

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 4 for article
on telecommunications.

New scholarships created to enhance diversity

By Clara B. Cox

Virginia Tech has established 27 renewable undergraduate scholarships and three graduate fellowships to attract under-represented student populations to the university, a move that should help diversify the campus, a goal announced by President Charles Steger during his inaugural address last spring.

The first 27 scholarships, named the Presidential Diversity Grants in recognition of Steger's goal, and the first three fellowships will be awarded for the 2001-02 academic year. The total number of undergraduate recipients in any one year could reach a high of 108 during the 2004-05 academic year,

with a peak of nine graduate recipients anticipated a year earlier.

According to David R. Ford, vice provost for academic affairs, funding for the scholarships will draw on a variety of pooled resources, with the bulk coming from licensing fees paid by manufacturers to use trademarked Virginia Tech names. Ford said that the university is also drawing on existing scholarship programs and donor-designated endowments and annual gifts and is pooling the money in a "revolving," or endowment-type, fund expected to approach \$3 million by 2008.

"This is a concrete step with dollars attached, something that will be sustained and will grow. It is one step, albeit an important one,

in increasing access to Virginia Tech for under-represented populations," said Benjamin Dixon, vice president for multicultural affairs. Dixon, whose office issued the university's five-year strategic diversity plan last fall, said the scholarship fund helps implement that plan, although he emphasized that a variety of other approaches either have been or will be initiated.

The diversity scholarship program will span a minimum of seven years, with an opportunity for review, revision, and renewal at the end of that time, Ford said.

"Initial undergraduate awards would be \$3,000 a year each for 27 recipients, renewable for an additional three years depending on satisfactory academic progress," Ford said. "The

graduate component would include a maximum of nine diversity fellowships of approximately \$5,100 per year each to Virginia residents and \$7,500 each to out-of-state residents."

Ford said that the initial idea for the scholarships came from a recommendation of the Provost's Task Force on Undergraduate Enrollment of African-American Students, although he emphasized that the scholarships will target all under-represented groups, not just African-Americans. The task force was organized by former Provost Peggy Meszaros last year to examine ways to increase African-American student enrollment at Tech.

(See SCHOLARSHIPS on 4)

VTPL gets \$1.8-million DOE grant

By Lynn Nystrom

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded the Virginia Tech Photonics Laboratory (VTPL) a \$1.8-million grant to continue its work in self-calibrating temperature and pressure sensors.

In addition, the DOE awarded VTPL's partner, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, an additional \$180,000 to collaborate on the project and work towards the commercialization of these sensors. Oak Ridge maintains an internationally recognized sapphire material-processing and fabrication facility.

The sensors are designed for use in harsh environments, particularly where temperatures exceed 1,500 degrees Celsius, said Anbo Wang, director of the VTPL. For example, these extremely hot environments are the hosts to jet engines, power plants, and ceramic engines that might power the autos of the future. The other Tech principal investigators on this program are Gary Pickrell and Russell May, all from VTPL.

By placing this sensing device in a jet engine, it could monitor sound-wave pressures, and warn the pilot that the engine is on the verge of shutting down. Or, this sensor in an auto engine could keep the vehicle operating at its most-efficient temperature and pressure.

"Virginia Tech is to be commended for its innovative research which continues to provide favorable results benefiting the residents, businesses and communities in Southwest Virginia and the surrounding region," Congressman Rick Boucher said. "This federal grant to Virginia Tech and to Oak Ridge National Laboratory will be invaluable as we continue to position our region as a leader in advanced technologies and research, and I am pleased that this award has been made."

(See VTPL on 4)



The original Fisk University Jubilee Singers are portrayed in this painting. Their contemporary counterparts will perform on campus February 10.

Fisk's Jubilee Singers to perform

By Sally Harris

It was 1871, six years after the Civil War, when one of the main schools set up for freed slaves, Fisk University, was about to go under financially. Originally set up as an elementary and normal school for freedmen, the school was located in barracks that had previously housed Union wounded. Nine young students and a leader who believed it their destiny to save Fisk took off on a seven-year, toll-taking odyssey to sing Fisk back to health.

