

Virginia Network NEWS

FALL 2001

The Newsletter of the Virginia Network of the American Council on Education

Pat Hyer Takes Leadership Role

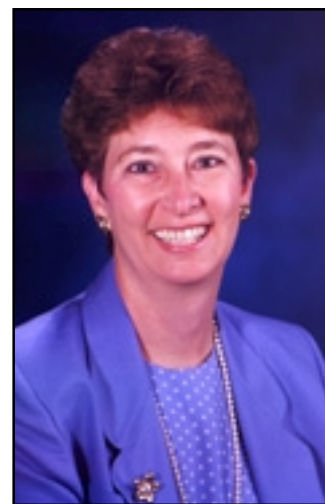
Associate Provost for Academic Administration at Virginia Tech Pat Hyer is now the state coordinator for the Virginia Network of the American Council on Education. Hyer, who has been a member of the Virginia Network for 12 years, takes over from the leadership team of Shirley Glover, associate dean and director of continuing education at Old Dominion University, and Patsy Joyner, director of Institutional Advancement at Paul D. Camp Community College. Hyer is an alumna of the 1990-91 Senior Seminar, and has been on the Board of the Virginia Network for three years.

Hyer has had a distinguished career in higher education. She joined the staff of the Provost's Office

CONTENTS

Pat Hyer Takes Leadership Role	1
Update on ACE/Office of Women in Higher Education	2
Nominate Campus Women Leaders For the 2002-2003 Senior Seminar	2
Book Report	3
First Female President Promises "New Dominions" for Old Dominion University	4
IR Corner	5
Women as Catalysts For Change Is Theme for 2002 Annual Conference	6
Senior Seminar Alumnae Reunion Planned	6
Virginia Network on the Web	6

in 1987. Prior to that she served as assistant to the Vice President for Policy and Planning at the University of Maryland Central Administration and in a variety of administrative roles in continuing education at Old Dominion University and Virginia Tech. She received her bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Hillsdale College in Michigan;



two master's degrees, one in French and one in adult and continuing education, from the University of Michigan; and her Ph.D. in educational policy studies from Virginia Tech. Her current role in the Provost's Office is focused on faculty personnel issues, policy and governance, diversity efforts, and new faculty orientation.

Hyer has long been involved in women's issues at Old Dominion University and at Virginia Tech. She helped establish women's centers on both campuses, developing policies on family leave and sexual harassment, coordinating a program of professional development for women administrators, and recruiting women and minority faculty. She teaches a graduate course in higher education in the United States and works with a variety of students pursuing research on campus climate and related issues. In 1995, Hyer was named the first recipient of Virginia Tech's Woman of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding service to women faculty, staff, and students at the university.

Update on ACE Office of Women in Higher Education

By Theresa Gonzalez

James Madison University

Claire Van Ummersen became vice president and director of the American Council on Education (ACE) Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE) in June 2001. She was most recently president of Cleveland State University.

In a recent retreat with the Network Executive Board, Van Ummersen shared her vision for the Office of Women that includes a commitment to developing and supporting a national system of healthy state networks to assure that all women in higher education have access to the benefits of the network. She believes that OWHE should continue to focus on the core mission of advancement of women leaders through the Network, OWHE Leadership Forums, the ACE Commission on Women, and the women presidents' summit. Programs should have an impact on the full cycle of women's professional lives, Van Ummersen said, and OWHE must work to influence young women to aspire to leadership positions in higher education by helping them to see that they can do more for students, faculty, and the curriculum from leadership positions.

In 2002-2003, the Network (formerly the ACE National Identification Program) will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. The celebration will be launched at the ACE annual meeting in February 2002. Chairs of state network boards will receive an ACE report on advancing women's leadership and will participate in a workshop using specially designed workbook. In the year following the annual meeting, states are urged to participate in the anniversary celebration by using the report as a theme for their programs and conferences. As part of the year's activities, Van Ummerson suggested that we reflect on what has been accomplished in the past 25 years and what that tells us about our focus in the next 25 years.

Nominate Campus Women Leaders for the 2002-2003 Senior Seminar

By Rebecca Locke Leonard

University of Virginia

The Executive Committee of the Virginia Network for Women Leaders requests your assistance in identifying potential participants for the 2002-03 Seminar Series for Senior Women Administrators.

Initiated in 1987, the senior seminar program provides a forum to bring together emerging women leaders with established leaders in higher education in the commonwealth. The seminar is conducted in three parts—in October, January, and June—and the sessions focus on personal development, professional development, and trends in higher education. During each meeting, speakers and guests join the group to discuss critical issues facing higher education from a variety of perspectives.

The unique feature of the senior seminar series is the mix of administrators from both the public and private sectors, from two-year and four-year institutions, and from a wide variety of functional roles. This mix brings together knowledge and experiences, which greatly enhance discussions and group interaction. Participants have found professional colleagues with whom they can discuss problems, share perspectives, and gain support and assistance in professional growth and mobility. As a result of the strong bonds among members of previous classes, the seminar series has active alumnae who continue to work to enhance the advancement of women in higher education throughout Virginia.

