

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 23 NUMBER 22 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2001

Information on the university's strategic-planning process available at <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/president/strategic/index.html>.

Interior-design program ranked thirteenth in nation

By Jean Elliott

Virginia Tech has been recognized as the thirteenth-best school in the nation for interior-design education.

Every year, *DesignIntelligence* conducts a comprehensive study of the nation's top interior-design firms to determine their annual ranking of colleges and universities. The results of the 2001 study have been published in the newly released *Almanac of Architecture & Design 2001*.

This study is the industry's first "customer-satisfaction"-oriented ranking of in-

terior-design degree programs. Principals, interior design directors, and human resources directors from over 300 leading U.S. interior-design firms were asked to name from which FIDER (Foundation for Interior Design Education Research) -accredited schools they have had the best experience hiring employees relative to the past 10 years. Firms in each market sector and throughout all regions of the country were contacted.

"There are approximately 500 interior-design programs in the nation, and we are proud that Virginia Tech has moved into the top 15,"

Professor Joan McLain-Kark said. "It is particularly satisfying to know that the leading, award-winning firms, including industry giants and top sector leaders, think so highly of our graduates."

According to LuAnn Gaskill, department head of near environments, "The interior design faculty has developed a program where students have the opportunity to engage in creative thinking and problem-solving techniques in the design of functional and aesthetic interior environments. It's a program area that provides students with access to a variety of technologies

and the diversity of learning experiences that are so critical to quality programming. The efforts of the faculty members and students have clearly paid off in this latest ranking indicator."

The interior-design program is offered through the Department of Near Environments in the College of Human Resources and Education. Degrees awarded are the bachelor of science, master of science and doctor of philosophy.

For a complete ranking of all the schools, call Greenway Consulting at (800) 726-8603.

New center will focus on energy-deregulation issues

By Sookhan Ho

A new research center has been established in the Pamplin College with a \$200,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Clearinghouse, part of one of the nation's largest energy producers, Richmond-based Dominion.

The Dominion Center for Energy Modeling and Optimization will conduct research on business techniques, technologies, and strategies to address current and emerging challenges in the deregulated energy marketplace, said center Director Cliff Ragsdale, associate professor of management science and information technology.

"Deregulation will increase competitive pressures throughout the power industry," Ragsdale said, "requiring energy companies to optimize the use of their physical and financial assets." Research, he said, may help utilities and other states avoid the problems plaguing California, the first state to deregulate the purchasing of electric power. "We will bring state-of-the-art business theories and information technologies to bear on the challenges brought about by energy deregulation. We will apply the power of business research to the business of power."

"A new industry with new rules requires new business strategies," said Thomas A. Capps, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Dominion. "We're pleased to join with the outstanding faculty members and students at Virginia Tech to study marketing and operations strategies for the changing energy industry."

The center, he said, will work with energy-related businesses and government agencies to analyze and design effective solutions to problems associated with the efficient generation, transmission, and distribution of energy products.

The center brings together a multi-disciplinary group of faculty members and graduate students with knowledge and skills in operations research, computer modeling, supply-chain management, financial-risk

Virginia Tech Electric Service engineering manager, Bob Dellinger, left, gives a tour of Tech's power plant to Cliff Ragsdale and Dominion Energy's Director of Enterprise Risk Management, David Holden. (J. McCormick)



management, and information systems and technology. "The faculty members have also conducted training sessions for and consulted with various organizations in the energy industry."

The center's research activities cover a broad range of topics, Ragsdale said. Current research topics undertaken by faculty members associated with the center include simulation optimization, financial instruments for risk management, spreadsheet-based decision support systems, supply-chain management, statistics, machine learning (genetic algorithms and neural networks), multi-criteria decision making, information visualization using virtual reality, knowledge management, and intelligent agents for autonomous negotiation.

The center supports Virginia Tech's educational mission in several other ways, Ragsdale said. "Faculty members associated with the center are available to conduct seminars and training sessions for organizations on a variety

of business and information technology topics." The center actively seeks to involve students in its research activities. "Information gathered in conjunction with the center's research may also be used to create case studies and examples for classroom discussion."

The center works with employers in the energy industry to create co-op and internship opportunities for students. It also maintains a listing of energy-related educational and research resources available on the web.

