet Wojcik
Treasurer:	Martha McCollum

GSA Advisor Dean John Eaton

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Please send all of your comments and suggestions regarding this publication to APEX editor at address above or e-mail to apex_ed@vt.edu.

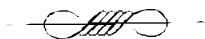
Have you Caught ETD Fever Yet?

If you are a graduate student with a thesis or dissertation on your academic horizon, you need to be preparing yourself for the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Project which initiates as the University-wide standard starting this spring. While not overbearingly difficult, the process is a step further into the electronic media realm for most. Waiting until the latter stages to familiarize yourself with the requirements for process could add an additional and unnecessary layer of concern when preparing your dissertation or thesis. You can get all the information you need on the ETD program at:

<http://etd.vt.edu/etd/students/>

Here you will find a wealth of information on the project and its requirements as well as people to contact if you have special problems or concerns. Take a few minutes to pursue the workshop Q&A's to see if your question has already been addressed there. If you have further inquiries about the program, send them to:

etd@etd.vt.edu



If you are still struggling the using computer technology and the endless acronyms it uses (who isn't), here is a primer that has been brought to our attention that should shed some light on what the buzz(word) is about.

PCMCIA	People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms
ISDN	It Still Does Nothing
APPLE	Arrogance Produces Profit-Losing Entity
SCSI	System Can't See It
DOS	Defunct Operating System
BASIC	Bill's Attempt to Seize Industry Control
IBM	I Blame Microsoft
DEC	Do Expect Cuts
CD-ROM	Consumer Device, Rendered Obsolete in Months
OS/2	Obsolete Soon, Too.
WWW	World Wide Wait
MACINTOSH	Most Applications Crash; If Not, The Operating System Hangs

GSA Officer Elections

It will soon be Spring semester and time for the GSA delegate body to elect the officers for the 1997 to 1998 Academic year. In accordance with the GSA Constitution, Section F

(1) The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected by a simple majority of Delegates present at the second regular Spring meeting of the Delegate Body, and will take office at the end of the Spring semester. This overlap will provide for a period of transition and new officer development, allowing the incoming officers to determine responsibilities and operations while current officers are available for advice.

While the executive officers are chosen by the delegate body, the offices are open to all VT graduate students. These positions are funded with tuition waivers or equivalents. Officers also attend (expenses paid) the annual National Association of Graduate and Professional Students conference to be held in New Orleans this coming year. If interested in further information, please contact the corresponding officer or Paula Williams in the GSA office.



Life After

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of the past. That is, a person who received a Ph.D. from a major research institution (like Virginia Tech) often found a faculty position at another major research institution and typically remained there for life. The growth in the job market for new Ph.D.'s has been in areas other than major research institutions. Therefore, new graduates cannot always assume they will be employed at major research institutions.

What types of career opportunities can new graduates expect? For example, the job market for Ph.D.'s in business and industry looks very bright. In particular, persons who perform service or work in applied research are highly desirable in business and industry. Careers in business and industry may include options in research, education, management, or production.

What if new graduates still desire academic careers? Other academic career opportunities are emerging in areas such as the following:

- Teaching at colleges in which the Masters degree is the terminal degree
- Teaching at community colleges
- Teaching at or becoming an administrator in a high school

Although some faculty members at major research institutions would frown upon their students' pursuit of such career opportunities, Dr. Taylor

Hot Topic

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The GSA does have a delegate on the Transportation and Parking Committee through whom your ideas can be presented to the university administration. We are still working the

indicated these are the areas for growth with regard to the number of available positions. However, regardless of the type of academic position, there is a heightened emphasis on the candidate's teaching skills.

Enhancing Attractiveness to Prospective Employers

How can graduate students prepare themselves so that they can distinguish themselves over other candidates? Some points from Dr. Taylor's address included:

- Obtain interdisciplinary academic and research experiences
- Gain experience in culturally diverse settings
- Consider a minor in another plan of study
- Participate in some sort of future faculty program through the university
- Prepare a portfolio in addition to traditional curriculum vita

Preparing a Portfolio

A portfolio can emphasize a candidate's strengths and abilities far better than just the curriculum vita. Examples of some items that can be included as part of the portfolio are:

- Samples of syllabi, lecture notes, and exams
- Samples of manuscripts
- Documentation of conference participation
- Summaries of teaching evaluations
- Videotape of classroom teaching

kinks out of the planned forms response site to the hot topic questions so send your email suggestions to:

gsa.hot.topics@vt.edu

These will be compiled and forwarded to the committee member (see GSA web site for representative's name and email) and to the executive officers.

- Any other information that highlights individual skills

Dr. Orlando Taylor is also Dean-In-Residence of the Council of Graduate Schools, a professional organization for graduate school deans. He oversees a national project called Preparing Future Faculty (PFF), a series of workshops and experiences which help prepare students for careers in academia. The PFF program directs students toward responsibilities they will assume as faculty members in colleges and universities as well as toward working with diverse student bodies in a variety of educational settings. Currently, PFF is offered at 17 universities including Cornell, Duke, Howard, and Florida State.