Each session is held in Richmond and begins midafternoon on Thursday and concludes midafternoon on Friday. The fee for participation in all three seminars is \$425, which includes dinner and lunch meals, but not lodging or transportation.

We invite you to nominate several women from your campus to be considered for participation in the 2002-

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

03 series. Please contact your nominees in advance to confirm that they are interested in being nominated and participating in the seminar. If you have not previously participated in the senior seminar, feel free to nominate yourself. Participants will be selected based on a record of demonstrated leadership on their own campuses and potential to contribute significantly to higher education across Virginia. We are committed to increasing the representation and involvement of women of color in higher education administration and especially welcome their nominations.

To make nominations, complete and return the attached form to Rebecca Leonard, Monroe Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903, by **January 10, 2001**. Your support, encouragement, and recognition of emerging women leaders on your campus will be vital to our program's goal to further equal opportunity for women in the administration of our nation's colleges and universities.

Book Report**By Connie Gores**

Randolph Macon Women's College

I can't remember why I picked up the book, *The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love*, initially (I think the book cover caught my eye), but I can tell you why I bought the sequel, *God Save the Sweet Potato Queens*. It's because I thought if the second one was even remotely close to being as funny as the first one, I knew I couldn't go wrong. And, funny it is, or should I say, they both are!

Living in Jackson, Mississippi, the Sweet Potato Queens are a group of women who first made their appearance in the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade in the 1980s and have been there every year since. Declared queens strictly by their own decree, these women are queens for life, not merely for a year. They have big hair and wide girth, dresses of bright green sequins, and majorette boots (because "not one ever got a pair of Real Live Majorette Boots, and not one had ever gotten over the bitter disappointment").

Although not for the faint of heart—some language might be offensive—these books will keep you in stitches. Providing the perfect antidote to our frenzied lives as administrators, solving problems and putting out fires (at the office and at home), these books will help you escape into a world you could only dream about. Irreverent and outrageous, they are an easy read. Whether it's the wry wit or the caustic humor, the books will keep you turning the pages, if only in disbelief and amazement. Prepare to laugh out loud, and often.

Move over, Ya-Yas, here come the Sweet Potato Queens!

Editor's Note: We would like to include more book reviews in the newsletter. They can be books you found useful for professional development, or a book you found entertaining or profound. Please send reviews to hackerma@gmu.edu.

First Female President Promises "New Dominions" for Old Dominion University**By Shirley Glover**

Old Dominion University

Since her arrival on campus in July, President Rosann Runte has been "asking and listening" to identify common goals and set the direction of the institution. Her use of focus groups and personal meetings with students, faculty, administrators, and staff to target strengths, areas for improvement, and new initiatives for the institution exemplify her inclusive style of leadership. Throughout this process, public recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of others has already given a boost to campus morale. This style of honoring others was most evident as Runte shared her October 11 inauguration day with four recipients of honorary doctoral degrees.

Runte's inaugural address stressed the importance of quality programs, resources for research and academic programs, and scholarships for students. In keeping with the inaugural theme of "Portal to New

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Worlds," Runte cited the need to have globalism "deeply imbedded in our curriculum" and to "step into a new generation of distance learning...which will explore new methods of application."

She spoke about the need for focus. "Our focus is on people and projects. Our focus is on pride and perseverance, on planning and perspective, and on that quintessential element, quality." She also shared her humorous side by responding to the concern that she might miss the snow and cold weather of Canada by saying, "I will get along just fine. The only inconvenience is that in an icy, freezing cold climate, it is slightly easier to walk on water."

Throughout her address Runte quoted many famous authors, but perhaps the best quote referred to her own background as a poet. "If anyone thinks that being led by a poet means that will and power will be submissive or weak, then he has forgotten Elizabeth Sargent's definition of verse: 'Poetry is a way of taking life by the throat.'"

A variety of administrative experiences, community involvement, and scholarship position Runte in a strong leadership role not only at Old Dominion University but also in Virginia. She is an associate to the Council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, a board member of the National Bank of Canada, and a member of the executive committee of the Club of Rome. Before becoming Old Dominion University's seventh president, Runte served as president of Victoria University in Toronto, principal of Glendon College (York University), president of l'Universite' Sante-Anne in Nova Scotia, and assistant dean of arts and science at Dalhousie University. Her community involvement includes presidency of the Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for two terms and presidency of the Humanities Federation of Canada.

Runte earned a Ph.D. in French from the University of Kansas and has received honorary degrees from Acadia University, Memorial University, and the universities of Timisoara and Arad in Romania. She received the Prix Francois Coppee from the Academie Francaise as well as the Palmes Academiques and the

Order of Merit from the French government. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences. Author of five volumes of creative writing, she has edited nine books and has written over one hundred articles and book chapters on topics ranging from literature and education to economic and cultural development.

Runte joins a prestigious group of women presidents in Virginia.

