

SPECTRUM

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 5 for
information on Graduate
Education Week.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 23 NUMBER 25 FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2001

University will re-focus Northern Virginia efforts

By Jeanne M. Garon

Interim Provost James R. Bohland has announced that the university is charting an altered course in Northern Virginia and will re-focus its programs there to link Northern Virginia's needs with Virginia Tech's strengths. Beginning immediately, programs in Northern Virginia will be re-assessed in terms of their relevance to four core interdisciplinary research areas.

Dubbed "footprints," the four core thematic areas are broad, inter-related domains encompassing interdisciplinary research areas identified over the past several years as most appropriate to Northern Virginia's urban and economic landscape and its cluster of governmental, international, commercial, and industrial organizations.

"It's time to start thinking in terms of cross-cutting initiatives for Northern Virginia. To be truly effective and address the academic, research, outreach, economic development, and other needs of the commu-

nity, we have to meld what we do best with the needs and nature of the Northern Virginia communities and constituencies," Bohland said.

The interdisciplinary themes for the Northern Virginia Center (NVC), the Alexandria Research Institute, and the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center will be development and applications of information technology, urbanization and built environments, policy and governance, and education and leadership.

Bohland said the Northern Virginia initiative is the first in a series of extended-campus reviews. "Extended campuses present the university with complex challenges, both philosophical and procedural," he said. "If strategically planned and managed, the extended campuses can be great assets in Virginia Tech's goal of reaching a top-30 ranking among American research institutes." Bohland said while the university is now reviewing Northern Virginia programs, it expects eventually to apply new strategic models to all extended campuses,

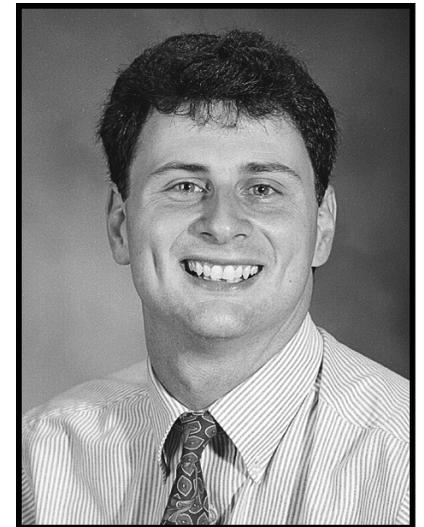
integrating them more closely with Virginia Tech's core activities, while taking advantage of the unique characteristics of each.

Virginia Tech's colleges and programs currently in Northern Virginia or with an interest in locating there will be asked to present proposals referencing their potential contributions relevant to the four themes. The Graduate School is developing a process for making allocations to strengthen Northern Virginia programs that contribute significantly to the interdisciplinary areas.

Programs whose participants wish to be located in Northern Virginia must fit one of the thematic areas and demonstrate enrollment potential, integration of research and outreach with instruction, continuing-education and technical-assistance programming included in the educational mix, and collaboration across the Northern Virginia programming areas.

The initiative does not apply to the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in

(See UNIVERSITY on 8)



LEO

NSF selects Tech researcher for career award

By Lynn Nystrom

Simply stated, Don Leo is "awesome," said Beth Howell, a colleague. And the National Science Foundation (NSF) must also believe this description as it selected the Virginia Tech assistant professor of mechanical engineering as one of its recipients of a NSF Faculty Early Career Award for 2001.

"Don juggles all of the demands of a young faculty member—his family, his teaching, and his research. He is very impressive," Howell said. "Under stress he is focused and even-keeled."

Dan Inman, Leo's thesis and doctoral adviser and now a colleague, agreed, saying "We recruited Don to Virginia Tech because of his outstanding credentials" in the area of intelligent materials, "and because he was the only candidate who would laugh at my jokes."

Leo, 32, joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1998. Up to that point, his career had included two years as a project engineer for CSA Engineering, Inc. in Palo, Alto, Cal., and a year and a half as an assistant professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering at the University of Toledo.

When the opening occurred at Virginia Tech, where Leo would be able to rejoin Inman, who serves as the director of the internationally acclaimed Center for Intelligent Materials Systems and Structures (CIMSS), he was anxious for the opportunity. "I knew I would be going to a place with a track record. The benefits were tangible in that the labs were well-established, and the intangible benefits were the people and the university. The environment is good. People enjoy what they do and they work hard."

Since his arrival at Tech, Leo has

(See NSF SELECT on 7)

Potts lands big grant from DOD

By Susan Trulove

If human tissue could remain viable after being dried, stored, and rehydrated, then life-saving blood products, organs, pharmaceuticals, and sensors could be transported and used virtually anywhere. Now research by Virginia Tech scientists has shown enough promise to land a multi-million-dollar grant from the Department of Defense (DoD).