Pamplin Dean Richard E. Sorensen said the center's funding reflects the outstanding research ability and reputation of the college's faculty. "Our goal is to continue to raise the level of our research grants and contracts funding."

For more information about the new center, check web site <http://www.bit.vt.edu/energy/>. Ragsdale can be reached at 1-4697, or e-mailed at crags@vt.edu.

Swiss educators visiting Tech campus

By Jean Elliott

Thanks to the College of Human Resources and Education (CHRE), seven teachers from Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, will be visiting the United States from February 24 through March 3.

Hailing from the home city of Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA), these educators will arrive in Washington, DC tomorrow. The initial groundwork for this visit was established when students from CHRE's child-development program studied at Riva last summer. It was then that Dean Janet Johnson, along with faculty members Victoria Fu and Lynn Hill, began the dialogue that led to this exchange.

"Every time we visit Riva, the teachers at one of the elementary schools just open the doors and let us in," Hill said. "It's amazing how generous they are. After touring with us last summer, Dean Johnson felt the need to reciprocate the generosity. She returned and figured out a way to make this exchange happen."

While many Virginia Tech students have benefited from their international experiences at the CESA, this is the first opportunity for educators from that city to visit the Blacksburg surroundings and study American programs.

(See SWISS on 4)

BOV to meet in Northern Virginia

By David Nutter

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly meeting in Northern Virginia March 4-5, as the 15-member governing body conducts a comprehensive tour of the university's extensive facilities in the region.

The full meeting of the board will be held on Monday, March 5, beginning at 1

(See BOV on 2)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 23

Last Day to Drop.

International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: Richard Rich.

TA-UT/NRVS, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Jennifer Lowry.

Saturday, 24

Museum of Natural History Program, 11 a.m.-noon: Call 1-3001 to pre-register.

Women's Basketball, 2 p.m.: At Seton Hall.

Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Notre Dame.

Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Stephen James.

Black History Month Event, 6 p.m.-midnight, German Club: Call 1-8220 for information.

TA-UT/NRVS, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Ryan Hartman.

Black History Month Event, 9 p.m., Ramada Inn: Call 953-4733 for information.

Sunday, 25

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

TA-UT/NRVS, 2 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

Ensemble Concert, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Early Music Ensemble.

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: Call 1-5552 for information.

Monday, 26

Black History Month Event, 4 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: Call 1-6797 for information.

English Department Presentation, 4 p.m., 120 Williams: Robin R. Mackenzie, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Tuesday, 27

DBHCC Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mardi Gras Buffet: Call 1-5632 for reservations.

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., 236 Squires: Call 1-3787 for information.

Women's Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At St. John's.

TA-UT/NRVS 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre. *A Little Night Music*.

Wednesday, 28.

Multicultural Program, 4-5:30 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center: 1-3787/TDD 1-8718 for information.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Tom Hammett, Michael DuChance, "A Different Harvest."

TA-UT/NRVS, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

Black History Month Event, 8 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Call 1-8394 for information.

MARCH

Thursday, 1

Salary and Wage Paydate.

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

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Hugo Neuberger.

CEUT, 2:30-5 p.m., DBHCC: Peter Doolittle. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

TA-UT/NRVS, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

Friday, 2

TA-UT/NRVS, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: *A Little Night Music*.

SEMINARS

Friday, 23

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Dan Comins, NC State.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Tommy Nilsson, EMBL.

Monday, 26

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Lee Duff, Green Digital Exchange, Inc.

Tuesday, 27

ISE, 4 p.m., Hancock auditorium: Kent Murphy.

MARCH

Thursday, 1

STS, noon-1:30 p.m., Squires Cardinal Room: Jean Plymale.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Ruth Alscher, Lenny Heath, Naren Ramakrishnan.

CSES, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Amy Bowman.

Friday, 2

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Vince Remcho, Oregon State.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Jennifer West, Rice University.

BULLETINS

Lecturer to give talk on Scottish language

Robin R. Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, Scotland will be delivering "Scots/English, English/Scots: Inhabiting the Paradox" at 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26 in 120 Williams. Mackenzie was principal of Basil Paterson College in Edinburgh for 21 years and is now an English Language School consultant and a lecturer for Virginia Tech's study-abroad program. His presentation is sponsored by the English Department and open to the public.

