

CLAHS Annual Report Format

Part I

Department: English	Year: 2007-08		
Faculty Achievements Published			
	Sole or Lead Author	Second Author	Other Author
1. Books or monographs authored	2		
2. Book chapters	14		
3. Books edited	3		
4. Textbooks authored	1		
5. Textbooks edited			1
6. Papers in refereed or peer reviewed journals	13		
7. Papers in refereed or peer-reviewed conference proceedings.	<u>Number</u>		
8. Prefaces, introductions, catalogue statements, etc.			
9. Papers presented at professional meetings			
State & regional	11		
National	51		
International	7		
10. Other papers and reports (e.g. Encyclopedia, program reviews, ext. reports)	10		
11. Abstracts	0		
12. Translations	0		
13. Reviews of published works (e.g., books, CD's)	14		
14. Novels and books (e.g., collections of essays, poems, short stories, etc.)	4		

15. Poems, plays, essays, musical scores	129	
--	-----	--

	<u>Major Role</u>	<u>Minor Role</u>
16. Performances, productions, films, videos, and exhibitions.		
Campus	3	
Local	4	
State	1	
Regional	3	
National	98	
International	0	
17. Competitions and commissions		
Campus	0	
Local	0	
State	0	
Regional	0	
National	0	
International	1	
18. Editors of journals or other scholarly publications.	<u>Number</u> 0	
19. Editorial boards	21	
20. Software	0	
21. Patents	0	
22. National Academy of Science Memberships (cite name)		
23. <u>National Awards</u> – cite name of award and faculty member	<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>Faculty Member</u>
	NEA Literature Fellowship in Prose	Edward Falco
	Carl Sandburg Literary Award	Nikki Giovanni
	NAACP Image Award, Outstanding Literary Work—Poetry	Nikki Giovanni
	TIAA-CREF Hesberg Award	Kelly Belanger
	Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award	Steven Salaita

Part II: Department of English, Notable Accomplishments

Summary (details follow in the appropriate sections)

- The number of undergraduate and graduate students continues to grow. English now has 573 undergraduate English majors (including double majors with other home departments), compared with just over 300 in 2003. We now have 62 graduate students in three degree programs, about double the number of a few years ago.
- The department launched a PhD in Rhetoric and Writing in the fall of 2007 and enrolled a third class of MFA students, achieving full enrollment in the MFA.
- The department teaches large numbers of students in the Curriculum for Liberal Education, especially in Areas 1, 2, and 6. Of the students enrolled in undergraduate English courses, 79% are neither majors nor minors. We teach about 250 sections each semester (10% of the university's total), with enrollments exceeding 6,000 students, more than 20% of the university's students.
- Undergraduate research has become a focus and strength: 82 students presented papers or posters at our undergraduate research conference; 10 English majors presented research or creative scholarship at regional or national conferences, and 2 will present or conduct research in Europe; 18 of the 44 panel presentations and 7 of the 62 posters in the university's Undergraduate Research and Prospective Graduate Student conference (April 2) were created in English courses and mentored by English faculty; 3 of the 5 newly appointed associate editors of *Philologia* are English majors. Fourteen students from ENGL 3104 published articles written in class in various magazines and newspapers.
- The department was proactive in developing assessment criteria and procedures and has been used as an example for the rest of the university in WEAVEonline and ePortfolios.
- A new internship program with Blacksburg High School matches pre-education English majors with high school students in the Academic Skills Lab. About a dozen undergraduates intern each semester. The internship will expand next year to include classroom participation.
- A faculty-led Study Abroad program takes place in London in the summer of 2008 with 33 students enrolled in two advanced English courses. This program represents a renewal of department study abroad that lapsed when its faculty leader died.
- The department led the initiative for the Instructor Career Paths, which resulted in the possibility of promotions, recognition, and increased job security for instructors across campus. The department's guidelines, developed in the summer of 2007, were widely adopted by other departments.
- We hosted internationally significant creative writers and scholars, including Mark Doty (poetry), Paul Douglass (Byron), and Bruce Margon (Hubble Space Telescope). We launched an "Emerging Scholars" series to bring former students with recent PhDs to campus for presentations.

- We have made progress in funded research with an NEH grant funded (Sullivan) and one proposed (Belanger) plus an NSF grant funded (Evia). Belanger received an ISCE grant; Dannenberg and Graham received CLAHS research grants; Charlene Eska and Sue Saffle received Humanities Summer Stipends. At the same time, we work on the scholarship we do best: writing articles, books, poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.
- National awards and recognition for faculty were unprecedented with an NEA fellowship, a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, the Carl Sandburg Literary Award, the Gustavus Myers Book Award, and an NAACP Image Award. Faculty members won five CLAHS awards and three university awards. (Although our two Guggenheim Fellowships and Bobbitt National Poetry Prize have been announced, they will be part of the 2009 annual report because they were officially announced after April 1.)
- Through service learning, we provided substantive work for over 25 service-learning partners/clients, which included the Child Advocacy Center in Radford; Literacy Volunteers; Smithfield Plantation; Giles Homeless Shelter; Local Colors in Roanoke; lowernine.org in New Orleans; Holocaust Educational Foundation in Lynchburg; Pilot Street Refugee Project in Roanoke.
- Administratively, the department completed its COOP plan, emergency plan, and audits. We developed policy statements on tenure and promotion, mentoring, FAR evaluation criteria and procedures, pre-tenure faculty course releases and research support (still in draft), a diversity plan, and guidelines for responding to disturbing creative writing. We reviewed 21 applications for instructor promotions, as well as an application for tenure and promotion, all successful. We completed a faculty search. We enhanced IT security and compliance with policies. We completed a total revision of the department website, using university templates and developing content. One endowment agreement was established. In spite of the enormous impact of April 16 on the department, we continued to thrive as individuals and as a group.

Graduate education

Overview

The department offers three graduate degree programs: the MA in English, the MFA in Creative Writing, and the PhD in Rhetoric and Writing. The MFA enrolled its first class in 2005 and is now fully enrolled, and the PhD enrolled its first class in 2007. The MA in English continues to evolve as the core graduate program with connections both to the MFA and PhD and with the largest number of faculty qualified to teach in the program.