The DoD has awarded Malcolm Potts, professor of biochemistry and director of the Virginia Tech Center for Genomics (VIGEN), a grant for research on biomimetic cell and tissue stasis. The study involves the genetic engineering of human cells to achieve long-term stabilization in the air-dried state and will apply principles of functional genomics and bioinformatics derived from VIGEN's work on extremophile microorganisms currently supported through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Extremophiles survive extreme conditions of heat, cold, moisture, radiation, salinity, alkalinity, and acidity. Potts and Richard Helm, of the Fralin Biotechnology Center at Virginia Tech, have been studying the cyanobacterium, *Nostoc commune*, which has the capacity to survive in the dry state for hundreds of years and, upon re-wetting, to rapidly recover respiration, photosynthesis, and nitrogen-fixation abilities. *Nostoc* produces a unique biopolymer that protects the cells from heat, desiccation, and ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Potts and Helm have isolated genes involved in these responses for transfer to sensitive cells.

They have dried mouse cells and, most recently, human kidney cells for as long as eight days. The cells are air dried at ambient

(See POTTS on 7)



PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING President Charles Steger briefs the State Council for Higher Education (SCHEU) on the university's strategic planning process. SCHEU visited campus on Tuesday as part of its regular meeting schedule. (John McCormick)

Vecellio family providing endowment for construction engineering, management

By Liz Crumbley

The family of the late Leo Vecellio Sr., former head of Vecellio and Grogan, Inc., of Beckley, West Virginia, has provided a \$1-million endowment for the Construction Engineering and Management Program in Virginia Tech's Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE).

The endowment will fund a number of research and education activities, including the Vecellio Professorship in Construction Engineering and Management; undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships for students who demonstrate academic and leadership ability; and a lecture series, sponsoring visits to Virginia Tech by leading national construction experts.

Vecellio, a 1938 civil-engineering gradu-

ate of Virginia Tech, became president and CEO of Vecellio and Grogan, a construction firm founded by his father, Enrico Vecellio, and Eugene Grogan. Vecellio and Grogan became one of the largest highway construction and mining companies in the East, with more than 1,200 employees and headquarters in Beckley and West Palm Beach, Florida.

An active supporter of Virginia Tech, Vecellio was one of the early members of the College of Engineering Committee of 100. The college honored him in 1988 as the Distinguished Alumnus for that year, and in 1999 he was inducted posthumously into CEE's Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Vecellio and his wife Evelyn were active in several philanthropic activities and, in 1972,

(See VECELLIO on 7)

NEWSMAKERS

Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and students are often the subject of significant national and state-wide news coverage. To better inform the university community about these accomplishments, the Office of University Relations has compiled this report. This report excludes coverage in the Roanoke news-media market. For more information about the articles mentioned, call Julie Kane, university public-relations specialist, at 1-9934, or contact your college public relations office.

Reader's Digest (Sept. 2000): **Janet Walberg-Rankin**, professor in human nutrition, foods, and exercise, is quoted as the main source for the well being article entitled "Six Ways to Burn Fat Faster."

Chicago Tribune (Oct. 1): The Sunday issue carried an article titled, "Electronic dissertations gain popularity in grad schools," that credited Virginia Tech as the first to require electronic theses and dissertations.

Fitness magazine (Oct. 2000) **Rosemary Blieszner**, professor of human development, was quoted in an article entitled "Girl-friends are good for you."

Sacramento Bee (Oct. 5): A feature about the use of piezoelectric chips in sports equipment quoted **Don Leo** of mechanical engineering.

(PBS) "**Healthweek**" (Oct. 7): CropTech's **Carole Cramer**, a plant pathology professor, discussed growing transgenic tobacco.

Washington Post (Oct. 9): A front-page article on the rate of Ford Explorer tire accidents included comments from **Mehdi Ahmadian** of mechanical engineering. Ahmadian discussed the relationship of tires and suspension.

KTAR radio, Phoenix (Oct. 10): History Professor **William Ochsenwald** was the guest for a 15 minute live call-in program discussing the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Newsweek (special 2000 edition): **Katherine Allen**, professor of human development, is quoted in an article titled "Growing Up in the New Family."

Des Moines Register (Oct. 15): **Will Hueston**, associate dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

at the Maryland campus, is quoted in an edition on mad-cow disease.

The Chronicle of Higher Education (Oct. 17): **John R. Seiler**, professor of forest biology, and **John A. Peterson**, advanced laboratory specialist in forestry, both at Virginia Tech, and Edward C. Jensen, associate professor of forest biology at Oregon State University, received a lengthy review of "Woody Plants in North America," their multimedia CD-ROM tutorial for plant and tree identification.

