Dear Alumni, Friends, and Colleagues:

As the school year ends and summer begins, we often enter a rest in our teaching rhythm where there is time to look back and reflect on our work. It is a valuable time for evaluating our progress toward the noble goal of "good teaching." In his book, *The Courage to Teach* (1998), Parker Palmer describes good teaching as "an act of hospitality toward the young." He continues by explaining that the hospitality extended by teachers is "an act that benefits the host even more than the guest." As I ponder this thought, I'm struck with how, more often than not, I am the beneficiary of my students. They teach me patience and provide glimpses into cultures and personal lives that are rich in meaning and purpose. They remind me of the power and joy of new learning. They bring to life "the 'little' stories of the students" and cause me to reconsider "the 'big' stories of the disciplines and traditions" (Palmer). Ultimately, they reassure me of my value and purpose in the community of learning and living.

Without a doubt, I know my colleagues in Roanoke's Education Department value their students and celebrate a vocational calling which brings a rich diversity of people and learning into their lives. I know this because daily I witness their thoughtful conversations among themselves and with their students. They faithfully teach students and willingly learn from them. In celebration of this calling, this spring, the faculty introduced a new tradition: the teacher commissioning ceremony. The event was held on the eve of graduation to mark the beginning of our graduates' teaching careers.

As the Education Department looks back over its first 100 years of existence (1906-2006), we are pausing to consider our work and to reflect on how we can best continue preparing teachers to enter classrooms which are filled with an uneasiness that comes from the complexities of political and social change. To address the challenge, the faculty has revised our department mission statement and created new curriculum learning goals that address pre-service teachers' needs for content knowledge, pedagogical skills, effective teaching practice, and an ability and willingness to continuing growing professionally. Using these points as benchmarks, we believe that Roanoke College can prepare competent, caring, qualified professional educators by ensuring our graduates:

**Content** — Know and use the central concepts, tools, and structures of the discipline;

**Pedagogy** — Understand and develop compelling instruction appropriate to a wide range of learners;

**Practice** — Implement instruction in a manner which reflects pedagogical mastery and care for students;

**Progress** — Know how to grow as a professional teacher.

As we set goals for the future, we gain insight by looking back to those who came before us, those who built a teacher education program that for a century has given the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our sister states, outstanding teachers. This second edition of the Education Alumni Newsletter highlights the work and history of those who founded and developed Roanoke’s Education Department.

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**Teacher Candidates Commissioned**

The Roanoke College Education Department honored its new teacher candidates at the first annual Teacher Commissioning Ceremony, held May 5, 2006. The honorees, Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 student teachers, were inspired by the words of Joe Salmon, Roanoke College alumnus and Virginia Regional Teacher of the Year (2005). The Education Department plans to continue the commissioning ceremony tradition in future years.

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2006 graduate, Kathleen Barber, with her parents

Joanne Miller celebrates Joe Salmon, guest speaker the start of a new career
Kudos to our Award Winners

Leslie Clark, Lauren Williams, James Winterer, Cynthia Wright – Teachers of Promise Awards

Rebekah Halsey Hellkamp – Jesse Lee and Mary Elizabeth Lucado Award

Michelle Musgrove – Jesse Lee and Mary Elizabeth Lucado Endowed Scholarship

Andrew Sayers – Gertrude B. Camper Outstanding Prospective Teacher Award

Cynthia Stinson – Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Award for the Outstanding Woman in Education; Mack Welford Award

The Education Department — One Hundred Years

Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, the faculty and administration of Roanoke College engaged in a conversation that would have a lasting impact on the lives of many. The question they considered: “Should an Education program be established at Roanoke College?” In the early 1900s, the College was intentionally focused on increasing its student population; perhaps an Education Department would be of interest to prospective students. The faculty voted in favor of the proposal in 1906. Minutes from a faculty meeting dated June 8, 1906, reported, “The faculty decided to recommend to the board that they establish a Department of Education and that Dr. Painter be elected as the head of that department.”

In 1907, Dr. Franklin V.N. Painter became the first Professor of Education at Roanoke College, concluding his service to the College in the area of foreign languages. According to William Eisenberg’s book, *The First Hundred Years of Roanoke College*, “The resignation of Dr. F.V.N. Painter in 1906 from the chair of German and French, in order to devote more time to other literary and business interests, was the occasion for making him Professor of Pedagogy on a part-time basis.” *Roentgen Rays* (the *Rawenoch* of the earlier part of the century), cites Dr. Painter as an “author of numerous successful books dealing with literature and education.”

