

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

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Upcoming Events Fall 2005

Academic Job Interviews: What to Expect?

October 4, 2005, noon, Graduate Life Center
Professors Nancy Love, Ann Stevens, and Eileen Van Aken will share their survival tips for faculty job interviews at this seminar for graduate students and post-docs. Lunch will be provided. [Registration required.](#)



Virginia Tech's Research Division: the Inside Story

Friday, October 14, 7:30 – 9:00 am, Old Guard Room, Skelton Conference Center

Dr. Brad Fenwick, Vice President for Research, will discuss the role of his office in supporting and promoting research across the university, and how it interacts with other organizational units. This seminar is part of AdvanceVT's leadership development program. [Registration required.](#)



Professional Presentations: Making a Good Impression

November 1, 2005, noon, Graduate Life Center
Dr. Marion Ehrich from the College of Veterinary Medicine will discuss keys to successful presentations for professional conferences and faculty interviews. This seminar is designed for graduate students and post-docs. Lunch will be provided. [Registration required.](#)

Virginia Tech's Graduate School: the Inside Story

Friday, November 11, noon to 1:30 pm, Old Guard Room, Skelton Conference Center

Dr. Karen DePauw, Vice-Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School, will discuss the role of the graduate school in transforming Virginia Tech. This seminar is part of AdvanceVT's leadership development program. [Registration required.](#)

AdvanceVT is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation

"Changing the culture is not a one time process. It is a fundamental problem."

-Quote from
AdvanceVT Dual
Career Hire Study

Dual Career Hiring Update

Ms. Beverlyn Samuels, formerly Career and Enrollment Coordinator for the College of Natural Resources, has accepted the new position of Dual Career Employment Coordinator beginning October 3. The position is funded by the Provost's Office and the new program will be a collaboration between the Provost's Office and Personnel Services (now Human Resources).

Beverlyn brings significant professional and personal knowledge to the work and will be available to assist departments with dual career hires. She will also be working on developing community-based employment opportunities and contacts, as well as referrals within Virginia Tech. Beverlyn will be located with colleagues at the Human Resources Office at Southgate.

Dual Career Guidelines for Department Heads can be found on the Provost Office web site at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/Guidelines.html>.

Child Care Committee Update



Initiated in June 2005, partially in response to the child care survey conducted by *AdvanceVT*, the University Child Care committee is working to identify options through which Virginia Tech might address the current and future child care needs of Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and students. The committee will consider the financial, administrative, and programmatic implications of those options, as well as impact on, and involvement of, local child care providers. Discussion and research thus far has included examination of specific care needs (e.g. ages, hours, type of care, etc.); summary of current local care options; review of support offered by peer institutions; examination of child care cooperative programs (run partially by parents), care for mildly ill children, the costs of

operating a center, and facility/space requirements. The committee hopes to present Provost McNamee and Executive Vice President Hyatt with options for consideration by December 2005.

The committee includes representatives from the Faculty and Staff Senates, A/P faculty, the Graduate School, the Virginia Tech Foundation, Offices of the Provost, Executive Vice President, & VP for Business Affairs, and the departments of Work/Life Resources & Human Development.

Committee members include:

- Jeff Earley, Director, Strategic Initiatives and Business Analysis
- Victoria Fu, Professor, Human Development
- Ines Domingues da Silva Henriques, Graduate Student Representative
- Patricia Hyer, Associate Provost, Committee Vice Chair
- Cathy Jacobs, Director of Family and Work/Life Resources
- Marilyn Kershaw, Director of Graduate Student Recruiting (Graduate School representative)

“The *AdvanceVT* research seed grant was the spare tire in the trunk.”
- Dr. Naira Hovakimyan

Child Care Committee Members continued...

- Kurt Krause, Vice President for Business Affairs
- Kara Lattimer, Academic Advisor, Pamplin College of Business (A/P Faculty representative)
- Terri Mitchell, Assistant Vice President and Controller, Virginia Tech Foundation
- Jim Westwood, Associate Professor, Plant Pathology, Physiology & Weed Science (Faculty Senate representative)
- Lisa Wilkes, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
- Linda Woodard, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Chair
- Marty Wyatt, Development (Staff Senate representative)

Funding Opportunities

AdvanceVT will again be offering research seed grants for junior faculty and Ph.D. fellowships for graduate students in science and engineering. Look for details on the *AdvanceVT* web site in early November.

AdvanceVT Research Seed Grant Recipient: Dr. Naira Hovakimyan

In the coming issues, the *AdvanceVT* graduate assistant, Ane Johnson, will pose a few questions to our 2004-2005 *AdvanceVT* fellowship and grant recipients. These questions, open-ended in nature, focus on the impact that the grant has had on the recipient's research and career development. The first of this series of interviews is with Dr. Naira Hovakimyan, associate professor of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.

In response to questions regarding the impact of the grant on her research, Dr. Hovakimyan provided *AdvanceVT* with an honest account of her grant difficulties and how the *AdvanceVT* seed grant came to the rescue.

“In short, the *AdvanceVT* research seed grant helped me to save the momentum in my research. Imagine yourself driving at 100m/h on a freeway with no speed limit, and all of a sudden your tire blows away. The *AdvanceVT* research seed grant was the spare tire in the trunk.”