Most of them had been field hands and house slaves, as lacking in freedom then as they were in money now. None of them had coats or clothing suitable for the cold Northern climate they were about to encounter.

They began their tour, but it was an unsuccessful beginning because they were singing European or white songs. Freezing in the cold weather, encountering signs that warned them to go home, wearing themselves out traveling from town to town to sing for not much more than their keep, they depended on

good people to feed and house them, since most hotels would not admit them.

According to a PBS documentary, the group even found itself stranded in one small town, surrounded by an angry mob. They started singing, and the crowd disappeared one by one.

As they encountered hardship after hardship, their strength waning, the group began to incorporate "cabin songs," or spirituals into their repertoire. The simple songs had few words because slaves were forbidden to learn to read and had to know the words by heart, according to Nikki Giovanni, poet and alumni distinguished professor of English, and sponsor of the group's visit. But the music, composed by slaves for comfort and solace from their bleak lives, also came from the heart. After reluctantly adding the sacred music of their people to the program, the Jubilee Singers became known and welcomed.

The Jubilee Singers live on. The present group still sings the music that started from the

(See FISK'S on 2)

Center grants to examine IT impact

By Jean Elliott

The first round of grants has been awarded in connection with the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth and Families, according to Peggy S. Meszaros, William E. Lavery professor and director of the newly formed center.

Founded last fall, the center provides a focus for research and outreach related to the human dimensions of information technology. Current statistics reveal that 55 million Americans go on line every day and more than a third of them spend at least an hour on the Internet.

Education and income are not major determinants of whether a household will be connected. Instead, the key predictor of an on-line connection in the home seems to be a parent's experience with the web outside the home. Access and experience are just two factors that look to prolong the Digital Divide. Nearly two-thirds of on-line youth ages 9-17 prefer connecting to the Internet rather than watching TV or using the telephone. By 2005, it is expected that 75 percent of all U.S. households will be connected.

The focus of Virginia Tech's newest center will be to examine how this continued growth in technology affects our children, youth, and families. Through research and outreach, the center will provide critical insights and data on issues of concern to fami-

(See CENTER on 4)

REMINDER
FACULTY MEMBERS ARE URGED
TO VOTE ON THE SENATE
CONSTITUTION FEBRUARY 1-9.

Ballots with instructions should be in mailboxes by Thursday, Feb. 1. Fifty percent of the faculty must vote.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 2

Organization of Women Faculty Coffee Hour, 8-9 a.m., Easy Chair, University Mall: 1-9214 for information.

Saturday, 3

Black History Month Event, 2 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center: Call 1-6377 for information.

Women's Basketball, 2 p.m.: At Providence.

Men's Basketball, 8 p.m.: At Connecticut.

Sunday, 4

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.

Monday, 5

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Black History Month Event, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: Call 1-5552 for information.

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Alcohol-awareness Speaker, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Mike Green.

Tuesday, 6

CEUT, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Hillcrest small conference room: Margaret Hable. Call 1-6995 for appointment.

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Family/Work/Life Resources Program, noon-1 p.m., location TBA.

Disability Disclosure Seminar, 5-6 p.m., Henderson Career Services conference room: spangle@vt.edu to register.

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center: Call 2-2232 for information.

Men's Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At Miami.

Wednesday, 7

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Faculty Development Workshop, noon-1:30 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

CEUT, 2:30-5 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA.

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Connecticut.

Thursday, 8

ULD Training Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (Through 2-9), DBHCC room C, 116 Robeson: 1-6727 to register.

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 1140-H Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

CEUT, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Black History Month Speaker, 7 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: Judge Joe Brown.

Friday, 9

UOIP Workshop, 2-4 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: 1-5888 for information.

SEMINARS

Friday, 2

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Dean DellaPenna, Michigan State.

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Ian Harrison, UVA.

Tuesday, 6

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Samantha Bates, University of Washington.

Thursday, 8

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Hongqua Xu, University of Michigan.

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Ross Angel.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Carole Cramer.

Friday, 9

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Wen-Li Wu, National Institute of Science/Technology.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Richard Dixon, Noble Foundation.

