

Leading the Way

CLAHS AMBASSADORS

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Ambassador Program was established in 1993 to provide students with an opportunity to interact professionally with the administration, faculty, and staff of the College, and serve as representatives of the College at special events. Each year, through a competitive selection process, students apply and interview for Ambassador positions. Ambassadors serve the College by volunteering two hours each week in a College or department office or with individual faculty members and work several events each semester ranging from admission open houses to alumni advisory board meetings. In total, each year CLAHS College Ambassadors donate approximately 1,400 hours of their time to serve the College.

These are just a few of our many accomplishments this year:



University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni and President Charles W. Steger recognized **Juanisha Brooks**, and her poem "Future Flight" as the winner in the competition for the Steger Award for undergraduate poetry. Brooks is a junior majoring in Communication and Psychology from Portsmouth, Virginia.



Gregory J. Sagstetter, Philosophy and Political Science major, was selected as Virginia Tech's 2007 Undergraduate Man of the Year. He has also served as the undergraduate representative on the Board of Visitors.



Crystal Lacey, Interdisciplinary Studies major, was awarded a grant from the Undergraduate Research Institute to support her research comparing organic and conventional dairy farms.



Daniel Dresch, History major, was one of four representatives in the 2007 ACC Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Virginia.



Former CLAHS Ambassador, **Amanda Davis**, an International Studies and Human Development double major, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Mexico at The Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM).



Tim Leaton, Communication major, has won a nationwide film contest, an internship with the Walt Disney Co., and received an invitation to the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. The contest, called **Film Your Issue** is a national initiative encouraging young Americans to engage in social issues and add their voices to the public dialogue. The film, "Orphans in

Africa," was selected as one of five winners from more than 300 entries. The public cast its votes online at MSNBC.com, which drew 88,638 responses. The FYI/Film Your Issue VIP panel included George Clooney, Walter Cronkite, the Dalai Lama, and Brian Williams, among others.



Melissa Trotman, Communication and English major, nominated her parents as "Parents of the Year." Her parents were selected and were recognized on Family Day (pictured here with Dr. Steger). Melissa is also

President of the Student Alumni Associates and Rho Lambda Panhellenic Leadership Honorary.



Matt Neely, History and Political Science major, served in Iraq but returned to VT and the Ambassador program in January 2007. He is with Battery H, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division. In Iraq, he was assigned to convoy protection duty and was based at Camp Fallujah.



Jeff Willemann, Political Science major, helped the CLAHS Dean's Office coordinate a program for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth so that middle school students and their parents could visit Virginia Tech and attend various seminars related to their career interests.

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Many CLAHS Ambassadors were honored as scholarship recipients at the first annual **Faculty and Student Award Reception** in April. It was also the first chance for newly selected Ambassadors to meet various faculty as well as the current Ambassadors. Bridget Devlin represented the Ambassadors as she said a heartfelt goodbye to Dean Niles, who will be retiring in June.



Athena Tang, Political Science major, recently had an article published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch entitled, "Do Your Best To Meet Challenges." Athena wrote advice to the VT class of 2011. "Do not let adversity — academic, athletic, or personal — define you. Define yourselves through how you respond to the challenges life presents." She also recommended communicating with professors and advisors, getting involved in the community, joining organizations of interest, or being involved in sports.



Nicole Slaydon, Communication major, recently participated in an internship and helped host a roundtable discussion with President Bush in Raleigh, N.C. to discuss alternative fuel activities.



Many Ambassadors like **Casey Bretz**, Sociology and Political Science major, gain valuable work experience as they participate in internship opportunities.



Among various other events in CLAHS, Ambassadors work the College Homecoming each year where they meet and greet CLAHS Alumni and their families. The alums enjoy meeting these students and sharing their experiences at VT while hearing a current students' perspective of what it's like to be a Hokie today!



Ambassadors frequently study abroad and return to Virginia Tech to share their photos and experiences at CLAHS *Global Futures* events.



Bridget Devlin, History major, and **Bassil Zahr**, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management major, are always willing to answer questions for other students who may be considering going abroad for a semester. Bridget Devlin also worked as a peer counselor in the VT Education Abroad office.



Former CLAHS Ambassador, **Michael Grogan** returned to VT to discuss his first year of law school at UVA and offer insight to VT students considering applying to law schools.



Peter Slonina, History major, won the History Department's undergraduate achievement award and participated in the 2007 VT Undergraduate Research Conference.



The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences would like to thank all of our Ambassadors for many hours of service and dedication to the College. We are proud of their many accomplishments!



WE ARE THE HOKIES. WE WILL PREVAIL.

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2007 Graduating Ambassadors

Ambassadors graduating in May 2007 were honored at a luncheon on May 9th in Wallace Hall. Each student discussed their future plans:

Casey Bretz, Sociology major, will be working as a statistician for the U.S. Census Bureau in Northern Virginia.

Katie Czajka, Communication major, was offered a position with Teach for America, but has deferred that opportunity and will temporarily remain in Blacksburg and work with the CLAHS Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office during summer orientation.

