

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 22 NUMBER 25 FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2000

TODAY'S EDITION  
See page 3 for  
information on Affirma-  
tive Action Incentive  
grants.

## 'Smart Road' research facility open for business



Lighting and road-surface research will be conducted on the site. (VDOT)

By Larry Hincker

More than 100 research projects have begun on Virginia's new "Smart Road," the electronic highway built especially for scientific research. On Thursday, March 23, transportation professionals and researchers, and federal, state and local leaders, got an up-close look at the array of possibilities this unique roadway affords, in addition to its eventual role as a link between Blacksburg and Interstate 81.

Unlike other test facilities, the Smart Road offers realistic conditions on an actual highway, allowing researchers to control weather and lighting as they observe traffic moving at normal highway speeds.

"The Smart Road is a remarkable test facility with enormous potential for improving highway safety and reducing maintenance. It's also a significant economic stimulus for this part of Virginia," VDOT Commissioner of Transportation Charles D. "Chip" Nottingham said.

A project of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Tech's Transportation Institute (VTTI), and the Federal Highway Administration, the Smart Road is de-

signed to save lives and millions of dollars in maintenance costs with technological research that includes VDOT's Smart Travel program of intelligent transportation systems.

"On the Smart Road, researchers can evaluate different technologies under a variety of weather conditions and lighting schemes, on different road grades, and ultimately in real or simulated traffic conditions," VTTI Director Tom Dingus said. "This research will help save lives and reduce injuries while decreasing expenditures for property damage, insurance premiums, lost productivity and highway maintenance."

Smart Road project manager Ashwin Amanna said, "VDOT and other highway departments will be able to develop better pavements, which eventually could save millions of dollars in highway maintenance costs. We also want to know how to make transportation more efficient without building more roads."

The Smart Road is currently a 1.7-mile, two-lane road looped with a banked turnaround at one end and a slower-speed turnaround at the other end. The next phase of construction will include a 2,000-foot bridge (the highest in Vir-

ginia at 170 feet) and several hundred yards of concrete pavement. When the entire project is completed, as early as 2008, the Smart Road will be a four-lane, limited-access highway extending 5.7 miles between Blacksburg and Interstate 81.

To help develop better ways to respond to the effects of weather, a half-mile section of the road will generate precipitation from 75 weather towers that can rotate 360 degrees and pivot downward to accommodate changing wind conditions. Forty feet tall when fully erect, the towers can generate up to two inches of rain per hour in droplets of various sizes, including mist, and they can spray water onto freezing pavement to simulate freezing rain. They also can produce up to four inches of snow per hour, with intensities ranging from a light dusting to blizzard snowfalls. Uses of the system include developing better anti-icing and de-icing methods, and enabling snowplow operators to receive valuable "hands-on" training.

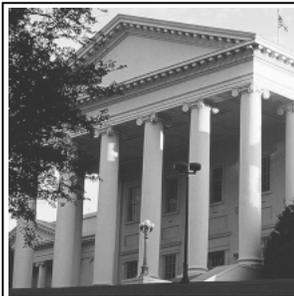
To improve visibility at night, dusk and dawn, and in wet weather, researchers will include a 2,000-foot bridge (the highest in Vir-  
(See SMART ROAD on 4)

## General Assembly Wraps Up 2000 Session

By Ralph Byers,  
director of government relations

The year 2000 General Assembly, which was dominated by issues related to transportation funding, adjourned a day earlier than scheduled on March 10. For higher education, the General Assembly provided improvements in funding for salaries, operating support, equipment, and capital outlay over those proposed in Governor James Gilmore's budget.

Teaching and research faculty members at Virginia Tech will receive average increases of 4.4 percent, and classified employees across the state will receive 3.25 percent. The General Assembly also increased the state match for employees in deferred-compensation plans to \$20 per pay period.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
UPDATE

For each year of the new biennium, Virginia Tech will receive an increase of \$1.25 million in the University Division for critical operating needs, and the Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station Division will receive an increase of \$400,000 for the Plan to Serve Virginia's Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resources. The university will also receive \$7.9 million per year through the Equipment Trust Fund for scientific and information-technology equipment needs.