The Graduate School at Virginia Tech sponsors a one-day workshop entitled "Training the Future Professor". This workshop occurs annually in the Spring semester. Contact the Graduate School if you would like more information on this workshop.

The Graduate Student Assembly's homepage is located at URL

http://fbox.vt.edu:10021/org/grads/gsa_home.html

The page is being maintained by Joshua A. Koen. If you have any suggestions or comments please contact the GSA at 231-7919.

To subscribe to the GSA Listserv
Send email to:

LISTSRV@VTM1.CC.VT.EDU

In the body of the message, type
SUBSCRIBE GSA-L
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To send messages to all GSA Listserv subscribers, address your message to GSA-L@vtvm1.cc.vt.ed

Where the Grads Are



On-Campus Graduate Headcount
Enrollment by Curriculum Fall 1996
ENROLLED

AGRICULTURE

<i>Agricultural & Applied Economics</i>	44
<i>Animal & Poultry Sciences</i>	36
<i>Biochemistry and Nutrition</i>	24
<i>Crop & Soil Environ Sciences</i>	31
<i>Dairy Science</i>	20
<i>Entomology</i>	21
<i>Food Science and Technology</i>	21
<i>Genetics</i>	5
<i>Horticulture</i>	18
<i>Plant Path, Physiology & Weed Sc</i>	31
TOTAL AGRICULTURE	251
Men	147
Women	104

ARCHITECTURE

<i>Architecture</i>	146
<i>Environmental Design & Planning</i>	25
<i>Landscape Architecture</i>	26
<i>Public Admn and Public Affairs</i>	66
<i>Urban and Regional Planning</i>	39
<i>Urban Affairs</i>	5
TOTAL ARCHITECTURE	307
Men	190
Women	117

ARTS & SCIENCES

<i>Biology</i>	91
<i>Chemistry</i>	113
<i>Computer Science & Applications</i>	83
<i>Economics, Arts and Sciences</i>	42
<i>English</i>	55
<i>Geography</i>	15
<i>Geological Sciences</i>	47
<i>History</i>	23
<i>Mathematics</i>	73
<i>Philosophy</i>	13
<i>Physics</i>	44
<i>Political Science</i>	16
<i>Psychology</i>	80
<i>Science and Technology Studies</i>	26
<i>Sociology</i>	38
<i>Statistics</i>	53
<i>Theatre Arts</i>	20
TOTAL ARTS & SCIENCES	832
Men	498
Women	334

BUSINESS

<i>Accounting</i>	71
<i>Business Administration</i>	248
<i>Finance</i>	8
<i>Management</i>	15
<i>Management Science</i>	5

<i>Marketing</i>	10
TOTAL BUSINESS	357
Men	231
Women	126

ENGINEERING

<i>Aerospace Engineering</i>	59
<i>Biological Systems Engineering</i>	23
<i>Chemical Engineering</i>	48
<i>Civil Engineering</i>	198
<i>Electrical Engineering</i>	342
<i>Engineering Mechanics</i>	118
<i>Environmental Engineering</i>	30
<i>Environmental Science and Engr</i>	17
<i>Industrial & Systems Engineering</i>	119
<i>Materials Engineering</i>	5
<i>Materials Engineering Science</i>	37
<i>Materials Science Engineering</i>	27
<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	149
<i>Mining Engineering</i>	20
<i>Ocean Engineering</i>	9
<i>Systems Engineering</i>	111
TOTAL ENGINEERING	1,212
Men	1,016
Women	196

FORESTRY

<i>Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences</i>	46
<i>Forest Products</i>	35
<i>Forestry</i>	44
TOTAL FORESTRY	125
Men	89
Women	36

HUMAN RES & EDUC

<i>Admn and Supervision Special Ed</i>	19
<i>Adult and Continuing Education</i>	1
<i>Clothing and Textiles</i>	26
<i>Community Health Education</i>	1
<i>Curriculum and Instruction</i>	304

<i>Educational Administration</i>	39
<i>Educational Research and Eval</i>	10
<i>Family and Child Development</i>	64
<i>Health and Physical Education</i>	3
<i>Hospitality & Tourism Mgt</i>	41
<i>Housing, Int Des & Resource Mgt</i>	31
<i>Human Nutrition and Foods & Ex</i>	70
<i>Junior and Community College Ed</i>	5
<i>Student Personnel</i>	113
<i>Vocational Technical Education</i>	93
TOTAL HUMAN RES & EDUC	820
Men	272
Women	548

VETERINARY MEDICINE

<i>Veterinary Medical Sciences</i>	51
<i>Veterinary Medicine</i>	331
TOTAL VETERINARY MEDICINE	382
Men	124
Women	258

ALL COLLEGES

TOTAL	4,287
Men	2,568
Women	1,719

SOURCE: Student Census File
 09/19/96

If you are interested in further details on graduate, undergraduate enrollment or other university facts, visit the VT Home Gopher site. The path is:

*VT Gopher & VTLS
 VT Gopher Server
 General Information About VT
 University Fact Book*

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