

Increasing the representation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers

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Upcoming Events Fall 2005



Welcome to Virginia Tech Reception

Wednesday, September 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, University Club
Join women faculty, administrators, graduate students, and staff to welcome newcomers to Virginia Tech. Co-sponsored by *AdvanceVT*, the Graduate School, the Women's Center, the Women's Studies Program, and the Organization of Women Faculty.

Distinguished Lecture: Dr. Mildred Dresselhaus Impacts of Nano-Technology in the 21st Century

Friday, September 16, 2:30 pm, CHEMP 130

As part of the celebration of the World Year of Physics at Virginia Tech, Dr. Mildred Dresselhaus, Institute Professor and Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering at MIT, will speak. Co-sponsored with the Physics Department.



Women in Academic Leadership Panel

Friday, September 30, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Skelton Conference Center, Cascades A&B, Reception Following

Six women department heads and research center directors will share their perspectives on leadership in academic science and engineering.

Virginia Tech's Research Division – the Inside Story

Friday, October 14, 7:30 – 9:00 am, Skelton Conference Center, Old Guard
Vice-President for Research Brad Fenwick will discuss the role of the research division in transforming Virginia Tech. [Registration required.](#)

Virginia Tech's Graduate School – the Inside Story

Friday, November 11, noon to 2:00 pm, Skelton Conference Center, Old Guard
Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Karen DePauw will discuss the role of the graduate school in transforming Virginia Tech. [Registration required.](#)

Distinguished Lecture: Ms. Jeanne Rosario

Tuesday, November 15

GE Aircraft Engines Vice-President and General Manager Jeanne Rosario will visit Virginia Tech. Details TBD.

AdvanceVT is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation

Congratulations to the following women faculty on their promotions:

Linda M. Anderson, Professor, English
Karen J. Brewer, Professor, Chemistry
Evelyn C. Brown, Associate Professor, Business Information Technology
Andrea M. Dietrich, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Glenda E. Gillaspay, Associate Professor, Biochemistry
Tammy L. Henderson, Associate Professor, Human Development
Angela J. Huebner, Associate Professor, Human Development
Shannon E. Jarrott, Associate Professor, Human Development
Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Associate Professor, Art and Art History
Tamara W. Knott, Associate Professor, Engineering Education
Katharine F. Knowlton, Associate Professor, Dairy Science
Gail Letzter, Professor, Mathematics
Nancy G. Love, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Audrey P. McElroy, Associate Professor, Animal and Poultry Sciences
Dini M. Miller, Associate Professor, Entomology
Julie L. Ozanne, Professor, Marketing
Susanna Rinehart, Associate Professor, Theatre Arts
Carin L. Roberts-Wollman, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Madeline E. Schreiber, Associate Professor, Geosciences
Holly L. Scoggins, Associate Professor, Horticulture
Tonya L. Smith-Jackson, Associate Professor, Industrial and Systems Engineering
Bevlee A. Watford, Professor, Engineering Education

Percent of full-time faculty members who are female, by rank, all disciplines, nationwide:

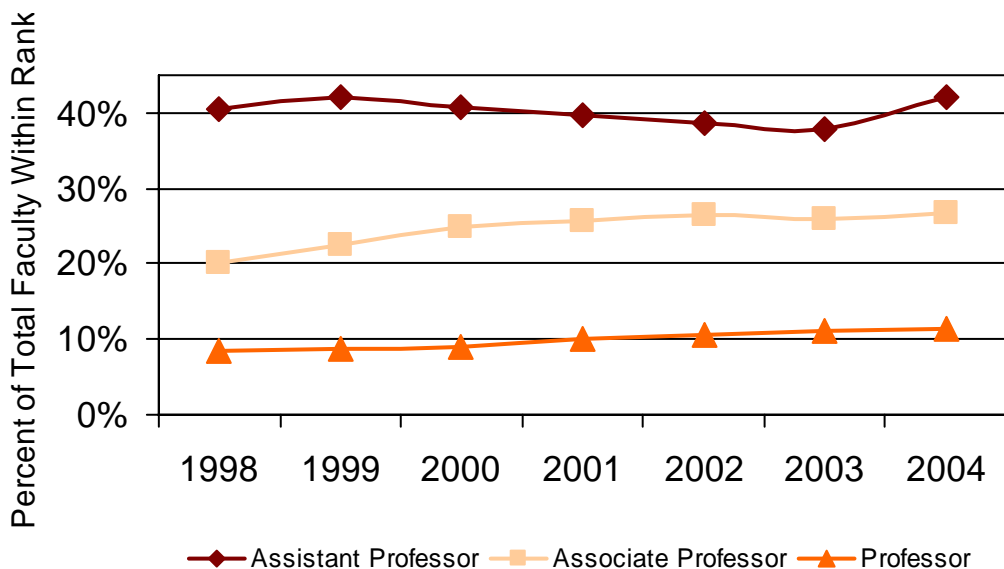
Professor	23%
Associate Prof	37%
Assistant Prof	44%
Instructor	51%
Lecturer	53%
Other	45%
Total	38%