(Virginia Public Radio) "**With Good Reason**" (week of Oct. 22): Art and Art History Professor **Steve Bickley** explored the relationship between man and nature, calling on his students to assist him in creating monumental earthworks, figures, and mounds at a local landfill, as well as crop circles which can only really be seen from the air.

Richmond Times Dispatch (Oct. 23): The Business Section carried an extensive article about Virginia Tech's Local Multi Point Distribution System project and an interview with **Charles Bostian** of the Center for Wireless Telecommunication.

Woman's Day (Nov. 14): **Irene Leech**, assistant professor of near environments, is mentioned in the article "18 Ways to Have a Debt-Free Holiday."

(Virginia Public Radio) "**With Good Reason**" (week of Nov. 14): Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Professor **James Berkson** discussed the status of the horseshoe crab, harvested for bait and for a chemical in its blood important to the pharmaceutical industry. Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Professor **Richard Neves** talked about the Clinch River in southwest Virginia, considered the number-one hotspot in the United States for imperiled aquatic species. Among those threatened are 31 varieties of mussels.

The Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary publication, "**50 Years of Saving Great Places**" (Nov. 2000): **Richard Neves** in natural resources is the subject of the feature—"The Man Behind the Mussels."

(Staunton, VA) **Daily News Leader** (Dec. 10): **Michele James-Deramo** director of the Service Learning Center, was quoted in a story in on volunteerism.

Virginia News Network (Dec. 11): Virginia-Maryland Re-

gional College of Veterinary Medicine Public Relations Coordinator **Jeffrey Douglas** discussed tips for buying pets as holiday presents.

U.S. News & World Report (Dec. 18): **Will Hueston** from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is quoted as an expert in an article on mad-cow disease.

Smithsonian Magazine (Jan. 2001): This issue contains a feature article about **Roger Ekirch**, history professor, and his research on "night" titled "Probing the Heart of Darkness."

Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (Jan. 13): Animal and Poultry Sciences Professor **David Notter** discussed the decreasing variety of strains of poultry, to the point of becoming extinct. This loss of diversity could make the poultry industry more susceptible to disease and could mean the loss of genetically significant types of poultry.

(Phoenix) **KTAR Radio** (Feb. 6): History Professor **William Ochsenwald** participated in a live question-and-answer session regarding the Israeli elections and their effect on the Middle East peace talks.

Virginia News Network (Feb. 7): Professor **William Ochsenwald** discussed the Israeli elections and their effect on the Middle East peace talks.

(Syndicated national public affairs radio) **Mediatracks** (Feb. 9): **Michael von Spakovsky**, director of the Energy Management Institute, was interviewed regarding alternative energy sources in light of the California energy crisis.

National Public Radio (Feb. 20): In a report on transgenic plant products, Plant Pathology Professor **Carole Cramer** commented on whether there is a need to isolate every transgenic plant to prevent crossbreeding or release of harmful materials into the environment.

Richmond Times-Dispatch (Feb. 20): **Richard Weyers** in civil engineering was interviewed about Virginia's bridges.

(Virginia Public Radio) "**With Good Reason**" (week of March 4): Writer and English Professor **Lucinda Roy**, whose newest novel is *The Hotel Alleluia*, talked about how Americans, Africans and Europeans view interracial relationships.

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studentsis
organizedbytheUT
Community
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throughtheOffice
ofScholarshipsand
FinancialAid.
(J.McCormick)**



Research program-development manager returning to academe

By Susan Trulove

For Robert Porter, becoming program-development manager in the research division represents a return to academe, but in a different role.

The one-time teacher of speech and dramatic literature, director of theater productions at Swarthmore College, and speech communications department head at Lewis and Clark College will now be a coach and catalyst for faculty members seeking research-program support.

In the two plus decades since leaving higher education, Porter became an independent business consultant and did many projects in strategic planning and program development. Since 1988, he has been managing partner at CenPenn Systems in Harrisburg, where he directed strategic planning and management training for companies and nonprofits in four states, wrote successful funding proposals, and developed business plans for new programs and services.

Porter, who arrived on campus February 21, said, "The effort and resources to achieve President Steger's goal to become a top-30 university are going to be significant. The research program development office will foster

access to research opportunities, whether from government, business, or private foundations. I see my general responsibility as being to aid in that effort, and, at the end of the decade, I expect we will be able to say we had a meaningful role in achieving that objective."