Recruitment

All three graduate programs had successful application and recruitment years. Collectively, the programs are helping to enhance the reputation of Virginia Tech in the Humanities and Arts.

- PhD-Rhetoric and Writing: For the entering 2007 course, we considered 22 applicants and admitted 7 of our top 9. All of them had offers from other, established programs

and turned down fellowships and assistantships to attend Virginia Tech. For the entering 2008 class, the program recruited from 10 states and three international countries. One student from Saudi Arabia will add diversity to the program. From 34 applicants we admitted six; four plan to enroll in spite of the program's loss of support through GTA positions. See appendix A for details of the students we are attracting to the PhD program.

- **MFA in Creative Writing:** For 2007, we admitted three students from underrepresented groups: two Black males, one Hispanic female. One of these students, Lamar Wilson, has been selected as a Cave Canem Fellow, a competitive fellowship with summer workshops for outstanding young African-American poets. For 2008, we reviewed 50 applications, up 40% from last year. All six of our first choices accepted offers. Three who were next on the list, who said Virginia Tech was their first choice, accepted offers from the University of Michigan, Syracuse, and Ohio State.
- **MA in English:** We received 30 applications and offered seven GTA positions. We supported two additional GTAs from returning students.

Impact of GTAs on the CLE

- GTAs in all three programs contribute substantially to the Curriculum for Liberal Education (CLE). In fall 2007 and spring 2008, GTAs in the three graduate programs taught 100 sections of ENGL 1105 and 1106 (composition) and 7 sections of 2744 (creative writing, Area 6 CLE option). GTAs teach 46% of the sections of composition.
- The custom composition textbook, enhanced GTA training, and Composition Program Assistants / GTA advisors ensure that GTAs are prepared to enter the classroom and to do a good job of teaching.
- As the proposals for the two new graduate programs predicted, the graduate programs have reduced the reliance of the department and university on instructors for teaching undergraduate courses. In fall 2004, English employed 53 instructors; in fall 2007, English employed 44 instructors. Fortunately, the losses were primarily from attrition. Still, the losses of people represent losses of experience and continuity in the instructional staff.

Notable Awards and Achievements of Graduate Students and Faculty Advisors

- The 2007 and 2008 CLAHS Awards for Excellence in Graduate Advising have gone to faculty in Rhetoric and Writing.
- An MA thesis, *John Cleland's The Dictionary of Love: An XML Edition*, by Emily Davis, won the ETD (Electronic Thesis or Dissertation) Award for a Master's Thesis from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, a consortium of 221 universities.
- An MFA student, Sara Crickenberger, won the first graduate student "Women in Leadership" Award from the Virginia Tech Women and Leadership in Philanthropy Council.
- Lamar Wilson was named a Cave Canem Fellow, a highly competitive fellowship for younger African-American poets.

- Seven PhD students had 12 papers accepted for national conferences this year, including premier venues such as the annual conventions of the Conference on College Composition and Communication and the Rhetoric Society of America and the biennial Thomas R. Watson Conference at the University of Louisville. In addition, these students also had nine papers accepted for regional graduate student conferences at James Madison, UNC Greensboro, and UNC Wilmington.

Undergraduate education: English major

Overview

Significant initiatives featuring undergraduate research, ePortfolios, assessment, study abroad, and professional development have propelled us toward the transformation of undergraduate education from a collection of excellent classes qualifying one for a degree to a holistic emphasis on the total undergraduate experience. Bookend courses now frame the major encouraging integrated curriculum planning, student agency, reflection, engagement, undergraduate research, and transitional career planning.

ePortfolios

- With the launch of our ePortfolio project in Fall 2007, we became “early adopters” of a new technology with great potential for application in the CLE and in other departments and programs across the university.
- When the project has been completely phased in, 500+ English majors will be archiving documents that demonstrate learning outcomes. Over a hundred students are already working on their ePortfolios. In their senior year, each student will also prepare an individual ePortfolio designed to help them present their credentials persuasively to a graduate school or prospective employer.
- Over 80 faculty in English have been involved in defining learning outcomes, creating rubrics, advising students about the progress of their ePortfolios, and mentoring their work.
- An innovative feature of our ePortfolio project has been the creation of our Student Leadership Team, appointed in Fall 2007. The role of this group of student leaders has been:
 - to train other students by working as “floaters” in the classroom and by offering tutorials;
 - to assist in training faculty and advisors;
 - to speak about the value of ePortfolios from a student perspective at multidisciplinary workshops and panels;
 - to serve as a focus group for the ePortfolio project, helping us to improve the program from year to year.
- Through presentations at the LaGuardia ePortfolio Conference in New York City by Professor Nancy Metz, Marc Zaldivar of Learning Technologies, and student Hannah Carlson, Virginia Tech’s role as an ePortfolio innovator has been presented to other colleges embarking on similar projects. English was featured in both Virginia Tech sessions.

Assessment

- As of Fall 2007, English had completed the work of defining learning outcomes and assessment rubrics for the English major and all sub-specialties of the major.
- We completed this work well before the university issued any directives to define learning outcomes. English has no external accrediting agency to require this process of us or to provide templates.
- The Office of Academic Assessment featured only two departments—English and Industrial Systems Engineering—in a series of Spring 08 workshops aimed at introducing other academic units to the process of defining learning outcomes, measuring outcomes, and making programmatic improvements based on the results of assessment.

Undergraduate research

- At the department's annual Undergraduate Research Conference held in March 2008, 82 students presented in panels, readings, and poster presentations. 280 students, faculty, administrators, and family members attended the 2008 conference.
- Since any work created in an English class can be presented at our Undergraduate Research Conference, our faculty mentored the research of many students in other majors, including this year: math, communications, Spanish, marketing, art history, civil engineering, music, history, psychology, biology, finance, statistics, political science, philosophy.
- In 2008 English had the largest representation of any department at the university's Undergraduate Research and Prospective Graduate Student Conference; 19 of the 44 panel presentations were created in English classes and mentored by English faculty.
- This past year English majors presented their work at regional, national, and international conferences:
 - two students presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on Undergraduate Scholarship, Sweet Briar College;
 - four students presented at the VMI Poetry Symposium;
 - two students presented at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference, Ogden, Utah;
 - one student presented at the ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference at Florida State (she was one of four selected for her research excellence to represent Virginia Tech)
 - one student presented at the ePortfolios: Making Connections conference in New York City
 - one undergraduate student presented at the International Byron Conference in Messolonghi, Greece.
- Fourteen students published articles written in ENGL 3104 in magazines, newspapers and other periodicals.