(U.S. Department of Education, 2001, cited in Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac, 2004-5)

“[S]ystemic change can only be fostered if propelled by a vigilant and widespread campaign launched by tenacious women and men at all levels, and advocated by prominent leaders of our universities.”

- “More Women in Science,” Science, August 19, 2005.

Tenured and Tenure-Track Women Faculty at Virginia Tech



Congratulations to Karen Thole, first female recipient of an endowed professorship in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering

*Number of male
endowed professors
at Virginia Tech: 100*

*Number of female
endowed professors
at Virginia Tech: 4*

*Number of male
University
Distinguished
Professors: 12*

*Number of female
University
Distinguished
Professors: 1*

*Number of male
Alumni
Distinguished
Professors: 8*

*Number of female
Alumni
Distinguished
Professors: 3*

*(Data as of July
2005)*



Karen A. Thole, Virginia Tech Professor of Mechanical Engineering, is the first female recipient of an endowed engineering professorship at the university. Thole has received the William S. Cross Professorship in the College of Engineering, established in 1984 by a generous gift from William S. Cross Jr., of Greensboro, N.C.

Thole received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992 and joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1999. Thole's primary areas of expertise are heat transfer and fluid mechanics specializing in turbulent boundary layers, convective heat transfer, and high freestream turbulence effects.

Thole has published more than 80 peer-reviewed papers with a number of these presentations given to international audiences, and has advised more than 25 graduate theses. She serves as an associate technical editor of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Journal of Heat Transfer.

She received the National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 1996, which was directed at developing a better understanding of turbine heat transfer and at teaching a lab course to first-year women engineering students. In 2004, Thole was selected to be a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and was inducted into the University of Texas at Austin Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Alumni Academy.

Thole is also one of the principal investigators on the Institutional Transformation Award from the National Science Foundation's Advance Program. The Advance Program is aimed at increasing the participation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers. Thole is an AdvanceVT Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech.

She is the chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Energy's University Turbine Systems Research Program. Her two patents for a fillet design, developed to reduce heat transfer at the leading edge of turbine airfoils, are now being incorporated into the most recent turbine design.

Thole has been solely responsible for attracting funding of more than \$5 million from such agencies as the Department of Energy, U.S. Air Force, Pratt & Whitney, Modine Manufacturing, and Siemens-Westinghouse.

Future Professoriate Career Development Events Fall 2005

Women as % of all
doctoral degree
recipients, 2001:

All fields	44.0%
All S&E fields	36.6%
Engineering	16.9%
Physical Sciences	24.6%
Earth, Atmos, & Ocean Sci	31.6%
Math & Comp. Sciences	23.5%
Biological & Ag Sci	43.5%
Psychology	67.1%
Social Sciences	43.0%

(NSF Survey of Earned
Doctorates)



Balancing an Academic Career and Family

September 12th, 2005, noon, Graduate Life Center Room C
Dr. Amy Bell from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering will discuss the challenges of balancing an academic career with family obligations. Lunch will be provided.

[Registration is required.](#)

Women Leaders in Academe: Personal Perspectives and Future Directions

September 30th, 2005, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Skelton Conference Center
Six female department chairs and research center directors will discuss their careers, influences, challenges, and successes, and answer questions about leadership roles and academic careers. Reception following. All are welcome.



Academic Job Interviews: What to Expect?

October 4th, 2005, noon, Graduate Life Center Room C
Experienced faculty at Virginia Tech will demonstrate different job interview scenarios and provide tips and techniques to assist you with your future interviews.

Lunch will be provided. [Registration is required.](#)

Professional Presentations: Making a Good Impression

November 1st, 2005, noon, Graduate Life Center Room C
Dr. Marion Ehrich from the College of Veterinary Medicine will discuss keys to successful presentations for professional conferences and job interviews. Lunch will be provided. [Registration is required.](#)



AdvanceVT Funding Opportunities

For information about AdvanceVT visiting scholars, research seed grants, PhD fellowships, and leadership development program, go to www.advance.vt.edu.