A number of budget amendments for Virginia Tech considered beneficial to economic development in different areas of the state were approved as well. In Northern Virginia, the Alexandria Research Institute received \$500,000 per year, and the Equine  
(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY on 3)

## Applications to university set new record

By Amy Widner

Freshman applications to the university have recorded a 12-percent increase over last year's figures.

Demand for admission has been high all year, according to Karen, Torgersen director of undergraduate admissions. "We saw a 10-percent increase in students applying for early decision, declaring Virginia Tech as their first-choice school. Now that both early decision and regular decision apps have been received and counted, we've hit a record high of 18,300 freshman applications—a 12-percent increase over last year," Torgersen said.

"We're also seeing an upward trend in the profile of students who want to come to Virginia Tech. Currently, the typical student we're offering admission to has a 3.7 grade-point average, and an SAT score of 1212."

Tech is also seeing record increases in other application pools. Transfer applications are up 25 percent over last year; international undergraduate applications are up 27 percent; and minority applications are up 25 percent.

Torgersen attributed the increase to a variety of factors. "We are experiencing a wonderful synergy with so many things coming together at the same time. Certainly our football success is a part, but also our emphasis on technology across the curriculum, the popularity of our computer-related majors, and our jump in national  
(See APPLICATIONS on 3)

## University's expertise database enhanced

By Susan Trulove

The Virginia Tech Expertise Database (VTED) has a new look and streamlined access to a wealth of information—including, literally, dollars.

Virginia Tech has had an on-line database of faculty members' expertise since the early 1990s. In 1996, VTED was created and officially released to the university and to the public. It was sponsored by CIT and Virginia Tech Research and Graduate Studies (RGS). Shortly afterward, RGS enrolled the university in the Community of Science (COS) database and started uploading data to that site, giving Tech faculty members

international visibility.

Now, VTED has been redesigned so that faculty members enter their records directly into Community of Science, and VTED will download from COS. The new web interface, having been tested in three departments for a trial period, is now being extended to the entire university. "More work is under way with VTED, but making this new web interface available to faculty members is important—so that they can take full advantage of our COS subscription," said Gene Brown, associate provost for RGS program development.

COS Expertise contains more than 400,000 expertise profiles of researchers and is used by

some 800 educational institutions, R&D corporations, and government agencies. The change means that Virginia Tech faculty members will have a more user-friendly interface for entering their data and may elect to provide a broader range of data, and all members of the university community will have easier access to COS services.

COS services include:

- Access to the most comprehensive list of funding information available on the web—more than 16,000 funding opportunities searchable by disciplines, broad research areas, dates, and other keywords. In addition, faculty  
(See EXPERTISE on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 24

**Women's Month Project**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Women's Center Lawn: Clothesline Display.

**Women's Month Project**, 10-11:30 a.m., 1045 Pamplin: Panel Discussion, "Glass Ceilings and Beyond: Unmasking Women's Leadership In Higher Education."

**Guest Lecture**, 3:30 p.m., 300 Whittemore: Anita Jones, U.Va.

### Saturday, 25

**YMCA Hike**, 10 a.m., 403 Washington St.: Kelly's Knob.

### Tuesday, 28

**Forest Products Marketing and Management**, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., DBHCC.

**Gallery Opening**, 4:30 p.m., Armory Gallery: James De La Vega.

**Music Program**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Audubon Quartet.

### Wednesday, 29

**University Leadership Development Conference**, 9

a.m.-4 p.m., 219 Squires.

**Multicultural Program**, 4 p.m., 126 Squires: Disability Awareness.

**"With Good Reason,"** 7 p.m., WVTF: Law and Respect.

### Thursday, 30

**YMCA Slide Show**, noon, Cranwell Center: Robert Abraham.

**Multicultural Program**, 5 p.m., 140 Squires: Book Club.

### Friday, 31

**Salary and Wage Paydate.**

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 24

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Arthur Cammers-Goodwin, Kentucky.