BULLETINS

UOIP sponsors grant-writing workshop

The University Office of International Programs (UOIP) is sponsoring a grant-writing workshop to be held in two sessions, Friday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 16. Participants will meet in 1020 Torgersen from 2-4 p.m. on both days. Experienced grant writers will guide faculty members and administrators through the entire grant-writing process, from locating funding sources through preparing a grant application.

Participants should bring to the first session a list of key words describing the grant they plan to write. By the end of both workshops, each person should have a proposal ready for submission. For information, contact David Britt at 1-5888 or dbritt@vt.edu.

Women Faculty group holds monthly meeting

The Organization of Women Faculty Coffee Hour will be held Friday, Feb. 2 from 8-9 a.m. at the Easy Chair in University Mall. The organization includes women in academic

and administrative faculty positions, and all women faculty members are welcome. The coffee hour is an informal networking opportunity held on the first Friday of every month. For information, contact Tamara Kennelly at 1-9214.

Disability-related seminar offered

Career Services and the Dean of Students Office are sponsoring a seminar titled "Discussing Your Disability And Accommodation Needs With Prospective Employers" on Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 5-6 p.m. in the Henderson Career Services conference room. RSVP to Susan Angle at spangle@vt.edu by 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. Anyone requiring special accommodations should contact Angle at 1-3787/TDD 1-8718 by this deadline.

Call for posters announced

All faculty and staff member and students are invited to

submit posters in research areas related to bioinformatics and computational biology. The call for posters, including a submission form, is available on-line at <http://www.rgs.vt.edu/oneil/vbil/>. Questions can be directed to members of the organizing committee listed in this document. Poster abstracts are due February 19.

AID initiates fundraising campaign

The Association for India's Development (AID) is initiating a campaign to raise funds for earthquake-relief activities in India. AID is now accepting donations, which will be sent directly to affected areas. Collection desks and donation boxes will be set up on campus, and the group is sponsoring a fundraising luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 3. For information, e-mail Prahalad Thota at pthota@vt.edu.

Copán lecture to honor Currie

By Humberto Rodríguez

The Henry H. Wiss Center for Theory and History of Art and Architecture, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, is presenting a special exhibition "Uncovering the Copán Dynasty, Maya History and Archaeology: A Tribute to Leonard J. Currie," from February 5 to 9, in Cowgill lobby.

A lecture by Mark Schneider, "The Maya: Architecture as Cosmic Vision," is also scheduled in conjunction with this exhibition for Thursday, Feb. 8, at 2:15 p.m. in Hancock auditorium, with a reception to follow in Cowgill lobby. The video "Lost Kingdoms of the Maya" will be shown at 7 p.m. in Hancock auditorium. The public is invited to attend all of these events.

The exhibition features original drawings and early photographs by Currie documenting his pioneer work at the classical Mayan site of Copán, Honduras dating from AD 300-825.

The exhibit also features contemporary photographs by Kenneth Garrett and a painting by Christopher A. Klein from an exhibition underwritten by the National Geographic Society and Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC.

Currie (1913-1996), well-known architect and designer, was head of the Department of Architecture at Virginia Tech between 1956-1962 and is generally credited with laying the foundations of the present College of Architecture and Urban Studies. He was one of the co-signers of the original Charter of Machu Picchu of 1977; he was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and in 1993, received the Virginia AIA Chapter's highest award, the William C. Noland Medal; in 1996 he was presented with the Lifetime Contributions Award by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Currie's major contribution to the early

(See LECTURE on 4)

Brown keynote speaker for BHM

By Clara B. Cox

Judge Joe Brown, the non-traditional presiding judge of the syndicated courtroom show that bears his name, will present the keynote address for Virginia Tech's Black History Month celebration February 8 at 7 p.m. in Squires Colonial Hall.

Brown grew up in one of the toughest neighborhoods in South Central Los Angeles, graduating at the top of his high-school class. He enrolled in UCLA, where he paid his tuition by loading trucks and digging ditches. A friend recommended that he try law school, and he went on to earn a doctor of law degree with honors from UCLA.