Fostering leadership and engagement

- 46 students participated in internships this year, compared to 27 last year. Many of these students (e.g. the 25 working at Blacksburg High School and others working with publishers and law offices) are engaged in very active forms of community outreach

- Students in service learning projects within professional writing courses provided substantive work for over 25 service-learning partners/clients, which included the Child Advocacy Center in Radford; Literacy Volunteers; Smithfield Plantation; Giles Homeless Shelter; Local Colors in Roanoke; lowernine.org in New Orleans ; Holocaust Educational Foundation in Lynchburg; Pilot Street Refugee Project in Roanoke
- 17 students participated on the planning committee for the 2008 Undergraduate Conference
- An executive committee of four students, working closely with the department's Distinguished Alumni Board, is planning a Fall 2008 Career/Leadership Weekend for Liberal Arts majors
- 4 English majors currently serve as CLAHS Ambassadors
- 3 of the 5 students selected to serve as Associate Editors of the new CLAHS Undergraduate Research Journal, *Philologia*, are English majors
- In Spring 2008, in an effort to foster leadership and service opportunities among undergraduates, English re-activated its disciplinary honor society, Sigma Tau Delta. In Spring 08, 60 students were inducted into the society, which will emphasize outreach and engagement. Officers are now being elected to plan service opportunities for the coming year.

Undergraduate education: Composition

Overview

The composition program teaches approximately 3100 students per semester in approximately 130 sections of first-year composition (1105, 1106, and H1204). With some turnover in instructors (26) and regular turnover in GTAs (39), there are ongoing needs for professional development. The composition program has taken on more cross-campus collaborations, has continued to support professional development for both faculty and graduate students working in the program, has developed both undergraduate and graduate research opportunities, has offered one of the best Composition Speakers Series in the country, and will soon embark on our first cross-institutional curriculum collaboration.

Royalties from the faculty and student written textbook, *Composition at Virginia Tech: Written, Spoken, and Visual Composition*, funded professional development activities that benefit the university as a whole through improved composition instruction:

- Four internationally recognized speakers in composition came to campus to give workshops on teaching composition to instructors and GTAs. (\$4,950)
- Six faculty, seven GTAs, the coordinator of the Writing Center and three peer-writing coaches, and the composition program director were funded to travel to conferences or other professional development (\$15,000)
- Four composition program assistants and three GTAs have summer stipends of \$1,000-\$2,000 to work with GTAs during the summer to make sure syllabi are set,

- assignments designed, and program-related materials developed before the fall term begins. (\$13,000)
- In May 2008, the Director of Composition and five Ph.D. GTAs will travel to Emerson College in Boston for the *Virginia Tech-Emerson College Colloquium of First-year Writing: Rhetorical Situation, Genre, and Research*. This colloquium is a cross-institutional collaboration co-sponsored by the Writing Program at Emerson College. (\$5,458)
- Sixteen faculty and graduate students worked on the 2008-09 version of the custom published textbook and received small stipends for their work. (\$9,600)

Writing Center

The Writing Center established collaborations in a number of areas on campus: Newman Library, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence (Athletics), Engineering Education Communication Center, and the GLC. The GLC tutor works online with graduate students in the Northern Virginia Campus. The Writing Center also sponsors the African-American Read-In and Dia de los Muertos Read-In.

Undergraduate education: Professional Writing

Overview

Professional Writing is an option within the English major enrolling 198 majors/minors as of March 2008—an increase of 17 percent over last year. But it also offers service courses in technical and business writing.

- Instructed almost 2100 students from across the university in 88 sections of our upper division writing-intensive courses: 67 sections of English 3764 (Technical Writing) and 21 sections of 3774 (Business Writing). Includes summer courses.
- Increased the number of online sections of English 3764/3774 (from 27 to 34)—a 26 percent increase.

Undergraduate education: CLE, interdisciplinary minors

In addition to composition and professional writing, English offers students options for completing Area 2 and Area 6 CLE courses and participates in minors. Examples:

- 16xx courses: In the fall and spring semesters of 2007-2008, we offered 1,040 seats; well over 90% were for CLE, not for English majors and minors.
- Of the approximately 300 students who enroll in Shakespeare each year (4165, 4166), approximately 100 students are neither majors nor minors.
- 87% of the students in ENGL 2744, Introduction to Creative Writing, are neither majors nor minors. We offered 506 seats last year.
- Medicine and Society (MSOC) minor: 135 enrolled; all take ENGL 3154, Literature, Medicine, and Culture

- English courses are part of minors in Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, American Studies, Appalachian Studies, Film Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Popular Culture Minor.
-

Research

- 6 scholarly or creative books were published. One faculty member (D'Aguiar) published a poem in *The New Yorker*, and a second (Hicok) had a poem accepted for that prestigious outlet.
 - We have made progress in funded research with an NEH grant funded (Sullivan) and one proposed (Belanger) plus an NSF grant funded (Evia). Belanger and Evia received ISCE grants; Dannenberg and Graham received CLAHS research grants; Charlene Eska and Sue Saffle received Humanities Summer Stipends. At the same time, we work on the scholarship we do best: writing articles, books, poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.
 - A symposium on feminist research methodologies drew leading scholars in rhetoric and writing to campus in April 2007. It has led to presentations at national conferences and should result in a book edited by the lead symposium organizer, Katrina Powell.
 - In Spring 2008 Professors Mosser and Radcliffe undertook the publication of a TEI edition of the Civil War Letters of Joseph Burrage in collaboration with the students of the 5074 Digital Humanities course: <http://burrage-letters.cath.vt.edu/>. This collection of more than 90 letters, presented in both original text and modernized format, with extensive documentation and annotation, will likely be the first of its kind when published in May 2008. The project is being done in collaboration with Special Collections at Newman Library.
 - The Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society funded 9 different faculty members and 2 graduate students working with them with small grants (\$500-\$3,000) for research. These funds encouraged research collaborations.
 - Funded by a 2006 Writing Program Administrators grant, Diana George, Kelly Belanger, Marie Paretti, Lisa McNair, and Lisa Norris are exploring connections between humanistic and technological ways of thinking and seeing the world through a composition classroom-based project for engineering majors. This research team, comprised of faculty from Engineering Education and English, presented their work at the Conference on College Composition and Communication and published a paper on the first phase of the study in the proceedings for the 2007 Association for Engineering Education conference.
-