At public four-year institutions, they are:

Patricia P. Cormier, *Longwood College*

Marie V. McDemmond, *Norfolk State University*

At public community colleges they are:

Belle S. Wheelan, *Northern Virginia Community College*

Deborah M. DiCroce, *Tidewater Community College*

Marilyn C. Beck, *Lord Fairfax Community College*

Shirley R. Pippins, *Thomas Nelson Community College*

Ann E. Alexander, *Wytheville Community College*

Private college women presidents include:

Kathleen G. Bowman, *Randolph-Macon Woman's College*

Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld, *Sweet Briar College*

Marianne Evans Mount, *Catholic Distance University*

Eymard Gallagher, *Marymount University*

Cynthia Tyson, *Mary Baldwin College*

Martha Horne, *Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary*

By Shirley Glover

Old Dominion University

Thanks go to Longwood College President Patty Cormier and Institutional Representative Pat Lust for hosting the Fall IR Meeting. I hope you enjoyed the information, networking, and examples of best practices shared by the presenters and participants.

As we begin a new year, please join me in being motivated by these "Characteristics of Strong State Networks" from Judith Prince, chair of the ACE OWHE Network Board. She says, "Strong state networks have stable volunteer leadership provided by an executive board and active state coordinator who possess a passion for women's issues and have the support of their presidents. The state network has an infrastructure in place which includes a mission statement, goals, financial plan, and a succession plan for continuity in leadership."

All strong state networks have:

- a planning committee that meets several times a year
- at least one leadership development program per year
- women in senior level positions on the planning committee
- involvement of university presidents in the state network

Other characteristics for which to strive include:

- institutional representatives to connect the campuses to the state network and the national office
- programs focused on the advancement of women of color
- a communications plan to connect women's achievements to the media
- strategies for identifying, developing, advancing and supporting women in higher education in the state

As I reviewed these characteristics, I was pleased to note that the Virginia Network has or is developing strategies to fulfill each of these areas. So let's get excited about what we have and get motivated to develop and fine-tune our programs, projects, and people in 2002!

Women as Catalysts for Change is Theme for 2002 Annual Conference

The 2002 Annual Conference will focus on the theme of "Women as Catalysts for Change." The conference will be held in Richmond on Friday, February 22, 2002, on the University of Richmond campus. Mark your calendars now and keep your eyes open for more details coming soon. The conference will be preceded on February 21 by a reunion of senior seminar alumnae at the same location. Plan to come to both.

Senior Seminar Alumnae Reunion Planned

A reunion has been planned for Thursday, February 21, 2002, from 3-9 p.m. at the Tyler Haynes Commons, University of Richmond, a convenient location since the Virginia Network/ACE state conference will be held there February 22. Our plans include publication of an alumnae yearbook, time for networking, and a presentation by Rachel Gonzalez, senior associate of research, Catalyst, about their work on gender issues in leadership. The cost of \$50 will include the yearbook, registration, refreshments, a cocktail reception, the speaker and a banquet. A group of rooms has been held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, (804) 672-8586, just minutes from the campus. Rates of \$109 (single) and \$119 (double) include a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast and are being held through February 7, 2002; please identify yourself with the Virginia Network Senior Seminar Reunion. Registration information will be sent

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

out at the same time as the state conference registration. In the meantime, mark your calendar for February 21. Questions? Contact Norrine Bailey Spencer, chair, Senior Seminar Reunion, (540) 231-6602, nspencer@vt.edu.

Virginia Network on the Web

Check the Virginia Network Website: <http://ace.prov.vt.edu> for the history and purpose of the Network, a database of institutional representatives and alumnae of the senior seminar series, a calendar of events, information on the state conference, lists of women college presidents in Virginia, and links to organizations offering professional development opportunities for higher education administrators. Is there a woman administrator on your campus who would like to receive the newsletter or notification of the state conference? Send a note to Pat Hyer at hyerp@vt.edu.



The Virginia Network of the American Council on Education
Office of Women in Higher Education
Nominations for Senior Seminar Participants 2002-2003

In January, the Virginia Network's Executive Committee will begin planning the 2002-2003 Senior Women's Seminar Series. An important part of the process is the selection of participants. We request your assistance in identifying women who can both contribute to and benefit from the seminar series. We are interested in receiving nominations of women who can hold senior level positions in higher education. As in the past, it is our hope to include women from public colleges and universities, independent colleges and universities, and community colleges and we especially welcome nominations of women of color.

Please list the names as well as some information about job responsibilities, number of people or programs supervised and reporting lines of women you would like to suggest. **We ask you to please check with your nominees to ascertain their interest and commitment to attending the three seminar sessions next year.** Return this form to Rebecca Leonard by January 10, 2002.

Nominee's Name

Title

Institution

Address

Phone

FAX

Email

Participant Information

Nominee's Name

Title

Institution

Address

Phone

FAX

Email

Participant Information

Name of Nominator

Title

Institution

Phone

Email

Return form by January 10th to:

Rebecca Locke Leonard

Assistant Dean for Student Services

Monroe Hall / University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA 22903

434/924-3865 * FAX - 434/924-7074 * RLL9E@virginia.edu