



Virginia Tech's Interdisciplinary Research Honor Society, Iota Delta Rho (IΔP), is the nation's first interdisciplinary research (IDR) honor society! Faculty-advised by Dr. Karen DePauw, Dean of the Graduate School, IΔP is a completely student-run organization serving the Virginia Tech community. Our mission is to recognize and promote interdisciplinary research both at Virginia Tech and beyond the campus.

Established only two years ago by a passionate group of students, the society has made great strides in disseminating our vision and promoting communication across disciplines within academia. IΔP is a platform that exposes students to exemplary interdisciplinary research and initiatives, facilitates establishing wider networks, and fosters opportunities for them to get involved. Our society strives to be inclusive by offering full or associate honor society membership as well as student organization membership. Currently, honor society membership spans six of the eight colleges at Virginia Tech.

Through our IDR Speaker Spotlight Series, Fall IDR Symposium and Spring IDR Day, presenters and participants are able to exchange research ideas and discuss experiences in conducting IDR. As IΔP clearly stands for promoting IDR, we believe it is critical to provide researchers the opportunity to interact with peers from other disciplines in addition to their stakeholders. Therefore, all IΔP events are open to the entire campus community including undergraduate and graduate students as well as professors and administrators from any and all departments. We also make efforts to include any interested public, local businesses, sponsors, and research-oriented companies in our larger events as our ultimate goal is to bridge existing divides.

The enclosed information provides details on our past accomplishments and future plans in our mission to recognize and promote IDR. Our success would not be possible without the collegiate sponsors and partners. We welcome sponsorship and partnership opportunities as we embark on our third year of service toward IDR initiatives in the Virginia Tech community. Sponsors and partners are recognized in event materials and are invited to attend and participate in events. If you are interested in being a collegiate sponsor or partner of IΔP, please contact our Treasurer, Tobias Ecker at ecker@vt.edu or President, Nicole Thompson at nicolejt@vt.edu.

Sincerely,

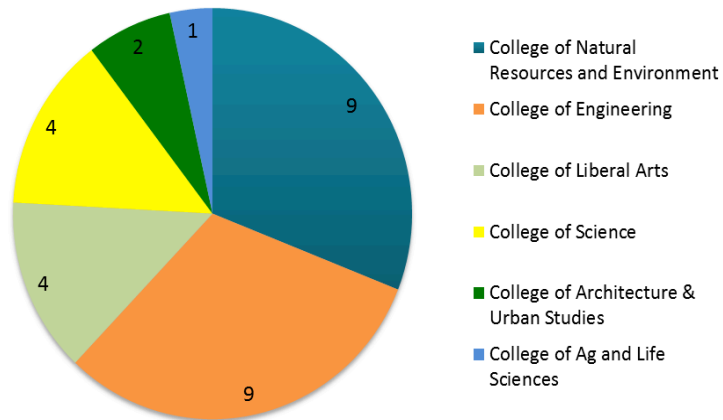
Nicole Thompson, IDR President
On behalf of the 2012-2013 IDR Officer Board



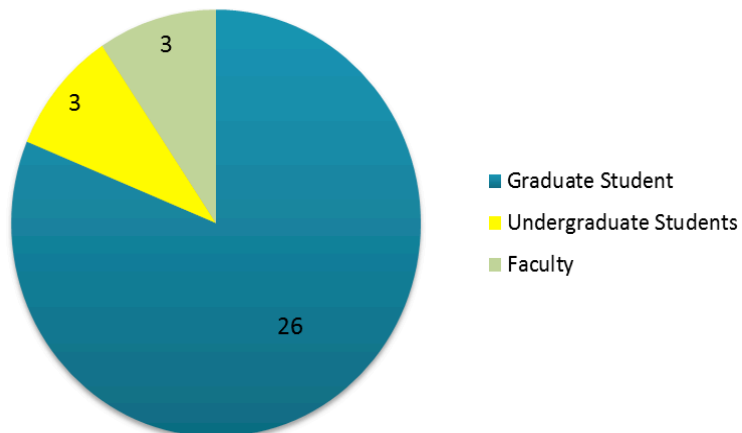
IAP Membership

Our society is integrative and has members from the undergraduate and the graduate student level. Faculty are included on a honorary base.