Brown moved to Memphis in 1974 to take a legal-services position with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and later became the city's first African-American prosecutor. He started his own practice in 1978. He returned to public service in 1990 and was

elected judge of Division 9 of the State Criminal Courts for Shelby County.

In his televised courtroom, he uses creative alternative sentencing to encourage offenders to learn from their mistakes.

FISK'S

Continued from 1

depths of the suffering and search for solace of their race. Today, Giovanni said, it is a "high honor" to be chosen to be a part of the Jubilee Singers.

The Fisk University Jubilee Singers will perform spirituals and "cabin songs" Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. The concert is open to the public free of charge. For information, call Giovanni at 1-9453.

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

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

Four full-time food-service positions available.

Administrative Assistant, 001228R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Administrative Assistant, 002811R, Pay Band 3, Executive Vice President.

Administrative Assistant, 007718B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry—Division of Polymer Chemistry.

Administrative Assistant, 007719B, Pay Band 3, ECE/MPRG.

Admissions Plans And Clearances Team Member, 001534R, Pay Band 3, Graduate School.

Assistant Counselor, 006557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Athletic Eligibility Analyst, 001609R, Pay Band 3, University Registrar.

B and G Supervisor B, 001366G, Pay Band 4, Physical Plant.

Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant), 001118G, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.

Business Development Director, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/MPRRG.

Computer Systems Engineer, 007691T, Pay Band 5, ESM.

Computer Systems Engineer, 006991J, Pay Band 5, RGS.

Computer Systems Engineer, 001894T, Pay Band 5, CS.

Computer Technician, 007712R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

Data Coordinator, 007185R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Data Warehouse Architect, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Database And Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, Research and Graduate Studies.

Desktop Support—Project Leader, 006772D, Pay Band 4, ITASM.

Editor/Communications Coordinator, 007681G, Pay Band 5, OIRD.

Electrician, 007565G, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.

Electrician Supervisor, 001545G, Pay Band 4, Physical Plant.

Electronics Technician, 007656J, Pay Band 4, VTTI.

Executive Assistant, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VTTI.

Executive Chef, 000266H, Pay Band 4, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.

Facility Manager, 007317J, Pay Band 3, Recreational Sports.

Fiscal Director, 007716A, Pay Band 5, CNS.

Fiscal Technician Senior, 004047B, Pay Band 3, Chem E.

Government Documents Processing Coordinator, 000164F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries/Technical Services.

Honor System Operations Manager, 007648R, Pay Band 3, Undergraduate Honor System—Provost.

Housekeeping Supervisor, 000824H, Pay Band 2, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, 001631G, Pay Band 1, DBHDD.

Housekeeping Worker, 001515H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006926H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 002745H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Human Resource Specialist, 002499R, Pay Band 4, Personnel Services.

Interpreter for Deaf, 007472J, Pay Band 3, Dean of Students.

Lab Specialist, 000799B, Pay Band 3, Biology.

Lab Specialist, 001972M, Pay Band 3, CVM/MDL—Academic Affairs.

Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.

Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.

Maintenance Assistant, 002195J, Pay Band 2, Recreational Sports.

Manager of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.

Manager of Financial Reporting, 002174F, Pay Band 5, University Controller.

Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Operating Systems Analyst, 000871L, Pay Band 5, Computing Center.

Operations Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet's Place.

Parking Enforcement Officer, 007221R, Pay

Band 1, Parking Services.

Personnel Coordinator, 007711R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

Program Support Technician, 001522B, Pay Band 3, Political Science.

Public Relations Coordinator, 000413R, Pay Band 5, Undergraduate Admissions.

Public Relations Specialist, 006837R, Pay Band 4, WSFP.

Research Engineer, 007634R, Pay Band 4, VCCER.

Security Lead Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), W020119G, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.

Shelving Supervisor, 001323F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries.

Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Cochrane—West End Market.

Snaps Security Guard, 007722C, Pay Band 1, Police.

Software Developer, 007690T, Pay Band 5, ESM.

Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.

Sous Chef, 007266H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Dietrick Dining Hall.

Special Event And Hearing Appeals Coordinator, 007710R, Pay Band 2, Parking Services.