Outreach

- Internships at Blacksburg High School (25) and numerous service-learning projects within courses (several hundred students) expanded the impact of English on the community.
- With CSRS support, Aileen Murphy is researching the feasibility of returning the Southwest Virginia Writing Project to Virginia Tech. This project is the “premier

effort to improve writing in America” and “through its professional development model, NWP builds leadership, programs, and research needed for teachers to help their students become successful writers and learners” (www.writingproject.org). The Southwest Virginia Writing Project would represent a significant opportunity for community involvement for the English Department, CLAHS, and Virginia Tech.

- Department staff participated in the CLAHS Staff Association holiday project of providing 100 gifts to residents of nursing home. Through the staff’s encouragement, 50 of those gifts were provided by English Department faculty and staff. Along with two other staff in our college, two English staff members participated in distributing the gifts to Heritage Hall.

International Affairs and Diversity

- The Diversity Committee developed a diversity plan, hosted panels on Arab-American writers and Asian-American writers, promoted the film “For the Bible Tells Me So” (about the collision of scripture and sexual identity), and developed plans for a section of the department website on diversity.
- An African-American writer, David Haynes, was part of the Visiting Writers series.
- Jane Wemhoener was elected chair of the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs for 2008-09.
- Faculty-led Study Abroad resumes in May 2008 in London with 33 students, and plans are underway for summers of 2009 and 2010.
- 14 faculty and 5 students traveled abroad for research, teaching, or professional service. One class (ENGL 3804) collaborated with a writing group in India.

Scorecard Items

Number of graduating undergraduates who participated in research experiences.	142 100%	All English majors are required to take a research-based capstone course depending on the option: 4784 (LLC); 4874 (PW); 4704, 4714 (Creative Writing)
Minority student enrollment	23 5	Undergraduate Graduate
Minority students entering the freshman class	5	3 Hispanic, 2 Asian-Pacific Islander
PhD and EdDs Awarded	None	First PhD class enrolled Fall 2007
Graduate enrollment profile - masters, doctoral, and professional	→	MA-English 31 students, 2 minorities; 12 degrees awarded 2006-07 MFA Creative Writing 24 students, 3 minorities PhD Rhetoric and Writing 7 students, 6 out of state, average V+Q GRE 1224
Total expenditures in grants and contracts for research. (NSF		

Expenditures)		
Count and average value of sponsored awards	2	Carlos Evia, NSF: 58,000 Ernest Sullivan, NEH: 15,000
Faculty arts and humanities awards, fellowships and memberships.		See “new scorecard measures” below
Annual number of new licenses, start-ups and patents	n/a	
Number of graduating undergraduates who have participated in a study abroad experience or foreign language course	12 18	Study abroad Foreign language
Undergraduate participation in service learning and experiential programs. (Also in Learning)	35 352	Internships Service learning
Diversity of the faculty	→	4 underrepresented/minority T/T-T faculty 1 underrepresented/minority instructor 19 women T/T-T faculty (of 40) 25 women instructors (of 42) 1 ethnic minority (Arab-American)

New scorecard items

Current International Activities (see Appendix C for details)	16 1 (33 students) 5 1 (22 students) 5	16 faculty are traveling abroad for research, teaching, or professional service. Study Abroad: 33 students “London Calling” English majors participating in international research or teaching Class collaboration with a technical writing group in India (ENGL 3804) Faculty engaged with international education from Blacksburg
Faculty Awards and Honors (see Appendix B for details of the 2007-08 awards)	→	One annual fellowships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 NEA Fellowship Three national awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carl Sandburg Literary Award • Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award • NAACP Image Award One international visiting professorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverhulme Visiting Professorship, UK Fellowships in professional associations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolyn Rude • Fellow, Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (c. 700 members; 1995) • Fellow, Society for Technical

		<p>Communication (c. 20,000 members; 1998)</p> <p>Ernest Sullivan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Andrews Clark Memorial Library Mellon Fellow (1982) <p>National awards</p> <p>Carolyn Rude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay R. Gould Award for Teaching, Society for Technical Communication, 1998 • Distinguished Service Award, Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication, 2001 <p>International awards</p> <p>Ernest Sullivan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorary Fellow, University of Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (1983) • William Andrews Clark Memorial Library Mellon Fellow (1982)
PreK-12 Partnerships/Formalized Arrangements	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blacksburg High School: pre-education undergraduates tutor and mentor students in the Academic Skills Lab; 12/semester 2. Writer in Residence, Kipps Elementary School (MFA, Ashley Fellers)