Betsy Dail, Communication and History major, will return home to Northern Virginia and continue her job search. Her prospects include National Geographic and the CIA, but she has not finalized any plans at this time.

Bridget Devlin, History major, is off to Louisiana with the Teach for America program.

Daniel Dresch, History major, has been accepted to law school at Miami and Baylor but is still waiting to hear all his options before making a decision. He will be working for Hart & Assoc. law firm in Richmond this summer.

Ashley Hess, Communication and Spanish major, will be living in Blacksburg and working for Luna Innovations Incorporated as a Communications Specialist.

Laura Hollowell, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management (Residential Property Management) major is leaving Blacksburg to pursue a career with Aspen Square Management based out of West Springfield, Massachusetts. She'll relocate to Atlanta and will be a traveling manager for this group.

Tim Leaton, Communication and Business Management Dual Degrees, tells us he will probably take a job at Disney's Movie Studios in L.A. where he completed an internship last summer as the grand prize of a nationwide film contest.

Kim McKay, History and Political Science major, will be attending VT's Center for Public Policy and Administration and working on a Master's in Public Administration.

Lisa McKittrick, English major, decided to graduate early so she could begin grad school. Hopes to go to ODU in the Early Childhood Education program.

Casey McLaughlin, English major, will be working as a paralegal at Winston & Strawn LLP in Washington D.C. for one year before going to law school.

Matt Neely, History and Political Science major, will be going to the University of Pittsburgh law school.

Christina Pena, Communication major, is moving to New York to pursue a job in the non-profit sector.

Erica Quigley, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management major, will remain in Blacksburg temporarily before going to Pennsylvania to open a new clothing chain store.

Gregory Sagstetter, Philosophy and Political Science major, plans to take some time off and possibly apply to law school later.

Maura Sinnenberg, English and Theatre Arts major, has an audition in June for Circle in the Square Theatre School in NY for their musical theatre program. She is currently performing in two shows and doing some commercials.

Nicole Slaydon, Communication major, will be working as a Marketing Coordinator at Novozymes Biologicals in Salem, Virginia.

Peter Slonina, History major, will be taking a year off to work before going to graduate school.

Athena Tang, Political Science major, has the option of going to work on Capitol Hill or accepting one of her law school offers.

Rachel Teitelbaum, Communication major, plans are still pending. Based on Rachel's internship experience with SELF and Cosmopolitan magazines, she has been selected to interview with People magazine (she reported for them during the shootings at VT) and has an interview with O, The Oprah Magazine.

Ashley Terban, Political Science and Sociology major, plans to attend graduate school for Political Management and is working on a Presidential campaign.

Dory Tucker, Human Development major, has been accepted into UVA's Curry School of Education for the PG/MT program in Elementary Education.

Ashley Welsford, Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management major, plans to work for Avalon Bay Communities as Assistant Property Manager in L.A.

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Meet the 2007-08 Ambassadors:

Welcoming our new Ambassadors to the program:

- Ashley Abbruzzese—Communication
- Sofiat Abdulrazaaq—Political Science and Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management
- Mary Boyle—Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management
- Erin Braganza—International Studies, French
- Juanisha Brooks—Communication
- Lindsey Bryan—Communication
- Sabrina Capen—Political Science, Philosophy
- Ashley Ferguson—English
- Arlane Gordon-Bray—International Studies
- Amy Graham—Human Development
- Dylan Greenwood—Political Science
- Elana Hassett—Sociology
- Lindsey Jarrett—Interdisciplinary Studies
- Kyle Johnson—History
- Kerry Kaleba—Theatre Arts, English
- MinKyung Kim—Political Science
- Stephanie Lang—Human Development
- Heather Meekins—Communication
- Christopher Midgley—Political Science, History
- Whitney Moore—Theatre Arts
- Sara Musick—English
- Nahed "Nikki" Najmyar—Political Science
- Jennifer Noble—History
- Rachelle Petrine—Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management
- Andre Sparks—Interdisciplinary Studies
- Sara Taylor—Political Science, Spanish
- Bassil Zahr—Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management



In Remembrance

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of

Daniel Perez Cueva

Daniel had been selected to serve as a CLAHS Ambassador for 2007-08.

Continuing with the Ambassador Program for 2007-08:

- Cory Casey—International Studies, French
- Rachel Crump—Human Development
- Amanda Davis—Political Science
- Anna DeSouza—History, Political Science
- Caroline Epley—Communication, Political Science
- Crystal Lacey — Interdisciplinary Studies
- Michelle Masters—Interdisciplinary Studies
- Michael Perdue—Political Science
- Melissa Trotman—Communication, English
- Stephen Waldron—History
- Jeff Willemann—Political Science



To show support for the Virginia Tech Community after the events of April 16th, the CLAHS Ambassadors made and distributed posters around campus that said "We are all in this together." They also made orange and maroon ribbons for anyone who wanted to wear them in remembrance of the victims. The Ambassadors shared pins with the College and kept a supply of these ribbons at a table in the lobby of Wallace Hall near the CLAHS Dean's Office.