**MCBB**, noon, 102 Fralin: Bill Brown, Cornell.

**Communication Studies**, 3:30 p.m., Hillcrest conference room: Robert Denton.

**Botany**, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Frank Day, ODU.

### Monday, 27

**Horticulture**, 4 p.m., 101 Saunders: Tony Teparkum.  
**Statistics**, 4 p.m., 1760 Litton Reaves: William Woodall, Alabama.

### Tuesday, 28

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, 3:30 p.m., 300 Whittemore: James LaPeau, Aerospace Corp.

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: James D. Webster, American Museum of Natural History.

### Thursday, 30

**Statistics**, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Karen Kafadar, Colorado-Denver.

**CSES**, 4 p.m., 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Jason Gildea.

**Plant Physiology**, 4 p.m., 102 Saunders: Manual Sainz, Novartis.

### Friday, 31

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Christa Coyer, Wake Forest.

**MCBB**, noon, 102 Fralin: Judy Roe, Kansas State.

**Botany**, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: David Orcutt.

## BULLETINS

### CEUT plans programs

The Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching will offer three programs in the first week of April.

On Tuesday, April 4, from 2-4:30 p.m. in Hillcrest, Margaret Hable will present *Active Learning Strategies*. This workshop provides ways to keep students more actively engaged during class.

On Wednesday, April 5, from 3-5:30 p.m. Peter Doolittle and Terry Wildman will present the third workshop in the Spring 2000 Learning Series *Learning Series—Social Participation and the Role of Context and Culture in Learning*. The workshop will build a picture of human learning that departs from the cognitive tradition.

April 6, from 2-5 p.m. in Donaldson Brown rooms D and E the CEUT will host a video-conference titled "How to Customize an Online Course On Thursday."

The program will illustrate how on-line courses work and demonstrate how instructors can evaluate and select options to give courses their personal and institutional stamp.

### Leave donations requested

Employees in Recreational Sports and Physical Plant have requested leave donations. Any salaried classified employee or 12-month regular faculty member may participate

by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours.

There is no maximum donation limitation per year, nor is there a minimum balance that must be maintained. Donation forms can be downloaded from the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/ps/forms/forms.html>.

### Speaker to discuss dialects

Walt Wolfram, a professor at North Carolina State, will talk on "The Rise and Fall (and Rise) of Southern Speech" March 30 at 7 p.m. in 129 McBryde.

Over the past three decades, Wolfram has pioneered research on a broad range of vernacular dialects, including African-American English, Puerto Rican English, Appalachian English, Ozark English, Southern English, American Indian English, Vietnamese English, and currently, Outer Banks and Lumbee English.

Wolfram is the author or co-author of books profiling the socio-linguistics of diverse communities and a number of textbooks, including *The Study of Social Dialects in American English*, the first student text on social dialectology, and his latest, *Language Variation in the School and Community*.

The talk is open to the public at no charge. For more information, call Clare Dannenberg at 1-7721.

### CVC 2000 charity applications available

Applications for charities to participate in the 2000 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) are now available. Employees often comment that their favorite charity is not included in the campaign. Each charity is now eligible to apply for funding. More information and the application are available on the CVC web site: <http://www.cvc.vipnet.org> or by contacting Karen Cronin at 1-8592 or [kcronin@vt.edu](mailto:kcronin@vt.edu).

### Professor to speak on campus

On Friday, March 24, the College of Engineering will host a talk by Anita Jones at 3:30 p.m. in 300 Whittemore. She is a professor of computer science, a former director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDRE) at the Department of Defense (DoD), and a co-founder of a successful software company.

At the DoD from 1993 until 1997, Jones held the highest defense department job ever held by a woman. She oversaw DoD's science and technology program, research laboratories, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Upon leaving DoD, Jones returned to her position as professor of computer science at the University of Virginia.

