

Pratt Funds Overview

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

September 12, 2016

In 1975, the university received a significant bequest from the estate of Mr. John Lee Pratt of Stafford County, following his death on December 20, 1975. The bequest was divided equally into two distinct parts, one to support Animal Nutrition and one to support the College of Engineering. According to the will, the bequest for Animal Nutrition was to be used to promote the study of animal nutrition by supplementing salaries, providing equipment and materials to be used for experiments in feeding and in the preparation of feeds for livestock and poultry, and publishing and disseminating the research results of the studies. The will provided that the bequest for the College of Engineering should be used to support research and scholarships.

Distributions of the Pratt Estate were received in several installments: \$9,561,819 in 1975, \$1,330,000 in 1977, \$47,000 in 1979, and \$30,164 in 1981, for a total of \$10,968,983. Over the years, the Pratt endowment has grown to \$43.02 million, as of June 30, 2016. The following paragraphs summarize some of the major accomplishments of the College of Engineering and the Animal Nutrition Programs that are directly tied to the funding provided by the Pratt estate.

When the Pratt Endowment was originally established, the College of Engineering was in the early stages of becoming established as a nationally recognized leader in engineering education. The Pratt Endowment has played a significant role over the years in allowing the College to enrich its pool of students and to offer additional international study opportunities to students and faculty.

The expenditure of income funds from the Pratt Endowment provides an unusual opportunity to support an animal nutrition program of high quality. Use of these endowment earnings has concentrated on enhancing research and educational opportunities beyond what departments could do with state and federal funding. The main funding strategy remains with strong support for Ph.D. training, direct research support, scientific equipment, and visiting professors that stimulate and inspire the faculty and students engaged in nutrition research.

PRATT FUNDS: College of Engineering

The Pratt Endowment enriches the College of Engineering in many ways, adding to Virginia Tech's reputation. In fiscal year 2015-2016, Pratt Funds supported the following engineering programs: undergraduate scholarships, undergraduate and graduate international scholarships, graduate research assistantships, graduate fellowships and graduate tuition scholarships, and graduate recruitment for the College's research programs, and purchases of research equipment.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Spent: \$347,500

Pratt Funds allow the College to offer Dean's Scholar scholarships to entering freshmen. These scholarships provide a four-year, \$5,000 per academic year continuing commitment to each recipient provided at least a 3.5 grade point average is maintained. In fiscal year 2015-2016, Pratt Funds provided \$5,000 scholarships to 59 students. An additional 36 students received scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Undergraduate International Scholarships

Spent: \$58,500

Pratt funds provided scholarships for a total of 41 undergraduate students to participate in international experiences during the 2015-2016 academic year. Examples of travel scholarships provided to the students include support for six students to work on their capstone aircraft design at Loughborough University; seven students to participate in research at the Denmark UO lab; five students to conduct summer research at Shandong University, China; and, five students to study at the Technische Universitat TUD in Darmstadt, Germany. Scholarships were provided to additional 18 students for participating in programs in various other countries.

Graduate International Scholarships

Spent: \$28,169

Pratt funds supported a total of 10 graduate students undertaking a variety of international experiences. Pratt funds supported scholarships for:

- four graduate students to study at the Technical University of Denmark
- a graduate student to participate in a Fulbright Fellowship program in Denmark
- a graduate student to establish a research collaboration with specialists in China
- an internship arranged by the Triad Engineering Group with the Huadong Engineering Company in Hangzhou, China
- a graduate student conducted research in Spain
- a graduate student assisted the Engineering Education department with the RSAP in China, and
- a graduate student was able to participate in the VT-TUD Dual MSME Degree Program.

Graduate Research Scholarships

Spent: \$80,278

The College used Pratt funding to support graduate research assistants in the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science's (ICTAS) Doctoral Scholars Program. This program is a multi-disciplinary research effort coordinated by ICTAS, with significant contributions from participating departments, colleges, and the Graduate School. Students receive a graduate research scholarship of \$32,000 per year for a maximum of four years. The program supported seven students in fiscal year 2015-16.