Departmental Goals

Progress on program goals for 07-08

Goal	Progress made
<p>ePortfolios</p> <p>Translate the newly-articulated learning outcomes for the undergraduate program into the design of an integrative ePortfolio experience to be required of each English major.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with Educational Technologies to build matrices and rubrics for reflection and assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Detailed rubrics for the learning outcomes identified in 2006-2007 were developed by faculty work groups in Summer 2007. These rubrics addressed the outcomes for the English major as a whole and for all the sub-specialties within the English major (Literature, Language, and Culture, Creative Writing, Professional Writing.) ○ By Fall 2007, English department faculty working collaboratively with Educational Technologies had built ePortfolio matrices and reflection prompts to be used by all students entering the major.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide faculty development and student training to support this initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training was provided to students through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ classroom instruction in the new one-hour co-requisite course designed to launch the ePortfolio; ▪ online user documentation and a Tech Support helpline; ▪ tutorials offered through the Writing Center by members of the student leadership team ○ Training was provided to faculty through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A series of five one-hour, hands-on orientation sessions; ▪ 33 advisors representing all options within the English major participated in one of these workshops; ▪ 4 one-on-one training sessions were held afterwards for interested faculty who could not meet during the scheduled workshops.
<p>Undergraduate experience.</p> <p>Work cooperatively with university committees and divisions on initiatives to enhance the undergraduate experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ English has participated in the Course of Study Planner pilot, providing feedback to Mike Ellerbrock on our students’ use of this tool. English developed detailed documentation and an assignment for the planner that has been adapted for the university’s forthcoming “Pathway’s Planner Tutorial Website.” ○ Ron Daniel is currently consulting with English about our ePortfolio initiatives and their possible application to the CLE.
<p>Class size in composition / technical & business writing</p> <p>In other public universities in Virginia, composition class sizes range from 15 to 22, compared with 24 or 25 at VT. Goal: 21 by spring 2008.</p>	<p>We did not achieve our goal because of a larger freshman class, but in spring 2008, the maximum size was 22 or 23, depending on the section. We hope to maintain that size even with budget/staff reductions in the fall. Our composition classes will still be the largest among public universities in Virginia as well as among SCHEV peers.</p>
<p>K-12 outreach</p> <p>Build outreach opportunities with K-12.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A thriving internship program with Blacksburg High School is now underway with 25 pre-ed English majors staffing an Academic Lab for underachieving students. Discussions about expansion with a writing center and classroom support are underway. ○ We continue to explore possibilities for sponsoring the Southwest Virginia Writing Project at Virginia Tech.
<p>Study abroad</p> <p>Increase student involvement in and awareness of study abroad and international experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successfully launch “London Calling” ○ Work more closely with the International Student Exchange Program 	<p>“London Calling” is on its way with 33 students.</p> <p>Students have learned about ISEP in their ENGL 2614 course. We anticipate greater participation as they plan for a study abroad experience early in their careers.</p> <p>Five students will conduct research or teach abroad or participate in international conferences.</p>
<p>Online summer school courses</p>	<p>We added Literature and Film (online) and could have enrolled</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to extend our online presence in summer school through new course offerings. 	<p>two sections. We added 1664 (Shakespeare, a CLE course) this summer, our first summer offering of a 16xx course. We also added 3534, Literature and Ecology (online), and have opened a second section because of enrollment pressure.</p>
<p>Rebuilding after 4.16.07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In our unique role as teachers of 6,000 Virginia Tech students per semester, help new and returning students deal with the impact and after-shocks of April 16. 	<p>Faculty have been watchful, but problems have been minimal.</p> <p>In a proactive move, the associate chair and chair interviewed each of 40+ instructors individually in the fall of 2007 with several questions, one of them focused on April 16. The purpose was to learn of issues and to identify resources.</p> <p>We developed guidelines for responding to disturbing creative writing.</p>
<p>Space shortage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With the support of the College, solve the space shortage problems 	<p>Some instructors and GTAs have offices on the 3rd floor of Lane Hall. While it is near Shanks, they feel detached from the department. It is not an ideal solution.</p>
<p>Grant writing</p> <p>Continue to develop a culture of grant-writing in the department.</p>	<p>Karen Roberto of ISCE presented an overview of ISCE and an invitation to apply for grants at a department meeting. At least five individuals applied. Two faculty members have funded projects (Belanger, Evia).</p> <p>Results of research partially funded by the Center for the Study of Rhetoric in Society have been presented by the researchers.</p> <p>At least five faculty are actively engaged in seeking external funding (Belanger, Dannenberg, Evia, Hausman, Sullivan).</p>
<p>ISCE and English</p> <p>Develop research collaborations with ISCE that tap English Department expertise in the rhetoric of health and aging discourse.</p>	<p>A group of faculty presented on the topic at the Deans' Forum on Health and Nutrition. They applied for an ISCE grant but were not funded. Bernice Hausman will work in the fall of 2008 with Kelly Belanger to build this possibility. Currently, both Belanger and Evia are funded by ISCE.</p>
<p>CATH</p> <p>Revise the mission statement of the Center for Applied Technology in the Humanities (CATH) to reflect the changing role of digital humanities centers in research. Link the Center's efforts to Newman Library's archives and to those of other digital humanities centers worldwide.</p>	<p>CATH is the Center for Applied Technologies in the Humanities. The Thomas Gravell Watermark Archive is now hosted by the Newman Library. The project to publish a TEI edition of the Civil War Letters of Joseph Burrage is being done in collaboration with Special Collections at Newman Library. With the Digital Library Archive at Newman Library, CATH sponsored a visit by Dot Porter of the Collaboratory for Research in Computing for the Humanities at the University of Kentucky. The new mission statement needs to be written, but CATH is using progressive methods for digital humanities.</p>
<p>Shadow for the scheduler</p> <p>Cheryl Ruggiero holds in her head a great deal of critical knowledge about scheduling, including university procedures</p>	<p>This goal continues because we have not been able to provide anyone with the time to learn the job. Tammy Shepherd has learned some procedures, but without practicing them regularly does not "learn" them.</p>

and technology. This job is a critical one for cross-training.	We need to shift focus to having Cheryl develop a detailed user manual for her various tasks.
<p>Technology administration</p> <p>... We would like to be able to count on Eve Trager on a more permanent basis than her annual appointment allows.</p>	The arrangement of Eve Trager as systems administrator supervising a GTA continues to work well except that she steals time from her library appointment to get her work done for English. We continue to seek a position for her that is more stable than an annual appointment.
<p>Department climate</p> <p>Now that the PhD in Rhetoric and Writing has been launched and the MFA is fully enrolled, pay attention to the impact of these programs on department climate; continue to build a culture of integration and communication across areas of specialization.</p>	In an annual review of the chair and department goals, faculty reiterated the need for cohesiveness among various programs and a greater focus on research. These goals will be priorities in the coming year.
<p>Alumni relations, development</p> <p>Continue to create opportunities to reach out to our alumni and to build our endowment.</p>	<p>We tried to host an Alumni College in fall 2007, but with April 16 time commitments did not have time to do the work effectively and canceled the plans.</p> <p>One endowment agreement was reached.</p>
<p>Department image</p> <p>... communicate a strong, positive image of the English Department to counter the negative effects of right-wing bloggers who have unfairly blamed us for “teaching Cho to hate.”</p>	<p>Complaints from the extreme right wing continue to surface but do not get legs.</p> <p>We completed a total redesign of our website to help create a positive impression of the good work done in the department and have crafted our public messages to showcase our strengths.</p>