For more information, contact Amy Bell in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

## Holocaust Awareness Week activities begin March 29

A talk by one of two Holocaust survivors among 5,000 Jews living in a town in Poland will highlight Holocaust Awareness Week. The keynote address and a number of discussions and presentations surrounding diversity issues comprise the spring calendar of Multicultural Programs in the Dean of Students Office.

The Holocaust Awareness Week keynote address by Holocaust survivor Charlene Schiff will be in the Donaldson Brown auditorium on April 25 at 7 p.m. Schiff, one of two known survivors among the 5,000 Jews in her hometown in Poland, is affiliated with the United States Holocaust Museum.

Other events, which are open to the public, include:

"Disability Awareness: Students Sharing Their Differences, Professionals Sharing Their Experiences." On March 29 at 4 p.m., students

with various disabilities will share their experiences and discuss the resources they use. Professionals who provide services for students with disabilities will talk about the services they provide and why they decided to work in this area. Special guests include Susan Angle and Connie Wilkinson from Services for Students with Disabilities in the Dean of Students Office. Location: Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires.

Terry Kershaw, director of Black Studies, and student facilitators Charles Fields and Dennis Weaver will discuss *Invisible Life* by E. Lynn Harris on March 30, at 5 p.m. in the Multicultural Center, 140 Squires. The book is a fictional account of the black gay experience in America.

On April 11 at 4 p.m., "Race, Culture, and the Media: Gay/Bisexual Issues and the Media"

will be presented. Edd Sewell, professor of communications studies, and student representatives from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance will lead the discussion in the Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires.

There will be a reading of the names of Holocaust victims on April 24, from 1-5 p.m. in 140 Squires as part of Holocaust Awareness Week. The program is titled "Unto Every Person There Is a Name."

On April 24, at 6 p.m., Holocaust Awareness Week continues with "Christian Reactions to Anti-Semitism before the Holocaust." Jeff Cullen of Judicial Affairs will lead a discussion group in 140 Squires.

On April 26 at 4 p.m., Multicultural Programs will host the closing reception in the Donaldson Brown Commonwealth Dining Room. The Dean of Students Office will

recognize individuals and groups who have contributed to Multicultural Programs throughout the academic year. The reception is open to the public.

Students and faculty members will discuss their experiences visiting the death camps of Poland on April 27 at 7 p.m. as part of Holocaust Awareness Week in a program titled "Confronting the Chimneys." The program includes a slide show and short film. Location: Old Dominion Ballroom in Squires.

Anyone with a disability who needs assistance or accommodation to attend any of these events should contact the Dean of Students Office at 1-3787/TDD 1-8718.

More information is available from Elaine Oliver at 1-6023 or [ecoliver@vt.edu](mailto:ecoliver@vt.edu).

# EMPLOYMENT

## CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

## FACULTY POSITION

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position-closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with a "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline.

Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

### Full Time

**Agricultural Program Coordinator**, 3953M, Grade 12, Animal/Poultry Services.

**Applications Analyst**, 7328D, Grade 0, AIS.

**Budget Manager**, 7567T, Grade 14, Budget/Financial Planning.

**Budget Manager**, 1951T, Grade 14, Budget/Financial Planning.

**Electronic Technician**, 192G, Grade 9, Physical Plant.

**Fire Protection Inspector**, 239G, Grade 10, Environmental Health/Safety.

**One full-time food-operations position available.**

**Food Operations Manager A/Assistant Manager**, 1205H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.

**Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef**, 0837H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/West End Market.

**Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef**, 1781H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Dietrich Dining Hall.

**Geotechnical Engineering Technician (Lab Instr Supervisor)**, 7580J, Grade 11, Civil/Environmental Engineering.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 7572C, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 0485, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Human Resource Generalist**, 1073T, Grade 12, Personnel Services.

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, 7362M, Grade 9, CSES.