“I started here in 2003 with two grants from AFOSR [Air Force Office of Scientific Research], one of which was providing support for a postdoctoral fellow and a GRA [graduate research assistant]. In the summer of 2004, when I was due to get my second option of that 3-year grant, all of a sudden there was a governmental recission, and AFOSR lost a huge amount of funding. My program manager told me that they cannot continue my grant until the fall, when they get their next fiscal year funding.”

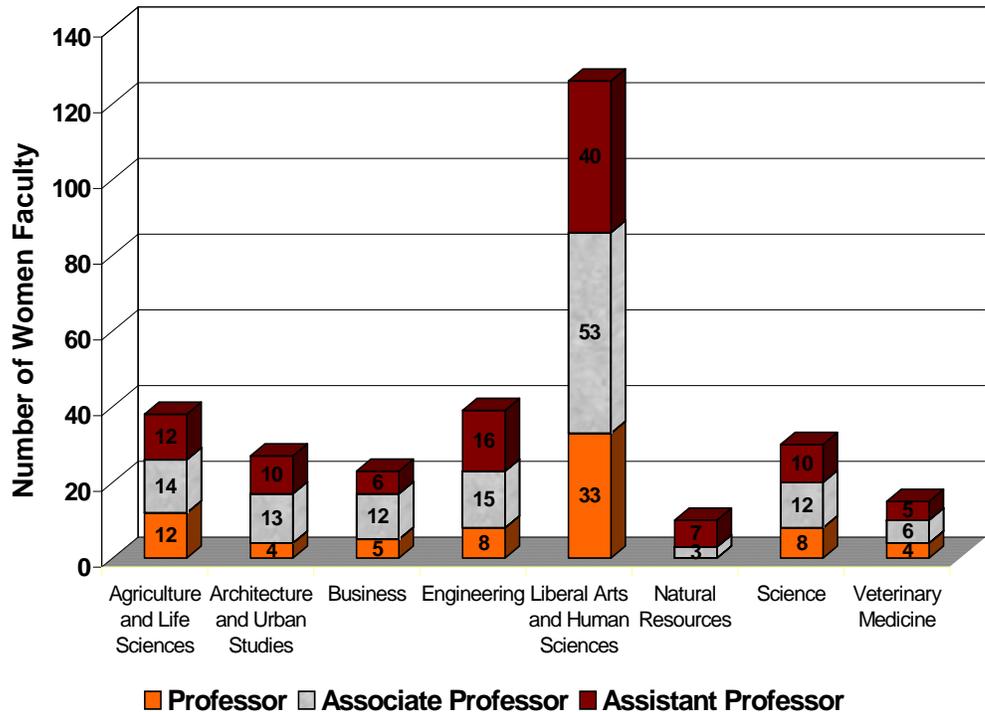
“So, I ran into a gap in my existing federal funding, and *AdvanceVT* filled that gap and ensured smooth continuation of my research. It was critical as we have cracked a historically open issue in the theory of adaptive control, which would have been otherwise impossible given the gap in the federal funding. We proudly included an acknowledgment to that *AdvanceVT* research seed grant in the resulting publications, and in our annual report to AFOSR.”

Virginia Tech Faculty Profiles

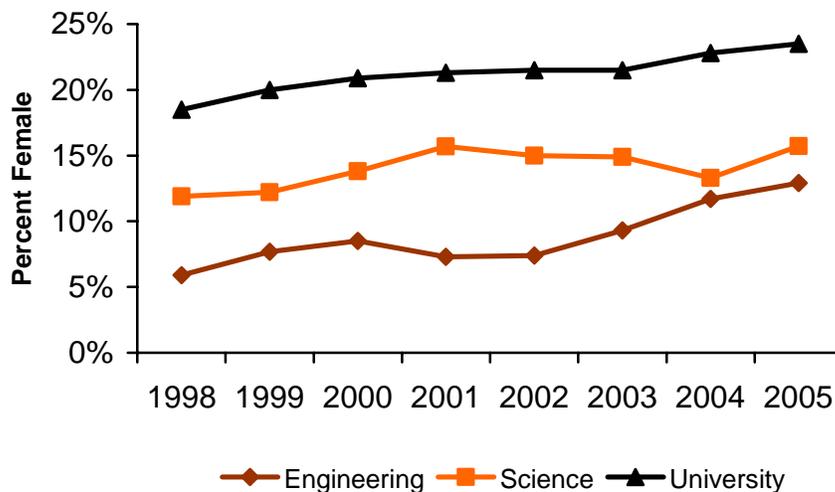
“Whatever biological factors do exist, they pale next to the pervasive social forces that push young women away from advanced math courses, and later, from careers in mathematics and in related disciplines like physics and engineering. Women make up only 26 percent of the work force with doctorates in science or engineering. In doctorate-granting mathematics departments, women hold just 8 percent of the tenured faculty positions. ”

- “Primed for Numbers,” The Chronicle for Higher Education, March 4, 2005

Virginia Tech Women Faculty by Rank and College, Fall 2005



Women Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty at Virginia Tech



Save the date: Monday, January 9, 2006
AdvanceVT will host its third annual workshop on Advancing Women at Virginia Tech on January 9, 2006, at the Skelton Conference Center.