Departmental Goals for 08-09

Undergraduate Education

- *Implement the assessment plan.* Beginning in Summer 08, we will begin to implement the assessment plan developed through our ePortfolio project. We will focus first on students' abilities to compose thoughtful reflections about their academic work—a centerpiece of ePortfolio pedagogies.
- *Host a Career/Leadership Weekend.* In Fall 2008, the department will host an innovative Career/Leadership weekend for Liberal Arts majors, who are typically under-served by Career Fairs emphasizing science and technology. Our goal will be to make this an annual event and to find ways to sustain it beyond the initial \$3,000 grant from CEUT.
- *Facilitate greater contact with recent alums.* In the coming year the undergraduate program will seek to facilitate greater contact with recent alums who could create a network of support for our emerging graduates. One means is creating and maintaining graduating class listservs.
- *Sustain initiatives.* The program will work hard to sustain its variety of ambitious initiatives—ePortfolios and assessment, undergraduate research, transformative career education, and student leadership development.
- *Explore the feasibility of a vertical composition program.* There are pedagogical reasons to offer one writing course in the freshman year and a second around the junior year, and our instructional staff, including instructors and GTAs, would make the plan possible. But we need to consider stakeholders within and beyond the department, including Admissions.
- *Explore possibilities for sponsoring the Southwest Virginia Writing Project at Virginia Tech.* The Writing Project connects the university with K-12 teachers.

Graduate Education

- *Restore PhD GTA funding.* The program proposal included a minimum of 12 PhD 2010 GTA positions.
- *Continue to try to recruit a diverse student body.* Participate in efforts to develop relationships with HBCUs; recruit one-on-one.
- *Continue to explore the best ways of administering multiple graduate programs.* How does the Graduate Committee relate to MFA and RW faculty groups, for example? What keeps the programs connected and minimizes redundancy in administration?

Research

- *Enhance department conversations about research.* Restore colloquies, encourage research collaborations, encourage study groups, offer workshops as appropriate.

Outreach

- *Expand internships at Blacksburg High School.* Continue the tutoring/mentoring internships in the Academic Skills Lab; explore an expansion into classroom and writing center support.

International Affairs and Diversity

- *Organize Study Abroad for summer 2009; plan for the following years.*
- *Organize and participate in diversity-related panels.*
- *Encourage participation at the Diversity Summit.*

Administration

- *Implement a content management system (CMS) for the complex website.* The CMS will enable multiple people to update sections of the website and help the webmaster manage her various responsibilities as well as keep the information up to date.
- *Revise the department's governance document.* Clarify procedures, streamline committee responsibilities.
- *Stabilize funding for instructors on regular contracts.* See "Issues."

Department Climate and Priorities

- Promote cohesiveness among various programs and a greater focus on research.

Appendix A: PhD recruitment and student success

- Recruitment in 2007 for the PhD was remarkably successful for a first-year program. Seven of our top nine candidates (of 27 applicants) accepted offers, turning down offers from better established programs in rhetoric and writing.

Grete Scott turned down a fellowship at Syracuse

Ashley Patriarca turned down a fellowship at North Carolina State

Jennifer Cover turned down a fellowship at Iowa State

Brian Gogan turned down a fellowship at Texas Christian University. He also turned down assistantships at Purdue, Syracuse, Arizona State, Marquette, and Miami of Ohio

Amy Reed turned down an assistantship at Louisville with a \$20,000 stipend

- Recruitment for 2008-09 was also successful in spite of the fact that no PhD 2010 GTA positions were available to this program. We reviewed 34 applicants. Two of our top five external candidates joined the program, offering excellent credentials including a GRE verbal score average of 745 (of 800) and GRE writing score of 5.5 (of 6).
- Six of the seven students who enrolled in 2007 came from other universities and other states.

PhD Graduate Student Research, Teaching, and Service

Our seven currently enrolled full-time PhD students have excelled as scholars, teachers, and university citizens in their first year of doctoral study.

These seven students had 12 papers accepted for national conferences this year, including premier venues such as the annual conventions of the Conference on College Composition and Communication and the Rhetoric Society of America and the biennial Thomas R. Watson Conference at the University of Louisville. In addition, these students also had nine papers accepted for regional graduate student conferences at James Madison, UNC Greensboro, and UNC Wilmington. This is a remarkable achievement for a group in its first year of doctoral study.

Similarly, the students who held teaching positions this year were also highly successful, averaging an overall SPOI score of 3.7 for the labor-intensive First-Year Composition courses they taught in Fall 2007. Given that they are new to the university, the curriculum, and our student body at VT, this level of performance in their very first semesters here is especially noteworthy.

Finally, our 7 full-time students have worked hard this year to serve their colleagues and peers. At the university-level, they have served as the Co-Chair of the Graduate Life Center Lecture Series, the Coordinator of the Graduate Student Society in the GLC, a Graduate Student Association Representative, and an unpaid volunteer tutor in the Writing Center. At the department-level, they have served or have been elected to serve next year on the Graduate Committee, Professional Writing Committee, and Composition Committee. And at the GTA program-level, they have served as mentors for first-year students in the MA and MFA programs.