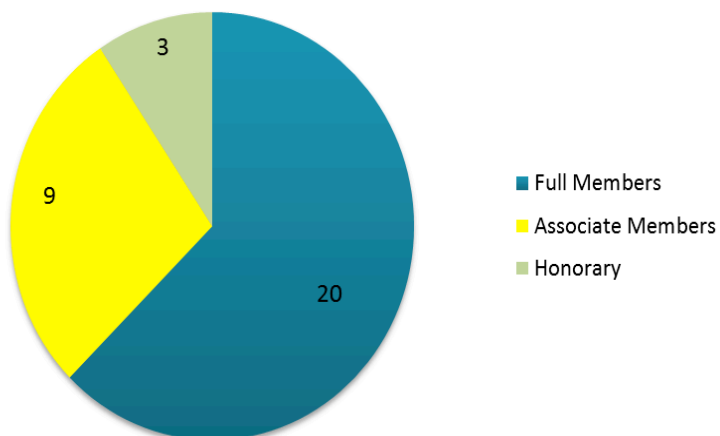
Distribution of our Membership by College



Distribution of our Membership by Standing



Distribution of our Membership by Membership Standing





IAP Events

IAP believes that collaboration between scholars –with different backgrounds, specialties, and perspectives– is a key to academic and social progress. Thus, the events below are open to all members of the Virginia Tech community.

I. IDR Speaker Spotlights Series – Recurring seminar & social

The event features an invited talk from an interdisciplinary researcher, Q&A session, and lunch for all attendees. Six are scheduled to take place over the academic calendar year.

Past Spotlight Speakers (Average Attendance ~ 30)

- 9/19/2012: Prof. Tom Martin - "Interdisciplinary team work, industrial design, computer engineering, and marketing"
- 2/27/2012: Prof. Layne Watson - "Multidisciplinary Collaboration---Making it Work"
- 2/6/2012: Prof. Korine Kolivras - "Health Impacts of Environmental Variability & Change"
- 10/19/2012: Prof. Rolf Mueller - "Biology, Physics, Engineering and the Quest for the Synthetic Bat"
- **Total Cost for 2011-2012 Speaker Series: \$ 600**

Projected Budget for 2012-2013 Speaker Series: \$600

II. IDR Symposium – A day of dialog and IDR research recognition

Distinguished researchers will provide talks and panel discussions on the IDR aspects of their work and share unique experiences on the challenges they encounter.

Undergraduate and graduate students can equally participate in the poster session and compete for awards. Coffee and lunch breaks are provided.

The keynote speaker for the 2012 IDR Symposium on November 2nd is Dr. William H. Newell, a leading voice for interdisciplinary studies in the U.S. He is the founding President and longtime Executive Director of the Association for Integrative Studies.



Past IDR Symposium

- 1st Interdisciplinary Research Symposium, November 4, 2011 (Attendance: 200 registered)
- 7 guest lectures by VT faculty
- 46 student research posters
- **Total Cost for 2011 IDR Symposium: \$ 2800**



Projected Budget for Fall 2012 IDR Symposium: \$2800

III. IDR Day – An evening of roundtable discussion and IDR problem solving

The event marks the induction of new IAP members and facilitates the exchange and integration of ideas by mixing disciplines and scholars at every level (from undergraduate to professor Emeritus) in brainstorming solutions to complex, modern-day problems. The unique “IDR question” focused event will challenge attendees to consider approaches outside of their departmental box, collaborate with academic peers, and most importantly, have fun with IDR!



Past IDR Days

- IDR Day 2011 (Attendance: ~90)
- IDR Day 2012 (Attendance: ~80)
- **Total Cost for 2012 IDR Day: \$ 2900**

Projected Budget for Spring 2013 IDR Day: \$2900

IAP Sponsorship & Partnership

Support of Virginia Tech’s Interdisciplinary Research Honor Society:

- Recognizes society members representing diverse interdisciplinary backgrounds
- Supports campus-wide events that showcase IDR and facilitate cross-discipline communication
- Contributes to a national effort to promote interdisciplinarity in academia

Available to our sponsors/partners:

- Invitations to attend all events
- Recognition in Event Materials
- Opportunities to Publicize/Advertise at events via representatives at booths or supplied print materials
- *We also welcome participation in events as judges in our student poster competition or panel members. Please let us know if this is of interest to you.*