**Medical Technologist**, 2662M, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Nursing Assistant**, 7490J, Grade 4, Adult Day Services.

**Office Services Specialist**, 6844T, Grade 5, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence.

**Office Services Specialist**, 1522T, Grade 5, Political Science.

**Plumber/Steamfitter**, 7278H, Grade 7, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities.

**Police Captain**, 7578T, Grade 11, Police.

**Program Support Technician**, 6637G, Grade 6, Institutional Research/Planning Analysis.

**Program Support Technician**, 6327M, Grade 6, Agricultural/Applied Economics.

**Program Support Technician**, 5159T, Grade 6, College of Business.

**Program Support Technician Senior**, 1584T, Grade 7, College of Business.

**Programmer/Analyst**, 0000, Grade 0, Virginia Tech Services.

**Public Relations Assistant Specialist**, 4492J, Grade 8, Center for Transportation Research.

**Public Relations Coordinator**, LC083, Grade 12, University Relations.

**Public Relations Specialist**, 7549J, Grade 10, Center for Transportation Research.

**Secretary Senior**, 6313M, Grade 5, Animal and Poultry Services.

### Part Time

**Animal Care Technician A**, W022155M, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Animal Care Technician B**, W022190J, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Computer Technician (Installation/Repair Tech.)**, W022991T, Grade 8, Mathematics.

**Executive Secretary**, W022984T, Grade 6, University Leadership Development.

**Flight Instructor (Pilot, Single Engine)**, W023001G, Grade 10, Airport.

**Food Operations Assistant A**, W022314H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Food Operations Assistant B**, W022315H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Housekeeping Worker**, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

**Housekeeping Worker**, W022490H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W020117T, Grade 5, EHSS.

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W022172M, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Nursing Assistant**, W022156J, Grade 4, Adult Day Services.

**Office Services Assistant**, W0228835C, Grade 4, University Libraries.

**Office Services Assistant (Switchboard Operator)**, W022101C, Grade 4, CNS.

**Program Support Technician**, 7344T, Grade 6, Mathematics.

**Programmer**, W022999D, Grade 10, Information Technology Acquisitions.

**Public Relations Assistant Specialist/ Web Designer**, W022976H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Marketing/Conference Services.

**Radiologic Technologist**, W022238G, Grade 7, Health Center.

**Vehicle Services Attendant**, W023000G, Grade 3, Motor Pool.

### University Only

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, U7402M, Grade 9, Biochemistry.

### Off Campus

**Evening Announcer**, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

**Office Services Assistant**, 6586J, Grade 4, HNFE.

**Office Services Assistant**, 7496J, Grade 4, HNFE.

**Program Support Technician**, 7543J, Grade 6, NVC—Computer Science.

### INSTRUCTIONAL

#### English Language Institute. Instructor.

Contact: Judith Snoko, 620 N. Main St., Suite 205 (0273). Deadline: March 31.

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

#### University Libraries. College Librarian.

College of Human Resources and Education. Contact: Cathy Pillow, Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001. Review begins May 1.

**Women's Center. Director.** Contact: Myra Gordon, 100 Arts and Sciences Administration Bldg. (0405). Review begins April 10.

**University Unions and Student Activities. Coordinator of Greek Life.** Contact: Steven Leist, 319 Squires Student Center (0138). Deadline: April 14.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development (restricted).** #FA643, Patrick County. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 10.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development.** #FA724, Lancaster and Northumberland Counties. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 10.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development.** #FA724, Lancaster and Northumberland Counties. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 10.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources.** #FA708, Animal Science, Dickenson County. Contact: Steve Umberger, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 10.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. VCE Extension Specialist, Volunteer Development (re-advertised).** #11381. Contact: Michael Lambur, 122 Smyth Hall (0437). Review begins April 21.

## Affirmative Action Incentive Grant proposals sought

Virginia J. Reilly, interim director of Tech's EOAA Office, has announced the eleventh call for proposals for the Affirmative Action Incentive Grants Program.