Education courses first appeared in the academic catalog in 1906-07. The catalog listed this statement regarding the College’s commitment to education and direction for the program, “Ever since its foundation, the College has taken an interest in popular education. From year to year, a large number of its students and graduates have taken up the vocation of teaching.” Also, “The object of this department is to give the students a course of instruction in the history and science of teaching.” The first courses offered included: The History of Education, Great Pedagogical Essays, Elements of Pedagogy and the Art of School Management. Dr. Painter and colleagues, Dr. White and Dr. Baldwin, comprised the department faculty. In addition to course offerings, education students were asked to read two texts: *Education* (Spenser) and *Pestalozzi: His Life and Work* (De Guimps).

The 1910-1911 academic catalog presented an expanded description of the department’s mission: “The course in Pedagogy is sufficiently extended to familiarize the students with what is best in educational thought and practice, and to raise him above an imitative, mechanical routine in the school-room.” Curriculum offerings also increased to include Science and Method, described as, “An analysis of the mental powers, thus preparing the way for deducing and applying the fundamental principles of education.” This course eventually evolved into Principles of Education, the first class that all teacher licensure students are currently required to complete.

Throughout the following years, philosophy, religion and psychology were interchangeably incorporated with education in one academic division. Later on, education was paired with physical education and finally it became known as Education, Health and Human Performance. In 1953, Dr. Gertrude (Trudy) Camper began her career at Roanoke College, and was the only full-time professor in Education for more than a decade. Initially hired for her expertise in reading instruction, Dr. Camper soon was teaching Children’s Literature, Reading Instruction, and Educational Psychology. She also supervised pre-service teachers during their field experiences. During a recent interview, Dr. Camper recalled that she particularly enjoyed observing the relationships that developed between classroom teacher, student teacher and students. She offered these words of wisdom to current pre-service teachers: “First, like and respect your students. Second, make the most of your student teaching because it truly helps you decide whether or not this is the profession you are meant to be part of. Finally, and most of all, be sure you enjoy it!”

Dr. Camper retired from Roanoke College in 1986, leaving Dr. Mack Welford to carry on the work of preparing teachers. Soon afterward, Dr. Sarah Simmons joined the department full-time, and a host of part-time faculty assisted with Education programs. Individuals such as Dr. Lorraine Lange, Superintendent for Roanoke County Public Schools and a Roanoke College alumna, offered a wealth of expertise to teacher licensure students. During the 1990s, the Education faculty grew substantially, adding Dr. Leslie Murrill, Dr. Tim Reynolds and Dr. Lisa Earp. Since the new century began, Dr. Gary Whitt and Professors Katie Gobble and Lisa Updike joined departmental ranks, bringing the number of current full-time faculty positions to six.

Over the course of the past fifteen years, Virginia requirements for teacher licensure have changed a great deal, shifting the nature of Roanoke College’s education programs. Perhaps the most significant change was the state directive that teacher licensure candidates must pursue majors in disciplines other than education. The Roanoke College catalog reported, “The Virginia State Board of Education has mandated that all undergraduate degrees in teacher education must be abolished by July 1, 1992. Any person completing a degree or teacher certification requirements after that date must earn a degree with a major in an arts or sciences discipline. The elementary education major will be phased out at Roanoke College by that date.” After this change became effective, students were offered the opportunity to seek an elementary or secondary education minor in addition to their major area of study.
Currently, Roanoke College students may pursue teacher licensure in sixteen areas, including elementary education, art, music, theatre arts, French, German, Spanish, health/human performance, English, mathematics, algebra I, computer science, biology, chemistry, physics and history/social science. During 2005-2006, there were 214 students enrolled in pursuit of teacher licensure, giving Education programs the second largest enrollment at Roanoke College. Recent Education Department initiatives include international field experiences, the Margaret Sue Copenhaver Institute for Teaching and Learning, membership in the Southwest Virginia Professional Education Consortium, and partnerships with area schools.

On June 8, 2006, we celebrate the seed of thought that was planted one hundred years ago. As Fall 2006 classes begin, we look forward to a promising second century of preparing teachers and considering with great pride our graduates who have heard and who continue to hear and follow the noble calling of teacher.

Rebekah Halsey Hellkamp Named Valedictorian

Rebekah Halsey Hellkamp, a pre-service teacher and a history major, was honored as Roanoke College’s Class of 2006 valedictorian.