Women's Network meetings announced

The Women's Network, founded in 1978 and reactivated in 2000, is an independent organization at Virginia Tech that

serves women faculty and staff members and graduate students. The group raises women's concerns to the administration and addresses campus needs, including educational programs, networking, and roundtable discussions.

The Women's Network is self-governed and self-funded. All meetings are held at noon on the ninth of each month at the Women's Center, Price House, unless otherwise noted. If the ninth is a weekend day, the meeting will take place the Friday before. For more information, visit web site <http://filebox.vt.edu/womensnetwork>.

Service-Learning Center hosts FDI

The Service-Learning Center is hosting a Faculty

Development Institute (FDI) May 22-24 in Squires and the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. The institute provides an opportunity for in-depth reflection and discussion of instructional issues related to service learning. Applicants must be tenured, tenure-track, or full-time administrative/professional faculty members and willing to participate in the full Institute. Participants receive a \$500 stipend, FDI texts, and instructional materials. For more information on the Service-Learning FDI, contact Michele James-Deramo at deramo@vt.edu or 1-6947. FDI criteria and applications can be downloaded at <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/sl/faculty.html>.

CEUT offers March programs

Fifteen Socialization Strategies, Thursday, March 1, 2:30-5 p.m., Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Peter Doolittle will discuss how socialization can be used to create learning communities, foster academic risk-taking, enhance learning, and promote student engagement. This session will explore the implementation and appropriate use of 15 socialization strategies using a series of interactive activities and modeling. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Faculty as Skillful Presenters, Wednesday, March 14, 2-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Research indicates that the impact on learners in any instructional setting is heavily dependent on the way the presenter behaves. Margaret Hable will present information about audience awareness, body language, voice tone and inflection, presentation structure, and more. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up of Large Classes 1/24: Solutions that Work, Wednesday, March 28, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room.

Participants from the January 24 workshop are invited to re-convene to discuss the experiences, activities, concerns, and successes they have had with their large classes since attending the session. The agenda will be determined by those who attend and coordinated by Hable. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up Of Effective Lectures 2/7: Research-Based Strategies, Wednesday, March 28, 2-3 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Lecturers who attended the February 7 workshop are welcome to come and share what they have tried, what has worked, and how students have responded. Session will be coordinated by Hable.

Consultation with Margaret Hable, Thursday, March 15 and Thursday, March 29, Hillcrest small conference room. The CEUT staff will be available to plan workshops for specific departments, individuals, or faculty groups. The staff can customize any of the workshop topics, develop activities around other topics, and consult privately with faculty members. Call 1-4254 to make an appointment with Hable to discuss any aspect of teaching.

BOV

Continued from 1

p.m. in room 214 of Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center, 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church.

The board will consider, among other business, approval of the 2001-2002 tuition-and-fee package; the 2002-2008 capital-outlay plan; a resolution on the south end zone and west-side stadium expansion; appointments to the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute Policy Board; and will consider other initiatives to expand information technology, research, teaching and outreach.

The committees of the board will meet Monday morning at the following times and locations in the Northern Virginia Center: the Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet in executive session at 8:30 a.m. in room 217 and

the open session will begin at 9; the Finance and Audit Committee will meet in room 219 for an 8:30 a.m. executive session—the open session will begin at 9 a.m.; the Academic Affairs Committee will meet in open session at 8:30 a.m. in room 113. The executive session will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a tour of the center.

The Student Affairs Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in room 106. The committee will interview candidates for the student positions for the Board of Visitors. The committee will then meet in executive session 10 a.m.

On Sunday, March 4, the board will tour Virginia Tech facilities including the Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, the Alexandria Research Institute, and the Virginia Tech Washington-Alexandria Center.

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

Three full-time food-service positions available.

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

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

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

Boiler Operator Assistant, 000332C, Pay Band 2, Power Plant.

Budget Analyst, 001908F, Pay Band 4, Budget/Financial Planning.

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

Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer), 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.

Cashier, 000772H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Express.

Computer Access Control Analyst, 001244D, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Copy Cataloger, 001227F, Pay Band 3, Library/Technical Services Department.

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

Database And Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.