Special Projects/Utilities Crew, 000216H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Storage Assistant, 000489F, Pay Band 2, University Libraries/Storage Building.

Technical Writer/Editor, 007721R, Pay Band 3, Center for Wireless Communications.

Telecommunications Network Technician, 006965A, Pay Band 3, CNS.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W020556M, Pay Band 2, CVM.

Animal Care Technician A, W022155M, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Application Processor, W022876R, Pay Band 3, Undergraduate Admissions.

Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W022143G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Computer Network Support Tech, W023174G, Pay Band 4, Police.

Course Development Specialist, 007708M, Pay Band 4, Entomology.

Data Entry Operator, W022875R, Pay Band 2, Undergraduate Admissions.

Delivery Driver, W022337A, Pay Band 1, Printing Services.

Enrollment Services Assistant, W023172F, Pay Band 3, Business.

Executive Secretary, 004557R, Pay Band 3, CNR.

Fiscal Assistant, W023128M, Pay Band 2, APS.

Two part-time food-services position available.

Head Teacher, Child Development Lab, W023205J, Pay Band 4, Human Development.

Housekeeping Worker, W020214J, Pay Band 1, Health Center.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Office Services Specialist, W023188R, Pay Band 2, Provost's Office.

Parking Enforcement Officer, W020891R, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.

Quality Assurance Agent, W023015L, Pay Band 3, AIS.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238J, Pay Band 3, Health Center.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Records Clerk, W020548R, Pay Band 2, University Registrar.

Storekeeper, W022291M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Trades Helper, W022966H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Facilities.

Visitor Center Receptionist, W022957D, Pay Band 2, University Relations.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Locksmith Senior, U000588G, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.

OFF CAMPUS

Enrollment Program Assistant, 002091J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.

Library Assistant, 006842J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.

Office Services Assistant, 007330J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 005866J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Radio Announcer, W020800L, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.

Research Specialist, 007700M, Pay Band 3, CSES/Warsaw.

Secretary Senior, 007397M, Pay Band 2, VCE—Culpeper.

Underwriting Account Executive, 001963L, Pay Band 3, WVTF.

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Women's Center. Sexual Assault Services/Education Coordinator. Contact: Ellen Plummer, Price House (0270). Review begins Feb. 12.

Public Service Programs. Economic Development Specialist. Contact: J. Douglas McAlister, 1080 S. Main St., Blacksburg (0162). Review begins Feb. 15.

University Libraries. Serials Coordinator. Contact: Cathy Pillow, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001. Review begins March 15.

Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology. Postdoctoral Associate, Neurotoxicology. Contact: Bernard Jortner, Phase II, Room 229 (0442). Open until filled.

Food Science/Technology. Food Processing Microbiologist. Contact: Susan Sumner, 22 Food Science Bldg. (0418). Deadline is April 15.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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Editor

John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor

Kimberly Richards-Thomas, 1-8538

Production Manager

Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager

1-8819

Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask Spectrum" should be addressed to the editor, 105 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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Leffel honored for outstanding service

By Jeanne M. Garon

Linda G. Leffel, professor and director of marketing research in University Outreach, has been honored by the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA), Region III, with its Outstanding Service to Continuing Education award.

Presented at the organization's recent meeting in Tampa, Fla., the award recognizes Leffel's contributions to Virginia Tech's continuing-education program development as well as her contributions to the broader field of continuing education. It also recognizes Leffel's contributions to advancing the development and use of distance-education technologies and expanding market-research initiatives.

"There is no greater honor than recognition

from one's peers, and Linda has earned it. Over the past several years she has played a pivotal role in our efforts to make Tech's educational programs accessible world wide to diverse populations," said C. Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach.

Leffel, who has worked at Tech more than 25 years, received her doctorate in education from the university in 1973 and subsequently served in various leadership roles in continuing education. Her most recent position was director of program development, where she led a team that developed a business plan resulting in \$1.2 million in funding and provided nationally recognized market research on the need for workforce-technology training.

Founded in 1915, the University Continuing

Education Association (formerly the National University Continuing Education Association) is among the oldest college and university associations in the United States. As the principal U.S. organization for continuing higher education, the association assists institutions of higher learning and affiliated non-profit organizations to increase access through a wide array of educational programs and services.