He has often worked with teams to develop programs, objectives, and funding proposals, such as a \$16-million, five-year funding proposal for a non-profit agency to provide services to persons with disabilities, which was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

"Terms like 'multidisciplinary' and 'partnering' are the buzz words in funding agencies now," so he expects his experiences in team building and meeting funding sources' requirements to be useful at Virginia Tech. "It helps to have a neutral, outside party on a team, particularly when there are faculty members from different disciplines," Porter said. "Success is not always a result of content or faculty expertise. Often it can be a matter of adjusting the presentation rhetoric. For example, the one-page abstract needs to be comprehensible to a person who is not an expert in a particular

(See RESEARCH on 7)

Staff mentoring workshop will feature Miller in April

Initiated during 1999-2000, the Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees of Virginia Tech will end a second year with a day-long workshop and evaluation program. "The Role of Mentoring in Self-Assessment and Powerful Professional Development: Remaining Top-Notch," scheduled for April 10 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Custom Catering, will be led by nationally known speaker Camille Wright Miller. There is no charge for the workshop, but seating is limited to the first 100 enrollees.

During the past 14 years, Miller has focused on changing organizations and organizational directions. From compensation studies to strategic planning, from CEO coaching to streamlining work processes, her work has taken her from Fortune 500 companies to sole proprietor operations. She founded The Virginia Group, Inc., a consulting organization that works to improve the lives of individuals and organizations, and writes the work-related advice column "Working It Out" for *The Roanoke Times*.

The workshop will serve as the six-month evaluation and will bring to an end the second year of the Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees of Virginia Tech.

During its first year, the mentoring program matched eight mentees with nine mentors. The program was partially funded by an Affirmative Action Incentive Grant and was able to complete an active year (culminating with a day-long workshop led by David Robey) with donations from colleges and administrative offices throughout Virginia Tech.

The second year of the program was fully funded by renewal of the Affirmative Action Incentive Grant. During this 2000-01 year, 15 mentor/mentee matches were made. In addition to contacts between mentors and mentees, formal activities included the Kick-Off Luncheon in August 2000, a four-hour training program for mentors and mentees (featuring Kimberly Townsend, Penn State University) in October 2000, and a three-month evaluation meeting in January 2001. Optional informal networking

luncheons were also initiated in February 2001 to bring together all participants of the Mentoring Program during the months that fall between formal mentoring-program activities.

Robin Atkins, Vickie Carroll, Shelia Collins, and Carolyn Dudding form the committee that wrote the original Affirmative Action Incentive Grant proposal for the project. The four women are members of the Office Managers' Development Group (OMDG) and have developed and operated the mentoring program since its inception.

One of the objectives of the mentoring program is to facilitate the development and retention of new minority classified employees to office-manager positions.

Other objectives are to enhance and develop a communication network within the office-managers profession, to encourage present staff members in office-management positions to exercise leadership skills, and to provide an opportunity for cross training and

shared learning between departments and colleges as a method of improving the quality of service. Committee members have designed and will soon implement a reference handbook for program participants.

The mentoring grant committee is working with Linda Woodard, Personnel Services; Richard Harshberger, University Leadership Development; and Benjamin Dixon, Multicultural Affairs to move the mentoring program from a grant project to a fully funded university service program for support staff in bands 2 and 3 at Virginia Tech.

The mentoring program is currently supported by the Office Managers' Development Group, University Leadership Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Personnel Services, and the Dean and Staff Association of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, contact Atkins at atkinsrw@vt.edu, Carroll at carrollv@vt.edu, Collins at shcolli4@vt.edu, or Dudding at usnavy@vt.edu.

Exemplary awards criteria, deadline announced

By Jeanne M. Garon

This year's University Exemplary Awards Program, which recognizes the work of departments and programs that maintain exemplary teaching and learning environments for students and faculty members, will focus on the work of departments and programs in developing and sustaining innovative and effective approaches to introductory courses at the graduate or undergraduate level.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the awards is noon, Monday, April 9. A committee drawn from the university community will select two departments or programs to receive \$10,000 awards and one to receive a \$20,000 award.

"The University Exemplary Departments and Programs Awards recognize the fact that (See EXEMPLARY on 8)

Electronic Theses and Dissertations passes milestone

By Susan Trulove

"Virginia Tech just added the 3000th ETD," Gail McMillan of University Libraries reported in mid-February.

The milestone electronic thesis/dissertation was not about love or chocolate. The 3000th ETD—approved February 11—was Pamela Anne McKinney's dissertation, "A Study to Assess the Relationships among Student Achievement, Teacher Motivation, and Incentive Pay." McKinney earned her doctor of education in educational leadership and policy studies. The dissertation can be seen at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-12072000-125607/>. (Access is restricted to the Virginia Tech community for one year.)

"The author added a few enhancements

such as linking her table of contents to each chapter," McMillan said.

The ETD project began in 1995 as a collaborative effort of the Graduate School, led by John Eaton, associate provost for graduate studies; the library, represented by McMillan, director of the Digital Library and Archives; and Ed Fox, professor of computer science, to distribute the university's developing expertise in electronic theses and dissertations. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education awarded Virginia Tech \$208,000 to establish the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). As a result, there are more than 100 university members in the NDLTD, which is headed by

Fox.