Graduate Fellowships and Graduate Tuition Scholarships

Spent: \$178,175

Graduate Fellowships

Each engineering department receives a portion of Pratt funds to use for graduate fellowships. In fiscal year 2015-2016, 54 students received Pratt Fellowships ranging from \$112/month to \$1,030/month. These fellowships supplement existing assistantships, allowing the College to offer competitive compensation packages to graduate students being recruited by other top engineering colleges.

Spent: \$143,621

Graduate Tuition Scholarships

Engineering departments have the option of using Pratt Fellowship funding for tuition remission scholarships for graduate students. In fiscal year 2015-2016, departments provided partial or complete tuition for 10 graduate students from Pratt funds.

Spent: \$34,554

Graduate Recruitment for Research Programs

Spent: \$121,169

The College's departments readily acknowledge that the use of Pratt Funds to support visiting prospective graduate students substantially increases enrollment of top-quality graduate students and is critical to the College's research programs. In fiscal year 2015-2016, this funding supported the travel expenditures for over 150 prospective graduate students.

Equipment Purchases and Maintenance for Research Programs

Spent: \$131,000

Pratt funds were used to support the College's research programs through purchasing equipment. These resources allow the College to continue to grow its research programs. The items purchased in fiscal year 2015-16 included two wireless mobile data recorder, a refractive index detector, a photodiode module, and a sonoflow variable flow pump. The College exceeded its budgeted amount for equipment purchases to more completely utilize the Pratt funding available.

PRATT FUNDS ACTIVITY STATEMENT
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016
ENGINEERING

Income

Balance, July 1, 2015	\$ 48,393	
Endowment Income for 15-16	<u>951,861</u>	
 Total Available		 1,000,254

Expenditures

Undergraduate Scholarships	\$347,500	
Undergraduate International Scholarships	58,500	
Graduate International Scholarships	28,169	
Graduate Research Scholarships	80,278	
Graduate Fellowships	143,621	
Graduate Tuition Scholarships	34,554	
Graduate Recruitment for Research Programs	121,169	
Equipment Purchases and Maintenance for Research Programs	<u>131,000</u>	
 Total Expenditures		 <u>\$944,791</u>
 Balance at June 30, 2016 to be carried to 2016-17		 <u>\$ 55,463</u>

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2015-16 Pratt Funds Activity Statement for the College of Engineering be approved.

November 7, 2016

PRATT FUNDS: Animal Nutrition

The John Lee Pratt Endowment has been instrumental in enhancing the quality of the university's animal nutrition programs at Virginia Tech. The Pratt Endowment objective as specified in John Lee Pratt's bequest is to "*promote the study of animal nutrition, provide equipment and materials for feeding experiments and the preparation of livestock and poultry feeds, and to publish and disseminate the practical results from this research.*" In an effort to better meet the original goals of the Endowment in enhancing Animal Nutrition programs and attract high quality graduate scholars, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Pratt Endowment Executive Council modified the process of awarding the Pratt funds in 2011. The new process seeks proposals that enhance faculty programs in Animal Nutrition by aiding in the establishment of new interdisciplinary and externally-funded research, augmenting established funded research, or bridging gaps in projects between periods of extramural funding. Graduate student and visiting scholar support is a major component of these projects. In 2016 we had 16 active projects from two proposal cycles. The programs of 16 faculty members located in five different departments are supported through these 16 projects. A total of 11 graduate students are funded by these projects.

Direct support of stipends and operations and enhancement of graduate programs through equipment purchases and visiting scientists are the primary expenditures. The total net expenditure for FY16 was \$972,444 for the continuing program. The main categories of expenditures were as follows:

Graduate Student Scholars (PhD & MS)	44.5%
Nutrition Program Support Personnel	20.5%
Undergraduate Program Scholarships & Research	15.5%
Scientific Equipment and Supplies	14.5%
Visiting Scholars and Seminars	5%
Research Publications	0%

Graduate Student Scholars

Spent: \$432,416

The Pratt program has now matured and currently 11 scholars are enrolled in the program. These students are from several states and countries and are selected based on excellence in their academic and research accomplishments. They receive a Ph.D. or M.S stipend plus payment of all required tuition and fees. Additionally, each MS or PhD candidate receives \$2,500, to be used for operational expenses of their research programs.

