

October 2011

### The Director's Desk

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The semester is off and running! My lecture from RadioUTD on the British Invasion was fun. If you missed it, Dr. Dow also lectured on the history of punk music. Stay tuned for more.

The barbecue was a success. If you missed it, plan to attend in the spring. Until then, let's think about some creative side dishes. Yes, talk to Mom and Dad for recipes if need be.

We have already had two workshop sessions this semester, one highlighting study abroad and critical language institutes in the summer and a second with the North Texas head of Teach for America. Plans are in the works for a two more workshops this fall: an etiquette workshop focusing on how to dress and dine for success, and a second on thinking about medicine as a career.

See you in the lounge,  
-Dr. H



Dr. Edward Harpham  
Director of Collegium V

# Announcements

## SPRING 2012 GRADUATES:

Please come see Valerie Brunell after you complete your graduation application with your academic advisor.

## Lounge Printing

Our CV Lounge network is operational, and as part of the improvements to the network (like Windows 7), we have implemented a new print quota system. Here are the important details:

1. Every user has a 15 page quota at the beginning of the semester
2. Once you bring in a ream of paper (to Valerie), you will be given a coupon that gives you 500 pages of print credit. You can then click on Details under your print quota, login, then go to Redeem Card to redeem your print card

If you have already brought in a ream of paper, please see Valerie

Keep bringing in reams and trading them for print cards

Let us know if you have any questions!

-Jacob  
CV Network Admin

# SPOTLIGHT ON: Julia Kacergis

Shravik Sethi

For the past three and a half years, Mrs. Julia Kacergis (better known to us as Julia) was a familiar and comforting sight for all CVers. Not only did she register us for classes and inform us about CV happenings, but whenever we wanted to talk or just drop by, she was always there for us with a smile. Earlier this semester, Mrs. Kacergis left her position here at UTD and moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she hopes to start a new chapter in her life. Before she left, I got the chance to interview her:

## **What will you miss most about UTD?**

*I'm going to miss the atmosphere of the university and the kindness and politeness of the CV students.*

## **What will you miss least?**

*Doing travel paperwork for the professors.*

## **What is a favorite memory during your time here that you can share?**

*My first time in charge at UTD, I had to organize the honors convocation and be on the stage. It was a big task, and I was nervous, but it turned out really well. I was even told by someone that it was the best honors convocation that they had seen organized.*

## **How has CV changed since you first got here?**

*One change has been the large increase in the number of CV students. The culture of the lounge has changed as well. It has become much more serious.*

## **What do you feel was your biggest achievement?**

*My biggest achievements have been learning the names of all the students and helping to set a professional tone in the office.*

## **What do you plan to do in Tulsa?**

*I plan to be a long-term substitute for a seventh grade English teacher who is on maternity leave.*

## **Anything you'd like to say to Mrs. Brunell? Any advice?**

*She's lucky to be working with this group of students, and my advice is to always stick to your story.*

Thank you so much Julia for all that you have done for us CVers and all the effort and time you spent in contributing to this newsletter. We wish you the best of luck in Tulsa!

# CV BBQ Proves a Promising Start to the Year

Katelyn McWilliams

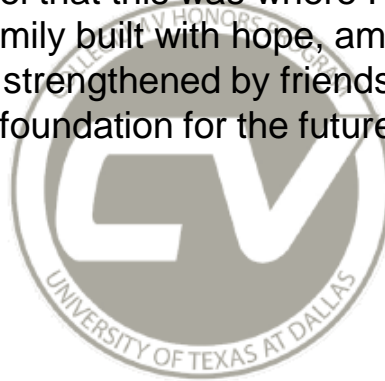
The Collegium V program can be rather intimidating for an incoming freshman. A large portion of newcomers walk onto campus for the first time with only a vague idea of what CV is all about ... and that's where the CV BBQ steps in. An informal gathering of students and faculty, this unique opportunity gives everyone a chance to kick back and really get to know the other individuals with whom they will be sharing this crazy college roller coaster ride.