Also in 1997, Virginia Tech was the first of five other U.S. universities to require graduate students to submit electronic (for the web) theses and dissertations.

The other U.S. universities that also require ETD's are: East Tennessee State University, which has about 20 ETD's; the University of North Texas, with about 60 ETD's; the University of Texas at Austin, with 10 so far; and West Virginia University, which has about 800 ETD's. At a few other universities, individual departments require ETD's, including the universities of Kentucky, Maine, and South Florida.

To learn more, visit the Virginia Tech ETD site at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/>. The list of members is at www.ndltd.org/members/.

Additional information cited from General Assembly session

The following information, concerning legislation affecting state employees, has been provided by the Virginia Retirement System. For more information on the contents is available at <http://www.state.va.us/vrs/vrs.htm> or by calling Bill Leighty at (804) 344-3120 or Jeanne Chenault at (804) 697-6665.

New Retirement Options

The General Assembly has added a new tool for employers to use when trying to retain their "best and brightest" employees in the workforce. The bill also delivers on a promise to provide members with a significant lump-sum benefit at retirement.

The Partial Lump-sum Option Payment (PLOP) concept will provide an avenue for retaining experienced employees rather than encouraging them to leave as other bills have in years past. PLOP provides a special provision for members who work beyond normal retirement age, or unreduced retirement age, to elect a lump-sum distribution up to 36 times their monthly retirement allowance in a single lump-sum payment at the time of retirement.

House bill 2081 provides for a higher multiplier of 2.0 percent, instead of the current 1.7 percent, for all newly enrolled employees in VaLORS. The bill repeals the current supplement for these new employees. All current VaLORS-covered employees are provided an option of electing the new multiplier, in lieu of the current multiplier and supplement, by Oct. 1, 2001.

VRS Administrative Enhancements

House bill 1740 allows the VRS Board of Trustees to establish, if needed, additional medical boards to review disability cases. In addition, the bill allows VRS to have specialists assist with recommendations and analysis when particular conditions are reviewed. This will enable VRS to be more responsive and flexible to individuals applying for disability.

House Bill 1741 will make the optional retirement plans (ORP's) more uniform and simpler to administer. It also provides more flexibility to members.

House bill 1748 and Senate bill 856 allow the VRS Board of Trustees to establish

and to administer a benefit-restoration plan. This provision benefits members whose annual benefits exceed limits established by §415 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan will be funded from the pension contributions that are required under current law.

House bill 1776 and Senate bill 840 simplify the system for maintaining member accounts. Currently, anyone employed before 1980 may have employer-paid contributions maintained in two accounts, which presents confusion to the membership and adds administrative burdens to the system. The bills allow the two accounts to merge and make the accounts more understandable to members with the added benefit of making it easier for the system to maintain and increasing VRS's ability to provide clear, consistent customer service.

All bills are subject to approval by Governor James Gilmore and final approval at the reconvened session on April 4.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 23

International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: John Broderick.

Saturday, 24

Saturday Science, 11 a.m.-noon, Museum of Natural History: 1-3001 to register.

University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Rising Stars in Concert.

Sunday, 25

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

University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Rising Stars in Concert.

Monday, 26

Graduate Education Week Begins, (Through 3-30).

Student Research Symposium, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom: E-mail apeek@vt.edu for information.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: 1-8041 for information.

Tuesday, 27

ULD Training Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC room G: 1-6727 to register.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: 1-8041 for information.

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

Multicultural Program, 5 p.m., 140 Squires: Call 1-3787/TDD 1-8718 for information.

Wednesday, 28

Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's

Center Lawn: 1-8041 for information.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: 1-8041 for information.

CEUT, 2-3 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.

Banner Users' Group, 3-5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Call 1-1715 to RSVP.

CEUT, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "The War that Wasn't: Hitler's Mistakes."

Environmental Author/Speaker, 7:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Sandra Steingraber.

Thursday, 29

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: 1-8041 for information.

Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Drillfield: 1-8041 for information.

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Rod Sinclair.

Celtic Studies Conference (Through 4-1), 1:30 p.m., DBHCC: Call 1-6212 to register.

Take Back the Night Rally, March, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Drillfield: 1-8041 for information.

Friday, 30

Salary and Wage Paydate.

Stroubles Creek Watershed Forum, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., DBHCC room A: Call 1-5624 for information.

Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center Lawn: 1-8041 for information.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: 1-8041 for information.

International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: Edward H. Sewell.

SEMINARS

Friday, 23

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: William D. Jones, University of Rochester.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: C. Jeff Smith, East Carolina University.

FST, 12:20-1:25 p.m., 132 Food Science and Technology Building: Anna Mansfield, John Schurman, Jennifer Goode, Sonia Gonzalez.

STS, 3:30-5 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: David Silver, Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies.

Monday, 26

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: John Varrieur.