UCEA also provides national leadership in support of policies that advance workforce and professional development. Since its inception, the association has been committed to making higher education available to everyone, as well as to ensuring that programs and services address societal needs and economic trends.

Harry T. (Tom) Hurd

Harry T. (Tom) Hurd, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, died Sunday, Jan. 28.

Hurd came to the university from Corning in 1977, joining Virginia Tech as associate director of sponsored programs, and was named director in 1989. He was an alumnus, having received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Tech in 1968. He earned his master of science degree from Radford University.

"Tom kept faculty members' needs first and foremost," said Len Peters, vice provost for research. "He is going to be missed."

Pat Hobbs, team coordinator in sponsored programs, said, "He was knowledgeable in all areas of research administration. And he was a caring person, dedicated to the university and the people who worked for him," she said. "Yes, he will be missed, particularly by those of us who worked with him and depended on his capable guidance and leadership. He was a professional."

Velma Thompson, who Hurd hired in contracts and grants in 1977, said, "Tom was excellent to work with. When we said we wanted to initiate the National Science Foundation's FastLane project (for electronic submission and processing of proposals), he made sure we had what we needed." Virginia Tech was among the first to participate in FastLane and received an award recognizing its contribution to the program.

He was a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, the Society of Research Administrators, and the Council on Governmental Relations.

Martinsville to sponsor Tech research project

By Heather McElrath

Henry and Patrick counties, and the City of Martinsville have decided to sponsor a research project by Virginia Tech's Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) to study telecommunications needs and determine options for broadband wireless (LMDS) Internet access.

The project, in the amount of \$155,000, is currently well into the planning stages. It involves cooperation and support from Henry and Patrick counties and the City of Martinsville. It will encompass financial modeling, a business plan, proposed business structure, engineering design and deployment.

CWT Director Charles Bostian said the project demonstrates the center's goal to jumpstart broadband wireless availability in under-served areas of the state using Local Multipoint Distribution Service (LMDS).

LMDS is a new Federal Communications Commission radio spectrum allocation that provides a high-speed "last-mile" connection from user's premises to the world-wide optical-fiber network.

Through its private foundation, in 1998 Virginia Tech purchased LMDS licenses covering most of Southside and Southwest Virginia. Its goal is to use public-private partnerships to bring affordable broadband access to the region

and end the digital divide that has, in the past, kept high-tech business and industry from seeing the region as a viable location.

Several months ago, County Administrator Sidney Clower brought together representatives of local civic, business, and educational groups with the CWT research team consisting of faculty members from the departments of finance, marketing, electrical and computer engineering, geography; communications network services personnel, and CWT graduate students.

The project's principal investigator is CWT faculty member and Space and Wireless Business Center Director George W. Morgan

Student Success grants available for 2001-02

By Jeanne M. Garon

The Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs has announced the availability of Student Success grants for the 2001-02 academic year to support two types of endeavors, innovative programs and research projects, and has issued a call for proposals for the grants.

Student Success innovative programs are designed to enhance students' ability to maintain a 2.0 quality-credit average (QCA). Proposals may pertain to new or existing programs. Principal investigators may compete for and receive consecutive years of program funding,

depending on the worthiness of competing proposals in subsequent years. The maximum award is anticipated to be \$25,000; however, worthy proposals with appropriate budget justifications may be awarded up to \$50,000.

Members of the campus community are also invited to propose Student Success research projects designed to evaluate the effectiveness of programs currently enhancing undergraduate student success. Results will be used to guide decisions about long-range plans for enhancing student success and retention rates. The

maximum award for research projects is \$5,000.

All proposals must be received by the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs before the close of business on Monday, March 12. The office will notify directors of selected programs no later than May 1, and will require acceptance letters from project directors by May 15.

For more information on the program, visit <http://filebox.vt.edu/admin/provost/success/index.html> or contact Angela Mathias at mathias@vt.edu.

CENTER

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lies, educators, policymakers, business and agency leaders.