Sunday morning of the CV BBQ saw a mad scramble of students rummaging for Tupperware containers and dashing to Walmart to patronize Frito-Lay. Then it was off to Dr. Harpham's! It wasn't exactly hard to find. The unending trail of cars crowding Chalkstone Drive was a not-so-subtle giveaway that you were probably in the right place. Students trudged inside, food in hand, as they eagerly anticipated the night's events. They were not to be disappointed.

The food, first of all, bears mentioning because it is, after all, *food*! The assortment was sublime: hamburgers and hotdogs (courtesy of Dr. Harpham), cakes, cookies, pies, enough chips to feed an army, a scant smattering of sides, and eagerly anticipated (not to mention boasted of) stuffed jalapeños. The table literally overflowed, and students navigated the maze at their own risk as they pushed their way into the back yard. Then the fun really began. Dozens of CVers crammed into space slightly deficient of chairs and tables. A variety of conversations sprang up across the scene, and people floated from group to group as they sought familiar faces, found new ones, and introduced themselves time and time again. Talks of computer science and League of Legends resounded throughout the space, engrossing about half of the attendees while causing the other half's to gaze over in exasperation. Upperclassmen shared little known secrets of UTD with freshman- news of internships, clubs, and social events spread about the yard.

The evening reached a zenith with Dr. Harpham's informal address to the students. Armed with years of CV experience, he shared with the crowd the ins and outs of the program, how to go about establishing friends, making connections and, getting the most of time at UTD. However, our distinguished leader was undoubtedly the most animated when shamelessly pitching his upcoming lecture on the British Invasion, good-naturedly throwing in a mention of Dr. Dow's accompanying lecture on punk!

For me, the evening's real treat came at the end of the night. As crowds began to thin, one could not help but feel an overwhelming sense of camaraderie with those who remained. Conversations dwindled down with the promise of continuation in the future. Dr. Harpham broke out his guitar and was attempting to find chords for Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" as I walked out laden with surplus food intended for the lounge. And, as I pulled away, I could not help but feel that this was where I belonged. This crazy, diverse group is a family built with hope, ambition, and talent, bonded by skill, and strengthened by friendship that provides a strong and valuable foundation for the future.



## Focus on: Saskia Versteeg

Travis McDonald

### CV Students Get Involved!

Each CV student arrives at UTD with his or her own passions, values, and unique ideas as to what they hope to accomplish during their undergraduate years. This diversity of CV students helps to grow not only the CV program, but also the university as a whole, as the students begin to pursue what they are interested in through their involvement in organizations on campus. This section of the newsletter will focus each month on one particular CV student who has found a niche for his or her interest and adds that essential element of well-roundedness to his or her educational experience.

This month, the spotlight focuses on Saskia Versteeg, a junior CV student who is currently president of the group Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA). SEA is an organization that raises awareness of current environmental issues and helps students find out how to take part in reducing our negative impact on the world around us. SEA takes part in various environmental projects such as UTD Earth Day and Dallas Earth Day, Recycle Day (November 15th), the UTD student recycling program, and White Rock kayak cleanup. This year the primary goal of SEA is self-education through events such as taking a tour of the UTD recycling center and the UTD greenhouse (October 13th).

If you or someone you know are also interested in environmental conservation and wish to join SEA, or just join for the tours, feel free to contact Saskia directly at [SEAatUTD@gmail.com](mailto:SEAatUTD@gmail.com) or search for the Facebook group “Students for Environmental Awareness”.



# Interview with Vivek Raman

Waqas Haque



**Name:** Vivek Raman

**Declared Major:** Computer Engineering (Freshman)

**What you did this summer:** I went to India and explored lots of places around Chennai, a large city in South India. I also helped my grandparents around the house.

**Current activities you're involved in:** Every Friday, I attend Leadership Dallas, a bonding event for the McDermott Scholars. It's taught me a lot while helping me adjust to life at UT Dallas. Last week, I had a blast at the Texas State Fair!

**Best class so far:** CV Government. It's so interesting because the lectures are a reflection of many ramifications we find in daily living.

**One thing you would add to the CV Lounge:** New, updated computers. Having ones that are very recent would help with browsing the internet and getting homework done more efficiently.

