Women in Interdisciplinary Research
A Women’s Month Event

March 31, 2015
1-3 pm
310 Kelly Hall

What is it like to work in interdisciplinary research?
Does it offer particular challenges, and opportunities, for women?
During a panel discussion, hear from women involved with the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science. Learn how they found themselves in this fast-growing area of science—and what the opportunities are for you!

Raffaella De Vita is an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics at Virginia Tech. She received her laurea in mathematics from the University of Naples II, Italy, in 2000 and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 and 2005, respectively. She is the recipient of the American Society of Biomechanics President’s Award, NSF CAREER award, and 2012 PECASE award. Her research focuses on determining the relationship between the mechanical behavior and complex structure of biological systems.

Linsey Marr is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She received her B.S. in Engineering Science from Harvard and her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Her research group is interested in understanding the behavior of pollutants in the atmosphere and their impacts on health and the environment.

Eleanor Nelsen is the communications manager at the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science. She earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 2014, and realized during her graduate work that her real passion was explaining science to others. Eleanor has written for Wisconsin Public Television, NOVA, and TED-Ed.

Amy Pruden is a Professor in Civil & Environmental Engineering and Associate Dean and Director of Interdisciplinary Graduate Education in the Graduate School. She earned her B.S. in Biology and Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati. Her research focuses on tracking pathogens and antibiotic resistance genes in environmental systems in support of sustainable water systems that advance public health.

Nina Vance is the associate director of the Virginia Tech Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology. She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering; her research is focused on the human exposure to environmental contaminants, especially air pollutants and nanoparticles.

Elisa Wasson is currently a second-year Ph.D. candidate in Mechanical Engineering; she joined the Bioelectromechanical Systems (BEMS) Lab under Dr. Rafael Davalos in 2013. Elisa is a 2013 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellow as well as an Institute of Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICITAS) Doctoral Scholar. She is interested in investigating and enhancing the transport of drugs across the blood-brain barrier and into brain tumors using microfluidic platforms and electric fields.

Tour of an interdisciplinary lab to follow.

PANELISTS

LINSEY MARR
ELISA WASSON
RAFFAELLA DE VITA

NINA O'VANCE
ELEANOR NELEN
AMY PRUDEN