Development Program Re-

searcher, 007728L, Pay Band 4, University Development.

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

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

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

Fiscal Assistant, 006242F, Pay Band 2, Controller's Office.

Graduation Analyst, 000013R, Pay Band 2, University Registrar.

Grants And Fiscal Management Specialist, 006546J, Pay Band 4, IRD.

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

Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant.

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

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

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

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

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

Large Animal Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Library Assistant, 006664F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries: Art/Architecture Library.

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

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

Office Services Specialist, 001286F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.

Office Services Specialist, 002024M, Pay Band 2, VMES.

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

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

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

Programmer/Analyst, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNRT.

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

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

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

Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1,

RDP/Cochrane—West End Market.

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

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

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

Surgical Ward Technician, 002637M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Technical Writer/Editor, 007721R, Pay Band 3, CWC.

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

PART TIME

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

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

Course Developer, W023214D, Pay Band 4, IDDL.

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

Dispatcher, W023034R, Pay Band 3, VTTI.

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

Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications), W023203A, Pay Band 2, CNS.

One part-time food-service position available.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Office Services Specialist, W023216J, Pay Band 2, Career Services.

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

Pharmacist (Relief), W022501M, Pay Band 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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

Recreation Center Specialist, W023211J, Pay Band 2, UUSA.

Serials Claims Assistant, W023215F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries.

Small Animal ICU Technician, W020101M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Administrative Assistant, U002459L, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.

Banner Finance Team Leader, U002250D, Pay Band 7, ISC.

Director, Administrative Information Systems, U006931D, Pay Band 7, ISC.

OFF CAMPUS

Administrative Assistant, 006186M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Southeast District.

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

GIS Specialist, 006822R, Pay Band 3, Conservation Management Institute.

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

Research Specialist Senior, 006504R, Pay Band 4, CMI.

Secretary/4-H Technician, 007635M, Pay Band 2, VCE—Patrick County.

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

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Animal/Poultry Sciences. Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: David Notter, 3460 Litton Reaves (0306). Deadline is April 15.

Accounting/Information Systems. Instructor. Contact: Wayne Leininger, 3007 Pamplin (0101). Deadline is March 12.

Human Nutrition, Foods, Exercise. Assistant/Associate Professor (re-advertised). Contact: Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial (0317). Review begins April 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Sponsored Programs. Director, Office of Sponsored Programs. Contact: John Wilson, 301 Burruss (0244). Review begins March 1.

University Academic Advising Center. Coordinator, Technology in Advisement. Contact: Kimberly Brown, 117 Femoyer (0154). Deadline is March 5.

University Development. Assistant Vice President for Colleges/Constituency Groups. Contact: Timothy Corvin, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.

Pamplin College of Business. Academic Advisor/Recruiter. Contact: Joan Moore, 1046 Pamplin (0209). Review begins February 26.

Center for Academic Enrichment/Excellence. Assistant Director for Academic Support Programs. Contact: Anita Price, 110 Femoyer (0276). Review begins April 1.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; David Nutter, director of college and media relations.

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

Electronic Spectrum. <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/>

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Marshall scholar Airey selected by *USA Today*

By Liz Crumbley

Computer engineering student Sarah Airey continues to find ways to merge her interests in art, technology and the human condition into acts of discovery, and soon she will head off on a quest to revolutionize computer and Internet use in developing nations.

In September, Airey will travel to Great Britain to begin graduate studies in artificial intelligence, funded by a \$50,000 British Marshall Scholarship. She is one of only 40 U.S. undergraduates this year to receive the prestigious scholarship.

On February 15, Airey was featured in *USA Today* as one of only 20 undergraduates selected nationally for the newspaper's 2001 All-USA First Academic Team. This recognition includes a \$2,500 cash award.

She is only the third Virginia Tech student ever to receive the Marshall, the third to make the *USA Today* First Team, and the first to be selected for both.

Through research in artificial intelligence, Airey hopes to learn how to design software that will facilitate the incorporation of computers and the Internet into the cultures and daily life of developing countries.

Airey, a senior in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, realized the need for this type of research during the summer of 2000 when, as Virginia Tech's Daughtrey Scholar, she traveled to Ghana to study African art and culture and to teach computer use in a village.