The program is designed to provide seed money for new affirmative action activities for faculty and staff members or students. The program, which is a project of the university's EOAA Committee, will award grants of up to \$2,500 (from a total pool of \$20,000) for innovative affirmative-action projects.

The awards will be made for a one-year period, beginning July 1, 2000, with a potential

one-time renewal. Applicants seeking renewal or extension of previously funded projects must also submit a proposal.

Activities appropriate for support include projects designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of new approaches to promote affirmative action; activities which will enhance the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women, minorities, and people with disabilities; projects that will encourage behavioral and attitudinal changes supportive of affirmative action and diversity; and, studies to evalu-

ate affirmative-action or diversity programs, or to develop a better understanding of these issues at Virginia Tech.

Proposals may be submitted by individual faculty or staff members, by university departments, or by recognized campus organizations.

Application forms and further information concerning the Incentive Grants Program are available at the EOAA Office (336 Burruss Hall), by calling 1-7518, or from [kpoe@vt.edu](mailto:kpoe@vt.edu). The deadline for application is April 10.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Continued from 1

Medical Center received an increase of \$50,000 per year. The Virginia Coal and Energy Research Center received \$75,000 per year to open an office at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, and \$55,000 per year was appropriated for the Commercial Fish and Shellfish Technology program to assist with work in both Hampton Roads and Southwest Virginia. In addition, \$150,000 was provided for the biennium to fund a Rural Prosperity Study Commission, which will be staffed by the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

Amendments funded to assist students included an increase in undergraduate student financial assistance of \$739,000 for the first year of the biennium; \$150,000 for the biennium for the Minority Academic Opportunities Program; and \$199,000 for the biennium for the Unique Military Allowance.

In capital-outlay funding, the university

received \$29.5 million for the biennium in general funds. Of this amount \$15 million is designated for maintenance reserve, and \$2.5 million is for health, safety and accessibility projects. The General Assembly provided \$10 million to continue the Upper Quad project, and \$1.9 million for the Livestock Teaching Arena, to match the \$1.9 million in private funds already raised. Authorization was also received for \$112 million in non-General Fund capital projects, including the new alumni center and Lane Stadium expansion.

Language authorizing the university to expand distance-learning programs for out-of-state sites was adopted, and \$250,000 was provided to the secretary of education to expand the Electronic Campus of Virginia project. The Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) received an increase of \$2.7 million for the biennium.

A major initiative to stimulate university-based research was proposed by Gilmore and eventually adopted by the General Assembly with certain modifications. The Technology Competitiveness Fund will match sponsored

research at universities beginning in the 2001-02 fiscal year. The General Assembly appropriated \$13 million for this purpose, to be matched by an equal amount of non-general funds.

The General Assembly took no action on about \$60 million in projects recommended by Gilmore for funding by the Tobacco Commission. The Tobacco Commission has declined to endorse Gilmore's projects *in toto*, although it has held open the possibility of funding specific projects, including the university's proposal for bioinformatics. The commission will meet on the Virginia Tech campus on April 13 and 14.

## APPLICATIONS

Continued from 1

rankings." *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Tech 28th-highest in quality among public institutions, up 15 places from last year.

Information about admission to Virginia Tech is available at [www.admiss.vt.edu](http://www.admiss.vt.edu).



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## University's first design standards for instructional space to be unveiled

By Catherine Doss

Virginia Tech's first set of performance/design standards for instructional space will be unveiled Monday, March 27 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Fralin Biotechnology Center. The university community is invited to attend.

"These standards are a combination of empirical knowledge, best-built practices, and industry standards," said Dixon Hanna, associate provost for academic planning, resources, and space and head of the university's task force studying classroom

section.