Tuesday, 27

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Robert H. Tatham, University of Houston.

Wednesday, 28

ESM, 4-5 p.m., 110 Randolph: Vijay K. Varadan, Penn State.

Thursday, 29

STS, noon-1:30, Squires Cardinal Room: Dave Richert.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Maureen Dolan.

CSES, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Christopher Bagley.

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Mike Hochella.

Friday, 30

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: David M. Hercules, Vanderbilt.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Natalie Ahn, University of Colorado.

BULLETINS

Ecologist to speak on cancer, environment

On Wednesday, March 28, ecologist and author Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. will present "Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment" at 7:30 p.m. in the DBHCC auditorium. Steingraber's book of the same title presents cancer as a human-rights issue and is the first to bring together data on toxic releases and newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. Her talk is free and open to the public and has been organized by Cooper House. For information, call 552-2473.

STS conference announced

The 2001 STS Graduate Student Conference, "Exhibiting STS," will be held Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Torgersen Hall. Details are available at <http://www.cis.vt.edu/stshome/exhibitingsts/>. There will also be a dinner following at L'Arche Bed and Breakfast for a contribution of \$4. E-mail bcohen@vt.edu for information about the conference or to RSVP to the dinner.

NCHERM, URMIA sponsor web seminar

The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management (NCHERM) and the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) announce an upcoming professional-development web seminar titled "Instilling Principles of Risk Management into the Daily Practice of Student Affairs" on Thursday, April 19 from 1-4 p.m. Participants can attend from their personal computers. The seminar will be moderated by Brett A. Sokolow, JD, president of NCHERM. Participants will be able to interact with the moderator and presenters via e-mail. No special equipment is required, but a modem connection faster than 56k is strongly recommended. For information, visit the NCHERM web site at www.ncher.org, call (610) 964-9836, or e-mail BASokolow@aol.com.

Banner Users' Group to discuss funding structure

On Wednesday, March 28 from 3-5:00 p.m. in the DBHCC auditorium, Dwight Shelton, associate vice president for finance and budget, will speak to the Banner Users' Group on the university's funding structure and associated processes. The Banner Users' Group shares information among users of Banner administrative information systems and facilitates conversations among departmental and decentralized users, central office users, and implementation teams. Programs are open to all interested parties associated with Virginia Tech. RSVP to srb144@vt.edu or 1-1715.

Museum offers Saturday science

The Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History offers Saturday Science programs on the fourth Saturday of every month from 11 a.m.-noon for children in kindergarten through third grade. The theme for March 24 is "Microtrek Treasure Hunt—Discover the Possibilities." The program is free, but pre-registration is required. Call 1-3001 to pre-register.

Annual Stroubles Creek forum scheduled

The second annual Stroubles Creek Watershed Forum will be held on Friday, March 30 from 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in DBHCC room A. The forum is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Stroubles Creek Watershed Initiative. The event is free and open to the public. For information, contact the Water Center at 1-5624 or water@vt.edu.

EOAA announces new initiatives

The Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) Office announces publication of two new brochures, *The Americans with Disabilities Act: Information and Resources* and *Evacuation and Safety Planning for Individuals with Disabilities*, and free university-wide training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for all managers and supervisors. To request brochures or free ADA training, call the EOAA office at 1-7500.

Conference celebrating southern food set

"A Place at the Table: Celebrating Southern Food, Literature and Culture," will be held April 4 at Tech. The conference begins at 1 p.m. in DBHCC room E and features literature, culture, and cooking of the South. There will be a dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a reading by award-winning author Ernest Gaines at 8 p.m. The conference sessions and reading are open to the public free of charge, and no registration is required. There will be a charge for the dinner, and pre-registration is required by April 2. For information or to register for the dinner, call Virginia Fowler at 1-6919. For more information, go to <http://athena.english.vt.edu>.

Motor Pool seeks opinions

Employees who travel on university business or use vehicles leased through the motor pool are asked to fill out the on-line survey available at <http://www.mp.vt.edu/survey>. It will assist a committee which has been formed to study future travel needs. The survey is only available on line from March 12-30. For information, contact Steve Mouras at 1-4548.

First national stepping conference scheduled

The first national conference on the popular dance phenomenon known as "stepping" will be held April 6-7 at DBHCC. The conference has sessions on the history and functions of stepping as well as leadership and social change. Brian Williams, founding director of Step Afrika! USA will present the keynote address. The registration fee for the entire conference is \$85 for standard registration, \$65 for students. On-line registration and a complete schedule of events are available at http://www.cis.vt.edu/humanities/conf_step/index.html. The deadline is March 23. Call 1-5182 to register. The conference is sponsored by the Humanities Program, Black Studies, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and several other organizations. For information, call 1-9593 or e-mail bfine@vt.edu.