The center's initial research will explore the appropriate use of technology in home and academic settings. For example, Lynn Hill, Kelly Wells and Angela Primavera will be studying the use of technology as an electronic scaffold in children's learning processes and home-school partnerships. Kathleen Carico will

examine how the discussion of literature is affected when K-12 teachers in two counties use a multi-school electronic-discourse community. Rosemary Goss and Julia Beamish will be looking at how developers of multi-family housing decide what technology to include and how residents use it. Ann Hertzler, Denise Brochetti, Daisy Stewart, Greg Sherman and Nancy Templeman will be assessing what skills consumers need to use information technology to learn about food and nutrition, and how Extension specialists use technology for teaching.

"Research traditionally begins within a conceptual framework and theory base," Meszaros said. "Studying technology impacts on children, youth and families opens up a whole new set of questions on methodology. Through the work of the center affiliates and connections to researchers around the world, we will be developing and testing theories about human interactions and technology impacts."

The wider community is also a resource. "Because Blacksburg was the first and is the most wired town in America," Meszaros said, "opportunities abound for meeting with families who have lived with technology for more than a decade."

VTPL

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Honeywell, ABB, Howmet, and Corning are a few of the companies that have teamed with the Virginia Tech Photonics Laboratory (VTPL) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to help commercialize the new sensing technology.

Honeywell is the leading producer of gas-turbine engines and Corning is the leading manufacturer of optical fiber, cable and photonic products for the telecommunications industry. ABB is the world's largest manufacturer of power-generation equipment. Howmet is the industry leader in manufacturing precision investment castings of aluminum, titanium, and superalloy for aircraft, turbine engines, and aerospace needs.

In the past, industry has primarily relied upon semiconductor pressure sensors that have several major drawbacks. These include a limited maximum operating temperature of 482 degrees Celsius, poor reliability at high temperatures, severe sensitivity to temperature changes, and susceptibility to electromagnetic interference.

The Tech engineers produced the new sensor by combining several key technologies

into a single sensor system. They focused on the advantages of each technology and significantly minimized the disadvantages.

In addition to the advantage of working in very high temperatures, the new sensor, called the self-calibrated interferometric/intensity based (SCIIB) sensor, is smaller in size, has higher resolution and accuracy, and a higher frequency response than its precursors. It is also immune to electromagnetic interference, has a strong resistance to chemical corrosion, is self-calibrating, and provides for an absolute measurement.

Another key to the success of the new sensor is one of the materials the engineers have chosen. They are using fibers made of single-crystal sapphire. According to Wang, "sapphire is an excellent material for the construction of harsh environment sensors due to its high melting point, excellent transparency, and well-documented resistance to corrosion." But the sapphire has been limited in its uses due to some technical constraints.

Some of the initiatives they will be working on, Wang said, include the use of a commercially available gold-coated fiber with the SCIIB sensors. They will also investigate different polymer coatings that will withstand the higher temperatures.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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According to Dixon, the scholarships will provide a cross-college effort at increasing diversity in ethnic, cultural, gender, and disability arenas, and the selection of recipients will not be based solely on need. Selection will be based on a number of factors, including the diversity activities of the candidates before they come to the university. "We plan to generate programs that will allow grant recipients to continue and expand these activities once they come to Blacksburg," he said.

"In the spring, we will organize a group of already-recruited students who can act as mentors to minority students entering in the fall. After that, if a student wins one of these scholarships, we will expect that student to assist the university in further improving the campus climate and the quality of Tech's educational experience," Dixon said.

Selection of scholarship recipients will be coordinated between the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Last fall, Virginia Tech enrolled a total of 21,428 undergraduate students. Of that number, 2,725 are minority students: 929 blacks, 52 native Americans, 1,372 Asians, and 392 Hispanics.

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LECTURE

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archaeology of Copán, is highlighted in this exhibition. Currie's work, conducted in 1941 while on an Arthur W. Wheelwright Fellowship at Harvard, gave him the opportunity to serve as assistant to Gustav Strömsvic, then the archaeologist in charge at Copán. The documentation gathered during this period was to provide an invaluable reference for all subsequent archaeological research in Copán.