Airey believes that computers and the Internet can help developing countries alleviate

illiteracy, provide better medical care, find markets for commerce and native art forms, and reduce depletions of natural resources.

As an artist and a student of art, Airey plans to combine the aesthetic powers of artistic expression with her research in artificial intelligence to create computer technology that translates into many cultures. "My challenge," she said, "is to integrate the talents of artist and engineer to guide technological development."

Airey plans to attend the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, where a number of artificial intelligence projects are being conducted. One project that interests her is an attempt to advance medical care by enabling computers to ask questions and search databases in diagnosing illnesses.

Survey shows funding resource web site useful

By Susan Trulove

A month-long survey of users of the Research Division's Opportunity Update (OU) alert service and Funding Opportunities Resource (FOR) has demonstrated that these resources are useful and provide a valuable complement to national services of this type.

OU is a weekly listing of new funding opportunities for faculty members, post docs, and graduate students, according to system administrator Liz Ackerman. Virginia Tech faculty and staff members subscribe to the weekly e-mail notification that tells them that a new edition of the OU is available at the FOR web site, which contains links to databases, alert services, federal sponsors, foundations, fellowship information, early career awards for junior faculty members, the flight schedule for researchers traveling to Washington, D.C., and other information.

Members of the OU list serve were invited to respond to a survey regarding their use of OU and FOR, the services' usefulness, and the users' suggestions for improvements. Of the 377 subscribers, 49 people or 13 percent completed the survey—88 percent of those were faculty members.

Twenty-two percent of the responders reported that notices in the OU have led them to a funded project. Twenty-nine percent of responders use the Opportunity Update as their primary source of funding information. Of the rest of respondents 79 percent rely on information directly from funding agencies,

personal contacts, networking, word-of-mouth, and Internet sources, including databases and 7alert services such as Community of Science and IRIS. (IRIS is a database of funding opportunities is updated daily. It currently contains more than 8,000 federal and non-federal funding opportunities in the sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities, compiled on the basis of information provided by the sponsors themselves. This database is available to Virginia Tech users via a Research Division subscription.)

"Rather than attempt to corner the market as the primary source of funding information for our faculty members, we plan to renew our efforts to get more faculty members to rely on these primary resources and to enable them to conduct their own searches for funding," said Gene Brown, associate provost for research program development. "Community of Science and IRIS were mentioned several times as primary sources of information so we will focus on increasing participation in these resources."

Regarding the Funding Opportunities Resource web site, 34 percent of subscribers to the OU also use the FOR web site monthly; 63 percent have used the site to get information on funding programs; 40 percent have used the site to locate forms; 51 percent have used the site to discover program deadlines. The OU, funding resources, and federal-sponsors pages were rated as the most useful components of the web site. Fellowships, research flight sched-

ule, and Early Career awards were rated as least used.

Brown expressed concern that "young faculty members seem to be one of our underserved groups." In response, "We have updated the Early Career awards web page to include more information, and have added detailed directions to assist young faculty members in conducting database searches of Community of Science (COS) and IRIS."

A recent search of the IRIS database turned up 484 funding programs targeted specifically at junior faculty members, Ackerman reported. A COS search returned 164 programs.

Brown said, "Survey respondents made many good suggestions for improving our service and we will be working to implement some of them over the next few months. We would like to encourage more people to take advantage of the services that we provide in our web site," he said. "It's important for researchers to sign up with alert services, and we encourage them also to sign up with Community of Science through the Virginia Tech Expertise Database web site (<http://vted.rgs.vt.edu>)."

Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and graduate students can subscribe to the Opportunities Update list serve by sending a note to lizacker@vt.edu. FOR is on line at www.rgs.vt.edu/funding/.

Additional survey results are available at www.rgs.vt.edu/funding/survey.html. Brown will respond to questions or comments about the services at efbrown@vt.edu.

Corvin named associate vice president

By Terry McGuire

Timothy G. Corvin has been named associate vice president for Development. Corvin, who has been filling the position in an interim capacity since May 2000, will oversee fund-raising activities in each of the eight colleges as well as the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Conference Center, the Libraries, Student Affairs, and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center. Corvin will also have responsibility for the university's planned giving and annual fund programs.