Initiated by the Provost Peggy Meszaros in the fall of 1997, the classroom task force developed three major initiatives. The first was to implement the Transforming Instructional Space (TIS) grants. In its first round of grants last spring, more than \$200,000 was awarded to teams of faculty members for modifying and/or renovating classroom space. The second round of requests for proposals is being announced this week. Faculty members who are considering applying for TIS grants are encouraged to attend

*'These standards are a combination of empirical knowledge, best-built practices, and industry standards. . .'*

space, design, and usage. "These standards will be our baseline measure, and all new and renovated instructional spaces will be expected to conform to these standards as projects are funded."

Last summer the classroom task force sent out a request for proposals and subsequently hired Clark & Nexsen, a Virginia Beach-based architectural and engineering firm to assist the task force in developing design guidelines specific to the university's classrooms. In addition to the public presentation, the guidelines will be incorporated into the university's Web site for use by both the university community and as well as design consultants working on Virginia Tech projects. A final draft of the guideline can be found at [www.clarknaxsen.com](http://www.clarknaxsen.com) under the "projects"

the March 27 event. A short orientation session about the TIS grant program will follow the presentation.

The second major initiative of the classroom task force was a symposium on "Learning Centered Environments" held last December. The new classroom performance/design guidelines are the third and final initiative of the classroom task force.

Applications are now being accepted for the second round of Transforming Instructional Space (TIS) grants. Proposals are due Monday, April 17 in the Provost's Office, 330 Burruss Hall (0132). Preliminary decisions will be made by May 1.

For more information about the March 27 event, or the TIS grant-application process, contact Dixon Hanna at [hanna@vt.edu](mailto:hanna@vt.edu).

## Vet Med launches rabies program

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Epidemiologists in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine have contracted with Fairfax County Health Department officials on a \$75,000 project designed to help control a raccoon rabies epidemic in the area by conducting a wildlife rabies-vaccination program.

The goal of the Fairfax County Oral Rabies Vaccine Program is to help protect citizens and companion animals in the Fairfax County area from exposure to the deadly virus, according to Francois Elvinger, an associate professor in the college's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Fairfax County, a suburban area near Washington D.C., accounted for almost 20 percent of the state's reported rabies cases during 1999.

While rabies is largely controlled in domestic animals through mandatory immunization programs, it remains difficult to control in wild animal populations such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats. While effective wildlife vaccines have been developed, Elvinger said, getting the vaccine into the animal remains a significant challenge.

Epidemiologists have determined that delivering oral rabies vaccines through baits is the best way to approach the task. Elvinger, who is collaborating with scientists at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta on the project, plans to deliver the vaccine in roughly one-inch square blocks made of a fish-meal polymer.

In April, public-health workers and volunteers will begin distributing 17,000 vaccine doses over an area which covers about one-sixth of Fairfax County in an effort to achieve a distribution density of one bait per two and a half acres.

"We hope to get a large enough percentage of the raccoon population so that the epidemic will

be reduced," Elvinger said. "There will always be raccoons coming in from areas that are not vaccinated."

Virginia has had a significant wildlife rabies problem for the past 30 years or so, according to Elvinger. In 1999, 529 rabies cases were reported in wildlife, 35 cases were reported in domestic animals, and 17 additional cases were reported in bats. Of those 581 reported cases, 107 were reported in Fairfax County.



**PORCINE CELEBRITY** One of five piglets cloned by PPL Therapeutics "mugs" for the cameras during a March 14 press conference. The piglets were delivered via caesarean section at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine on March 5. (R. Griffiths)

## SMART ROAD

Continued from 1

evaluate three overhead lighting systems on height-adjustable poles configured to simulate 40-, 60-, 80- and 120-meter spacings. A dimming system will enhance the variability of the lighting, and an offset system of lights, seven feet from the road shoulder and 60 feet apart, will be evaluated in relation to the overhead lighting.

Where the 0.8-mile lighting section overlaps the all-weather section, researchers can evaluate new vehicle headlights and develop roadway markings and signs that drivers can see more easily in a range of lighting and weather conditions.