Step Afrika! USA will also lead a free step workshop that is open to the public. It will be held Saturday, April 7 from

1-2 p.m. in Squires Brush Mountain rooms A and B. Space is limited; call 1-5182 to register.

Celtic studies conference scheduled at Tech

From Welsh court poems to the food of the Scottish Highlands, the conference of the Celtic Studies Association of North America will cover many topics related to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. March 29 and run through 11:30 a.m. April 1. Sessions will be held in DBHCC rooms D and E. Registration for full-time participants is \$20, and the conference is open to the public. Call Joe Eska at 1-6212 to register. Those who plan to attend only one or two sessions need not register. The Celtic Studies Association of North America is sponsoring the event, which is being funded by the Department of English. Pre-registration for the conference is due by March 23, but on-site registration will also be available. For the preliminary program, visit wiz.cath.vt.edu/celtic/.

Author discusses becoming mathematicians

Margaret Murray, associate professor of mathematics, will present "Women Becoming Mathematicians: The Book" on Monday, April 2 at 4 p.m. in the 455 McBryde. Murray will

give a presentation describing her research and how the book evolved. Afterwards, she will answer questions and sign books. The Department of Mathematics, the Math Club, and Womanspace are sponsoring the program in celebration of Women's Month and Math Awareness Month at Virginia Tech. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or anderson@math.vt.edu. People with a disability who need assistance should contact Anderson at least one week before the event.

Take Back the Night activities scheduled

Blacksburg's twelfth-annual "Take Back the Night Rally and March" will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to protest violence against women and promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate violence. The rally will be held from 7:30-8 p.m. on the Drillfield in front of Burruss. (The rain location is 1870 Litton Reaves.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield for a closing celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons.

Participants are asked to bring small candles or flashlights and wear a purple ribbon tied with a knot for friends or family members who has been sexually assaulted. Purple ribbons will

be available at information tables before events during Women's Month and each weekday at the Women's Center. Sponsoring organizations include Amnesty International, the Dean of Students Office and the Women's Center, among others. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or 951-2013 or Mary Mayzel at 1-7806.

Clothesline project activities announced

The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise awareness of violence against women and the impact it has on society. Survivors of violence and friends and families of victims create shirts emblazoned with direct messages and strong illustrations. To create a shirt, visit the Women's Center (behind McBryde Hall) between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Monday, March 26 to Friday, March 30.

Sponsors include Womanspace and the Women's Center. Project displays will be available on the Women's Center lawn Wednesday, March 28 and Friday, March 30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Drillfield. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041, 951-2013, or anderson@math.vt.edu or Loretta Ullrich at 951-7590 or lullrich@vt.edu.

Affirmative Action Incentive grants proposals being sought

Virginia J. Reilly, interim director of Tech's EOAA Office, has announced the twelfth 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, 2001, 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

activities that will enhance the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women, minorities, and people with disabilities; programs that will encourage behavioral and attitudinal changes supportive of affirmative action and diversity; and studies to evaluate 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), by calling 1-7518, or from kpoe@vt.edu. The deadline for application is April 18.

Graduate Education Week recognizes contributions

By Julie Kane

For the first time, Virginia Tech will hold Graduate Education Week. Scheduled to begin Monday, March 26, the week involves the university's eight colleges, a research symposium, awards ceremonies, a presentation by a major research speaker, workshops, and an awards banquet.

"The role of graduate students' research is tightly woven in Virginia Tech President Charles Steger's goal to become a top-30 research university," the Graduate School's acting Dean Joseph Merola said. Graduate Education Week is designed to create an awareness of the excellence of graduate student research and rewards their best efforts."

The 17th Annual Student Research Symposium, organized by the Graduate Student Assembly, will be held on March 26. Students' research will be on display in Squires Commonwealth Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Research will be submitted in six categories: natural and biological sciences, physical sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities, agricultural and animal sciences, a virtual category for off-site locations, and research by undergraduate students. Winners will be announced Tuesday, March 27, after the keynote speaker lecture, which begins at 7 p.m. in 2150 Torgersen Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public.

This year's speaker is Lee Riedinger, deputy director for Science and Technology at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Virginia Tech is part of a team led by the University of Tennessee (UT) and Battelle Memorial Institute that bid on and won the management-and-operating contract for ORNL.

Before joining the UT-Battelle management team in 2000, Riedinger was head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Tennessee, and has been on the faculty since 1971. Much of his career has been spent building joint research between UT and ORNL, serving increasingly responsible positions in research at UT, and serving on science and technology committees for the state of Tennessee. In 1983-84, he served as science advisor to Tennessee Senator Howard Baker, who was then the majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

Several colleges are also holding their own events on Tuesday. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

the College of Human Resources and Education will have its fourth Annual Student Research Day. Graduate student papers or posters are presented primarily in a roundtable format. Students are required to provide an abstract of their presentations and participate in 30 minutes of presentation and discussion. About 35 students a year have taken the opportunity to present their work on research day. Some use it for preparation for presentation at upcoming conferences. Others use the occasion to share developmental work on their theses and dissertations.