In announcing the appointment, Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president of Development and University Relations, cited Corvin's strong performance in his interim role. "Thim has done a tremendous job as interim associate vice president, having demonstrated his many talents and skills over the past nine months," Flanagan said.

Corvin received his bachelor's in political science in 1975 and his master's in student personnel services in 1980, both from Virginia Tech. He first joined his alma mater in 1980 as assistant director of financial aid and later worked for the Virginia Tech Alumni Association. In 1985, he became a managing partner with Young-Preston Associates, a consulting firm that works with non-profit organizations nationwide. In 1990, he joined Hollins College as director of planned giving and in 1993 was named executive director of development, with responsibility for the daily operation of the college's successful \$48-million campaign.

Corvin returned to Virginia Tech in 1996 as director of development for the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Conference Center, managing the center's \$6-million campaign for capital improvement, and was appointed senior director of capital support for the university in 1999.

Giddings named associate dean

By Jean Elliott

Valerie Giddings has been named interim associate dean for outreach and external relations in the College of Human Resources and Education.

Giddings' new position includes outreach, continuing education, alumni relations, and providing leadership to the dean's ambassadors. She will also oversee 19 advisory boards and teach a professional seminar class. Giddings replaces Roberta Minish, who retired in January.

"The college has provided excellent sup-

port since I've been here and has helped me to develop and grow as a professional," Giddings said. "This position gives me the opportunity to serve the college in a broader capacity."

Giddings has worked in the college since 1987. An associate professor in the Department of Near Environments in clothing and textiles, Giddings developed outreach efforts with industry, coordinated the graduate program, and connected students with alumni for jobs and internships.

A member of many college and university committees, Giddings has worked on the CHRE's Diversity Committee, the Graduate Curriculum Committee, and the Teaching Excellence Committee. On the university level, she serves on the Advisory Council for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, the Outreach Council, the Black History Month Steering Committee, and the Virginia Tech Black Caucus.

"We are most fortunate to have Dr. Giddings assume this position with the broad experiences and talents she brings to the outreach program of the College," Dean Janet Johnson said.

Reporting structure changed for extended campuses

By Clara B. Cox

Interim Provost James R. Bohland has changed the reporting lines for Virginia Tech's extended campus directors.

The directors, who formerly reported directly to the provost, will now report to the dean of the Graduate School.

In a letter to the directors informing them of his decision, Bohland wrote, "I believe this will provide you with more supervision and support than has been the case reporting to the provost directly."

The university has graduate facilities in Falls Church, Hampton Roads, Roanoke, and Abingdon.

Georgia-Pacific endows Dean's Graduate Fellowship

By Lynn Davis

Georgia-Pacific has given Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources \$150,000 to endow a Dean's Graduate Fellowship to recruit and retain the highest quality of graduate students.

College Dean Greg Brown said, "Income from the fund will be used to award whole or partial fellowships to graduate students, who will be known as Georgia-Pacific fellows. Each year the award will be rotated among the college's departments of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, and Wood Science and Forest Products."

Recipients will be chosen by the University Scholarship and Financial Aid Committee with recommendations by the dean. The fellows will be chosen on the basis of potential and interest in contributing to the field of natural resources, with consideration given to financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, and community service.

The endowed fund will be maintained and managed by the Virginia Tech Foundation in such a manner that the donor, Georgia-Pacific Foundation, and others may make additional contributions to the endowed scholarship fund over the years.

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After a day tour of Washington, the entourage, made up of CESA's Assistant to the Director Daniela Doninelli, five K-5 teachers and a superintendent equivalent called an "inspector" will embark on an ambitious schedule. After stopping at various elementary and middle schools in Falls Church and meeting with its superintendent, the members of the group will continue on to Blacksburg, where they will meet their host families for the week.

Campus stops include the science-education laboratory, the Math Emporium, the ACITC building and the Child Development Lab School. A set of grandparents of children from the Lab School will serve as interpreters for the Italian-speaking guests. Various administrators, including President Charles Steger, are on the itinerary.

The Riva teachers are also visiting several local schools including Shawsville Elementary, Eastern Montgomery High, Kipps Elementary, Blacksburg Middle, Blacksburg High and Christiansburg Primary. They will meet with teachers, administrators, athletic directors, the School Board, and superintendent.

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