Appendix B: Faculty, Staff, and Student Awards and Recognition 2007-08

National or International Awards and Recognition

Winner, Award, Source	Background on the Award
Kelly Belanger (with April Heaney) TIAA-CREF Hesberg Award	The award recognized an outstanding faculty development program for working with at-risk students.
Edward Falco 2008 NEA Literature Fellowship in Prose National Endowment for the Arts www.nea.gov/about/Facts/Litfellows.html	The 2008 Literature Fellowships encourage the production of new work by affording these writers the time and means to write. Each literature fellow receives a \$25,000 award. Ed Falco will write fiction.
Nikki Giovanni 2007 Carl Sandburg Literary Award Chicago Public Library www.chicagopubliclibraryfoundation.org/news/index.asp?objectID=61	The Carl Sandburg Literary Award pays tribute to a writer whose work has helped enhance the public's awareness of the written word and reflects the Library's commitment to the freedom of all people to read, to learn and to discover. Previous honorees include David Mamet, John Updike, David McCullough, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Kurt Vonnegut, Robert Caro and Joyce Carol Oates.
Nikki Giovanni 2008 Image Award, Outstanding Literary Work—Poetry NAACP www.naacpimageawards.net/	The Image Awards recognize outstanding work in the categories of television, recordings, literature, and motion pictures. They have been given since 1969. Nikki Giovanni won for her collection of poetry, <i>Acolytes</i> . Other winners this year included Denzel Washington, Tyler Perry, Alicia Keys, and Janet Jackson.
Dan Mosser Leverhulme Visiting Professor U. of York (UK) Fall 2007, Fall 2008 www.leverhulme.ac.uk/grants_awards/grants/visiting_professorships/	Leverhulme Visiting Professorships are granted by the Leverhulme Trust on a highly competitive basis to “host an internationally distinguished academic from overseas in order to enhance the research skills and work of the host institution.” The host institution nominates and invites the professor.
Steven Salaita Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights, University of Arkansas www.myerscenter.org/	The Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award recognizes the best books on human rights. Myers was an early 20th Century historian who pioneered the study of race in North America. In 1943, he published <i>History of Bigotry in the United States</i> . Salaita won the award for his 2006 book, <i>Anti-Arab Racism in the USA</i> .
Steven Salaita Finalist, Hiett Prize in the Humanities The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture www.dallasinstitute.org/Programs/Spring%202008/Hiett2008frames.htm	The Hiett Prize in the Humanities is an annual award presented to a person who has not yet reached his or her full potential, but whose work in the humanities shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public or applied component related to cultural concerns. Steven Salaita was one of three finalists for the \$50,000 award in 2008.

College and University Awards

Winner, Award, Source	Background on the Award
Elisabeth Bloomer Sporn Award	Recognizes excellence in the teaching of introductory subjects. Nominated and selected by students. Recipients are inducted into the Academy of Teaching Excellence.
Sheila Carter-Tod Certificate of Teaching Excellence, CLAHS	Six awards given within the College to recognize outstanding teachers.
Ed Falco Sturm Award Phi Beta Kappa	Honors excellence in creative scholarship. Ed Falco won for <i>Sabbath Night In the Church of the Piranha: New and Selected Stories</i> .
Paul Heilker Excellence in Graduate Advising, CLAHS	Recognizes faculty members outstanding in the advising of graduate students.
Nancy Metz Excellence in Administration CLAHS	Recognizes outstanding accomplishments and contributions in an administrative role and/or in administrative responsibilities.
Cathy Skinner Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, CLAHS	Recognizes faculty members outstanding in the advising of undergraduates.
J. D. Stahl William E. Wine Award University	Recognizes a history of university teaching excellence. Recipients are inducted into the Academy of Teaching Excellence.
Ed Weathers Certificate of Teaching Excellence, CLAHS	Six awards given within the College to recognize outstanding teachers.
Tamera Shepherd Administrative Excellence	Received the Administrative Excellence Certificate in Human Resources in Fall, 2007

Department Awards

Jennifer Mooney Joyce Gentry Smoot Outstanding Instructor Award	Outstanding teaching by an instructor
Carlos Evia Diversity Award	Honors contributions to diversity within the department

Student Awards and Recognition

Sara Crickenberger Women in Leadership Award Women and Leadership in Philanthropy Council	Sara is the first graduate student winner of this award.	
Emily Davis ETD award for a Master's Thesis Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, a consortium of 221 universities www.csgs.org/awards/index.html	The ETD Master's Thesis Award winners are selected based on the basis of clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, contributions to the field or discipline, and the innovative use of technology in the presentation of the content of the thesis. Emily Davis won the award for her thesis, <i>John Cleland's The Dictionary of Love: An XML Edition</i> .	
Lamar Wilson Emily Morrison Prize for Poetry	This prize, in memory of Emily Morrison, honors the best poetry by an MFA student.	
Lamar Wilson Cave Canem Fellow www.cavecanempoets.org/pages/about.php	This fellowship for younger African-American poets enables participation in a summer workshop/retreat and mentoring by top African-American poets writing in the US today.	
Phi Beta Kappa Invitations Katherine Brumbaugh Christopher Carroll Kathleen Cooperstein Lauren Jones Emily Kirby Sarah Elizabeth Marble	Beth Ashley McHose Emily Mook Harriet Plourde-Rogers Kristin Marie Preve Therese Sell Amber Smith	Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest undergraduate honor society in the country. Emerson's famous "American Scholar" essay was an address to Phi Beta Kappa.

Faculty Research Grants: CLAHS, ISCE, Humanities Summer Stipends

Kelly Belanger, \$10,000	ISCE; documentary on Title IX
Carlos Evia, \$20,000	ISCE; Principal Investigator, with Tonya Smith-Jackson and Ivica Ico Bukvic. "Synergistic Approach to Applying Rhetoric, Creative Writing, and Music for Teaching Science and Mathematics Concepts to Young Children."
Clare Dannenberg, \$8,000	CLAHS: children's understanding of gendered language
Peter Graham, \$3,000	CLAHS: travel to Scotland to examine manuscripts for a biography of Darwin
Charlene Eska	Humanities Summer Stipend (research on medieval manuscripts in the United Kingdom)
Sue Saffle	Humanities Summer Stipend (book, <i>Children and War</i>)

Appendix C: International Activities Fall 2007 through Summer 2008

Name	City, country	Research project, exchange program, study abroad, collaboration with international colleagues
------	---------------	---