Nutritional Program Support Personnel

Spent: \$199,175

Research technicians in the field of animal nutrition are a key component of Pratt funding. The Pratt funds provide partial support of three technicians in animal and dairy

sciences. These technicians are essential in assisting with the necessary sample preparation and data summaries for research performed by the scientists engaged in animal nutrition projects in proteomics, ruminant nutrition, and nutrient management.

Undergraduate Program Scholarships and Research

Spent: \$151,508

Over 50 outstanding freshmen students were awarded \$1,000 merit scholarships, each, upon entering departments which offer programs in animal nutrition. In addition, 10 Pratt Senior Animal Nutrition Research Scholars received scholarships (\$1,500 each) and research support (\$1,000 each). This exciting program allows outstanding seniors to participate in undergraduate research programs working directly with a faculty researcher. They report their research results at a symposium each spring. Many of these students pursue graduate programs in animal nutrition.

We continued funding for the Pratt Study Abroad Initiative, which is made available to students planning a study abroad experience that involves study or research related to animal nutrition. This year's recipients participated in faculty-led study abroad classes. During winter session 2016, \$2,000 was awarded for travel to New Zealand where recipients toured progressive dairy and venison farms and businesses. In summer 2016, \$12,000 was awarded for travel to the United Kingdom where recipients studied at three European colleges and toured zoos and livestock operations.

Scientific Equipment and Supplies

Spent: \$140,764

Expenditures for equipment and research space renovations continued to emphasize the needs of programs focusing on animal nutrition at various units at the university. The small equipment (<\$10,000) needs were implemented based on the desire of the faculty to achieve the goals of the proposed projects. We were unable to issue a request for proposals for large equipment this fiscal year due to the large number of graduate students that were being funded by Pratt awards.

Visiting Scholars and Seminars

Spent: \$48,581

An important stimulus for research programs in animal nutrition is the presence of visiting scientists in seminars, in the classroom, and in the laboratory. A nutrition seminar is regularly supported by Pratt to bring in outstanding speakers from other institutions and industry. Other scientists visit for periods of time ranging from a few days to several months. Visitors supported by Pratt present seminars for the university community and interact with animal nutrition faculty and students in formal and informal instructional settings including laboratories. Visiting scientists/scholars expenditures are higher than the amounts used in recent years due to the new process of funding proposals as some of these proposals include visiting scientists as a part of their research plan.

Research Publications

Spent: \$0

The program still allows for paying the publication costs of research journal articles resulting from student dissertations. Very few faculty members, however, request the payment of their publication costs from Pratt funds, mainly because they include the publication costs in their external grants. The Pratt funded faculty, are however, very productive and have published over 120 publications on animal nutrition over the past five years.

Summary

The Pratt funds continue to have significant impacts on the Virginia Tech programs in animal nutrition. The process of awarding the Pratt Funds to faculty, including the peer review process established for selection of proposals based on their scientific merits and potential to enhance animal nutrition programs, will greatly enhance the quality of the programs and enable the faculty to become more competitive for external funding at the national level.

PRATT FUNDS ACTIVITY STATEMENT
For the Year Ended June 30, 2016
ANIMAL NUTRITION

Income

Balance, July 1, 2015	\$ 34,982	
Endowment Income for 2015-16	<u>923,763</u>	
 Total Available		 \$958,745

Expenditures

General Program Expenditures:		
Graduate Student Scholars	\$ 432,416	
Nutrition Program Support Personnel	199,175	
Undergraduate Scholarships & Research	151,508	
Scientific Equipment & Supplies	140,764	
Visiting Scholars & Seminars	48,581	
Research Publications	<u>0</u>	
 Total Expenditures		 \$972,444
 Balance at June 30, 2016 to be carried to 2016-17		 <u>(\$ 13,699)</u>

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2015-16 Pratt Funds Activity Statement for Animal Nutrition be approved.

November 7, 2016