When the second phase of construction is completed later this year, the Smart Road will have 12 heavily instrumented experimental asphalt sections and two concrete sections with limited instrumentation. More than 400 electronic sensors for monitoring stress, strain, pressure, moisture penetration, frost depth and traffic counts were installed in the pavement layers during construction. The goal is to develop a better model of pavement to design stronger, longer-lasting pavement that requires less maintenance.

To avoid salt and chemical corrosion in the reinforcing steel in concrete bridges, an overpass on the test bed contains a cathodic prevention system of embedded, wire mesh strips carrying varying electrical currents. This experimental system may out-perform a retrofitted cathodic protection system that has been used for several years.

The Control Center enables researchers to monitor and control data collection, weather-generation, lighting, the power grids, and roadway surveillance cameras. The building has office and laboratory space for the VTTI, VDOT's Transportation Research Council, and companies that contract for use of the facility, and an office for VDOT's Christiansburg residency.

The VTTI currently has more than 100 projects under way, with project awards valued at \$6 million for this year.

## EXPERTISE

Continued from 1

members may elect to be alerted when new funding opportunities becomes available that matches keywords within their keyword fields in their expertise records. This service will soon for all faculty members in COS. If faculty members choose, they may opt to unsubscribe to this weekly e-mail alert service by simply clicking on the link at the end of their first COS Funding Alert e-mail.

- Access to the *Federal Register* and the *Commerce Business Daily*.

- A fully searchable bibliographic database that provides access to comprehensive information on all US PATENTS issued since 1975

- Meetings and conferences lists to help locate scientific meetings around the world that match professional and personal interests, and allows the university's faculty and staff members to promote meetings and conferences.

- Access to AGRICOLA, the most comprehensive database of bibliographic information available in agricultural research, listings going back as far as 1979.

Virginia Tech will continue to provide VTED records to Brainpower for Business, CIT's database of college and university researchers in Virginia, said Tom Caruso, RGS industry program development manager.

In addition to funding sources, being listed in the university, state, and international expertise databases will broaden the contact base for research collaborators, industry and government contacts and partnerships, and graduate students. Graduate students may use the database to explore faculty research and

find research projects and programs that fit their interests, and job opportunities.

The VTED site, at <http://vted.rgs.vt.edu>, allows any user to search by topic, name, or department; offers several contacts if users cannot find an expert; provides suggestions for creating an expertise record, including how to develop an exceptional expertise record; and has a short list of frequently asked questions. In addition to searching VTED, the VT community can also search COS, which gives them even greater search capabilities.

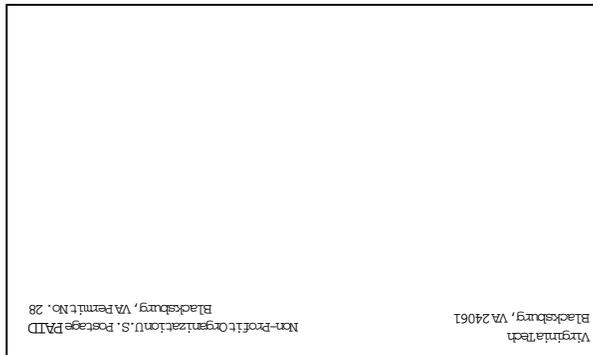
"University departments and centers can also make use of VTED in many ways, such as for publications, lists, or links," said Clayton Hodges, VTED support technician and Virginia Tech-COS liaison. "We're working with departments and other groups to both expand

and develop ways to fully use this service while helping them meet their particular goals.

To be successful, we need their ideas, suggestions, and feedback, and most importantly, the participation of the faculty members. We have made it easier for faculty members to enter or update their records, to search directly, the largest funding database on the web, just to mention a few of the improvements."

There are now more than 800 Virginia Tech expertise records on COS and VTED is averaging more than 100 visits per day on weekdays.

Groups interested in a presentation about VTED may contact Hodges at 1-2378 or [cghaves@exchange.vt.edu](mailto:cghaves@exchange.vt.edu).



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