Research, teaching, faculty development

Dan Mosser	York, England	Leverhulme Visiting Professor, York University; collaboration with Linne Mooney on Chaucer manuscripts; fall 2007, fall 2008
Peter Graham	Messolonghi, Greece	Director of International Relations, Byron Research Center. I write and edit English materials for the Center's activities and website (hosted on our department's server), assist in planning conferences, symposia, and other events, work with development and online cataloguing of the Center's growing library.
Peter Graham	Messolonghi, Greece	Academic Chair, International Student Byron Conference. Chaired the committee selecting proposals for presentation and advised prospective participants about their proposals. 23 presenters, from the US, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Lebanon.
Charlene Eska	London, England Dublin, Ireland	Research trip to study medieval Irish legal manuscripts, summer 2008
Carolyn Rude	Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia	ACC Faculty Development Summer 2008 to study social problems in emerging democracies
Sue Saffle	Beijing, China	Taught "Children's Literature Around the World" with an emphasis on classic Asian folk and fairy tales through CET/Wake Forest-SASASAAS Academic Programs at Capital Normal University. Fall 2007
Sue Saffle	Beijing, China Fotan, Hong Kong	Volunteered at a school for the children of migrant workers. And, since early January of 2008, worked as a volunteer with children in Fotan, Hong Kong, to help strengthen their spoken and written English.

Student international experiences

33 students	London, England	Faculty-led study abroad for 33 students; summer 2008; courses in literature and architecture; led and organized by Fred D'Aguiar, Robin Allnut, Jane Wemhoener
Margaret Clifford Laura Hartmann Jeff Spicer	Messolonghi, Greece, Internat'l Student Byron Conference	Margaret Clifford: VT Diversity Grant, \$1,000 All students were mentored by Professor Peter Graham
Students in ENGL 3804 (User Documentation)	Bangalore, India	Collaborated with The Writers Block, a technical writing school in Bangalore, to teach a common assignment involving students from VT and India. The purpose of the project was to identify strengths and weaknesses in outsourced documentation

		projects, and improve existing syllabi in both countries, fall 2007; taught by Professor Carlos Evia
Kathleen Cooperstein	United Kingdom	Conduct interviews, visit ancient ruins, and search the archives of Druid schools to uncover the Celtic roots of Appalachian spiritual culture
Nathaniel Don Norman	Kuwait	Teaching composition, summer 2008, at the American University of Kuwait.

International footprints in Blacksburg

Jane Wemhoener	Richmond, VA	As Executive Director of the Virginia Council for International Education , is convening Chief International Officers from selected Virginia colleges and universities to discuss common international education initiatives and their advocacy to government: April 2008
Jane Wemhoener	Blacksburg, VA	As Coordinator of VT's China Studies Task Force , authored Proposal for China Studies at VT with faculty team from all seven colleges; will present work to provost at East Asia Group faculty meeting in March 2008
J. D. Stahl		Elected member, International Committee of the Children's Literature Association, 2005-2008. The International Committee selects panel topics on international themes for the annual conference of the ChLA and awards a scholarship for travel to the conference to a scholar from a featured country each year. The committee currently includes members from Canada, the U.K., and Japan.
Victoria LeCorre	Blacksburg, VA	Writing Center support for internationals: animate conversation hours; polish essays, theses, and dissertations, which involves teaching grammar and style; provide pronunciation lessons; teach oral presentation. 2007-08
Suzanne Reisinger		Host family , International Center
Susan A. Hagedorn		Editor, <i>Journal of Environmental Detection</i> , international authors; this peer reviewed journal examines the rhetoric of presentation of science to the public

Publications and presentations

Kelly Belanger and Diana George	Aalborg, Denmark	Presentations at the international Rhetoric in Society conference, on the rhetoric and the US movement for women in sport and on the role of small circulation papers in public discourse on social issues.
Joseph Eska	Geneva, Switzerland	Publication: On basic configuration and movement within the Gaulish clause. In <i>Gaulois et celtique continental</i> , éd. Pierre-Yves Lambert & Georges-Jean Pinault, 215–229. Gene*ve: Droz, 2007.

Joseph Eska	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Publication: Bergin's Rule. Syntactic diachrony and discourse strategy. <i>Diachronica</i> 24, 2007, 253-278.
Joseph Eska	Munich, Germany	Publication: On the prehistory of OIr. <i>do-</i> , MW <i>dy-</i> , etc. <i>International journal of diachronic linguistics and linguistic reconstruction</i> 4, 2007, 185-206.
James Dubinsky	Singapore	American Business Communication Association Conference Spring 2008
Thomas Gardner	Edinburgh, Scotland	Conference presentation: "Stanley Cavell and Literary Criticism," May 2008
Thomas Gardner	Helsinki, Finland	Conference presentation: "Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on American Studies," May 2008
Peter Graham	Vancouver, Canada	"Harriet Smith Is Smarter than You Think," Jane Austen Society of North America, (October 2007).
Susan A. Hagedorn	Alexandria, Egypt	Workshop on writing for scientific/engineering English language journals 2008
Susan A. Hagedorn	Nanjing, China	Workshop on writing for scientific/engineering English language journals and editing for the Center for Disease Control, May 2008.
Christine Kiebuszinska	Vienna, Austria	Conference presentation: "Crashing Against Walls: Elfriede Jelinek's Princess Plays" at the International KCTOS (Knowledge, Creativity and Transformation of Societies) Congress 6-9 December, 2007.
Shoshana Milgram Knapp	Paris, France	Lecture on Ayn Rand and Richard Wright at Richard Wright Centennial Conference, summer 2008
Nancy Metz	London, England	2008, "Dickens and the American Logocracy," 13 th Annual International Dickens Symposium
Sue Saffle	Reading, England	Published <i>Toward a Collection of Finnish War-Child Stories: The Reminiscences of Seppo Malkki</i> , which appeared in January 2008, "Children in War," Vol 1, No. 5. (a Reading University journal).
Sue Saffle	DSM Publishers, England	Book chapter, <i>A Happier War Child Story: One Finnish War Child's Exceptional Memories and Circumstances</i> , which will appear sometime this spring in the anthology, <i>War. The Battle for Childhood</i> . This anthology will represent a truly international effort as its authors live in over a dozen different countries and are writing from several national and cultural perspectives. Forthcoming spring 2008

+ numerous research projects