Throughout her valedictory address, Rebekah liberally expressed gratitude to God; she also thanked her family and the education and history faculties for their encouragement and support. Citing staff in the Education Department as having a great impact on her life, she thanked them for their influence in helping her achieve. The chair of the department recently noted, “America’s schools and children deserve teachers with the brightest minds and biggest hearts. Rebekah will be such a teacher. We are proud to know that she, along with other Roanoke graduates, are willing to serve today’s youth and tomorrow’s leaders.”

Rebekah will be the first to say that throughout life, prayer is one of the keys to humility and success — in both the good times as well as the hard. She recalled how, during her first week at Roanoke, she was completely overwhelmed and was ready to give up. But her parents would not let her “cheat herself out of the opportunity to achieve her dream of teaching.” Another difficult time came when Zach, her fiancé and best friend since kindergarten, was deployed to Iraq in one of the military’s hardest-hit units. The celebration and good times came when Zach returned safely last fall. The best of the good times, however, was January 7, 2006 — the couple’s wedding day!

This extraordinary young lady, who starts student teaching at Troutville Elementary School in the fall, is ready to embrace her future — and, just as she directed the Class of 2006 in her valedictory address, to “embark with confidence on the new journey that now begins,” there is no doubt that Rebekah will do just that!

What’s New with Alumni?

Jim Dooley ’80, a professional counselor with Pittsylvania County Schools, was chosen Educator of the Year for his school district for 2005-2006. Jim was involved with successfully instituting a character development program for children in grades K-5. He volunteers in coaching and 4-H.

Sydney Bowling Duncan ’81 received a Ph.D. in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from VCU. Sydney teaches in the English Department at the University of Alabama and resides with her husband, Andy, in Northport, Ala.

Martha Anderson Martin ’84 received her teaching certification and license, and M.Ed. in instruction at the University of Virginia. She teaches art part-time at North Cross School and works part-time as the director of Human Resources at Associated Asphalt, Inc. Martha and husband, Bill, live in Roanoke with their daughter, Alexandra, 12, and son, Taylor, 9.

Melanie Dalton ’96 was named Teacher of the Year at Piedmont Open IB Middle School in Charlotte, N.C., for the 2005-06 school year. She taught at William Byrd Middle School for 8 years before moving to Charlotte. She has been teaching at Piedmont for the past 2 years.

Karen St. Clair Jones ’96 received her master’s degree from the University of Virginia in 2003 and received an endorsement in gifted education the same year. She has been teaching fifth grade at McLeary Elementary School in Craig County for 10 years. For the past four years, she also has served as the gifted and talented resource teacher for grades K-5. She has a daughter, Sara, 1.

Eric-Gene Shrewsbury ’96 is a Spanish instructor at Patrick Henry Community College. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at Virginia Tech.

James P. Guthrie ’98 lives in Richmond where he teaches Japanese in the Richmond City Schools. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at Virginia Tech.

Wendy King Sprools ’01 is an elementary guidance counselor in the Virginia Beach School system. Her husband is an instructor at Oceana Naval Air Station. They have two children, Gabe, 2, and Sophia, 1.

Priscilla Hill Halterman ’03 is a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Montevideo Middle School near Harrisonburg. She also is the assistant pitching coach at Bridgewater College. She enjoys writing and is studying to be a poetry/journal therapist with hopes to facilitate her own writing workshops.

Ashley D. Hogan ’05 teaches seventh-grade English with Roanoke County Schools.

Jessica Thompson ’05 is a fifth-grade science and language arts teacher with Moneta Elementary School in Bedford County.
Please share your professional development news with us! Submit information about your recent professional endeavors to murrill@roanoke.edu for publication in an upcoming newsletter. Be sure to include your name, year of graduation, current position and a photo.

JOHN SUTTON, staff writer of the Education Alumni Newsletter, is a 2006 graduate of Roanoke College. An English major with a minor in secondary education, John interned at Vilseck American High School in Germany and Aviano American High School in Italy. He will student teach in Germany in Spring 2007 and plans to teach high school English.

LINDA LINDSAY, editor and designer of the Education Alumni Newsletter, is program manager of the Margaret Sue Copenhaver Institute at Roanoke College and assistant editor of Roanoke College Magazine’s Alumni News.

LESSIE MURRILL is faculty editor of the Education Alumni Newsletter.

Get Connected

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Everyone needs three plans: “Plan A,” “Plan B,” and “whatever happens.”

—Sr. Phyllis Superfisky, OSF
Copenhaver Institute 2006