**Favorite pastime activity and why:** Playing StarCraft. For anybody who doesn't know, it's a real-time strategy game in which two people face off in a large arena. It's become ridiculously popular around the world for the hours of entertainment and intellectual stimulation it provides.

**Ideal fast food meal:** Definitely Taco Bell. I'd get a Mexican Pizza with beans instead of meat, a Bean Burrito, and the Regular Fiesta Potatoes that aren't too cheesy. Give me some lemonade with that, and bam, that's a perfect combination.

## Alumni Watch- Walter Voit

*Anita Chandrahas*



*Walter  
Voit,*

*UTD  
Class of  
2005*

Dr. Walter Voit, who joined UT Dallas as a freshman in 2001, is now an assistant professor of the UTD NanoTech institute. Voit's research focuses on thermomechanics of flexible polymers. He is also co-founder of the company Syzygy Memory Plastics, which has plans to release its first flexible device within the year. A CV student, Voit felt that the honors program was a great forum for like-minded individuals to solve problems and help shape the world and make friends for life.

As an undergraduate, Dr. Voit devoted much of his time as an editor for the Mercury. He says that his time at the Mercury was most valuable since he learned about the campus, graphic design, news presentation, and prioritizing/focusing information. "A lot of presenting yourself is telling a story," he said.

After studying abroad in Germany, Walter Voit founded A Modest Proposal as a student reaction to the Mercury. Dr. Voit recollects one of the first stories published in a Modest Proposal: *Oodles of Noodles*. The Waterview Park apartments suddenly planned to charge an extra \$50 on for no reason. The editors addressed this problem by buying \$50 of Ramen noodles and blockading the Waterview Park executive offices, in addition to handing out a package of Raman with each newspaper to gain momentum among the student population. This tactic proved to be effective, since Waterview Park delayed the extra charge for over a semester.



Along with his involvement in university newspapers, Dr. Voit was passionate about research and worked at Los Alamos for two years as well as for Xivex, a company based in Dallas. “I like to think of myself as first and foremost a philosopher and problem solver,” he says.

The driving force behind Dr. Voit’s many successes can be summed up in two ideas. The first is to believe in something that motivates, whether that something is a thirst for knowledge, family, enjoying life, leadership, or mentoring. The second, served best with a bit of Texas attitude “Roll up your sleeves and just do it.”

# Intramurals

Husain Mogri

“Line set!” the referee barked, just before blowing his whistle. As the defense rushed towards our quarterback in a mad scramble, someone from the other team pummeled me over. With quarterbacks yelling orders, supporters cheering on the sidelines, and referees shouting memorized technicalities, the flag football game induced frenzied exhilaration for the entire 45 minutes of the round. Everybody had exams the next morning, but all I could think about as a blocker playing at 10:30 in the evening was how to get the ball eighty yards down the field.

Our team fared well against stiff competition, ranking 17th out of 35 plus teams. After losing our first two games, we won the next two 29-12 and 13-7 respectively. Our fourth game was a close call, with Charles Shu sacking the quarterback at the 1 yard line with just seconds left. Captain Sam Ding organized the team, and Zaki Rizvi was instrumental in receiving passes in the later games, but had to stop because of a leg injury. Overall we had a great time, despite our loss in the playoffs, which was our fifth and last game.

Volleyball season will also start soon, so come out to have some fun, and meet some other CVers!

# October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Dr. Dow punk lecture Archer meeting	13	14 LAN party 7 pm	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31 HALLOWEEN	25	26	27	28 Etiquette workshop with Sherry Marek	29

**Oct. 18** (4 pm)- Meetings on reading courses, research, and scholarships with Dow, Harpham, and Scotch

**Oct. 31-** Enrollment appointments assigned

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## Interested in Contributing?

If you are interested in contributing to the monthly newsletter or have suggestions/comments, please email the CV Newsletter at [newsletter@collegiumv.org](mailto:newsletter@collegiumv.org). Contributions are welcome!

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Contributor: Dr. Scotch

Contributor: Dr. Champagne

Contributor: Nick Walker

Contributor: Stephanie Linscheid

Contributor: Julia Kacergis

*\* The CV Lounge (GC 1.202) is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Green Center between the McDermott Library and Green Hall*