The College of Engineering will sponsor the Paul E. Torgersen Graduate Student Research Excellence Awards. The competition is open to any master's or doctorate student who graduated in 2000 or will graduate in 2001. A committee will review the applications and select finalists for the awards. Three master's and three Ph.D. finalists will be chosen. Each finalist will present a 15-20 minute oral presentation to be judged by the Awards Committee at an awards ceremony on Tuesday night. The first, second and third prize in each category will be chosen on the basis of the oral presentations.

On Wednesday, graduate students are invited to attend two workshops: academic track or business and industry track. Entitled "Preparing the Future Professional," presentations will be made by representatives from industry, government, and academics.

This year, each college has selected an outstanding graduate student to win an award. In addition, awards will be given for the outstanding thesis and dissertation. At the Graduate Student Awards Banquet (invitation only) on Friday, these awards will be presented, as well as the Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award and the Graduate Student Service Award. The Torgersen Award winners will also be recognized that night.

Graduate Education Week award winners are as follows:

College winners: Alexander A.T. Johnson, College of Agriculture; David C.A. Keuhl, College of Architecture and Urban Studies; Kelli J. England, College of Arts and Sciences; David C. Novak, Pamplin College of Business; Charles Bott, College of Engineering; Katherine Carroll, College of Human Resources and Edu-

(See GRADUATE on 7)

CEUT offering April programs

Fifteen Student Motivation Strategies, Thursday, April 5, 2:30-5 p.m., DBHCC. Motivating students to engage in classroom activities, discussions, assignments, and projects can be challenging. Peter Doolittle will explore 15 motivational strategies, their implementation and appropriate use, using interactive activities and modeling. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up of Effective Lectures 2-7, 3-28, Wednesday, April 11, 2-3 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable will coordinate this session for faculty members who participated in the effective-lectures workshops to share what they have tried, what has worked, and how students have responded. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up: Student Evaluation of Your Teaching 2-21, Wednesday, April 11, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable and Marlene Preston will coordinate this session for participants in the student-evaluation workshop to continue the discussion about the on-going gathering of student feedback. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up: Active Learning Strategies 1-23, 2-20, Thursday, April 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable will coordinate this session for participants in the active-learning workshop to gain further support in their efforts. Faculty members who have attended active-learning workshops in the

(See CEUT on 7)

Veterinary College presents Open House

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Animal lovers will have the opportunity to tour one of the nation's 27 veterinary colleges when the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) presents its annual Open House on Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Virginia Tech.

The VMRCVM's annual celebration of veterinary medicine will showcase the profession and the college through dozens of entertaining and informative presentations.

At 10 a.m., veterinary students will begin conducting guided tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other college facilities. Tours last approximately 60 minutes and will depart at 30-minute intervals throughout the day.

Children are invited to bring their stuffed animals to a Teddy Bear Repair Clinic sponsored by the Class of '02. A special presentation on radiology will be offered by the Class of 2003,

(See VETERINARY on 7)

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures/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/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

One full-time food-service position available.
Bakers Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet's Place.
Binding Assistant, 000214F, Pay Band 2, University Libraries, Technical Services.
Budget Analyst, 001908F, Pay Band 4, Budget/Financial Planning.
Business Development Director, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/MPRRG.
Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer), 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.
Communications Officer, 001567L, Pay Band 3, Police.
Computer Access Control Analyst, 001244D, Pay Band 5, ISC.
Data Entry Operator, 002527F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.
Data Warehouse Architect, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
Development Program Researcher, 007728L, Pay Band 4, University Development.
Enrollment Specialist, 001675B, Pay Band 3, Dean of Arts and Sciences Office.
Housekeeping Worker, 000171H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant.
Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006926H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
Hvac Technician Senior, 000516H, Pay Band 4, RDP.
Lab Specialist, 000799B, Pay Band 3, Biology.
Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.
Lab Specialist Advanced, 007731M, Pay Band 4, Vet Med Experiment Station.
Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.
Laboratory Specialist, 006375M, Pay Band 4, FST.
Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.
Large Animal Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Manager of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.
Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Photocopy Technician, 001653A, Pay Band 2, Printing Services.
Plumber Steamfitter, 001926F, Pay Band 3,

Physical Plant.

Powerline Assistant, 000663C, Pay Band 3, Facilities—VT Electric Service.
Pre-portion Supervisor, 000752H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.
Programmer/Analyst, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNR Information Technology.
Research Specialist, 007732R, Pay Band 3, FWS.
Sales And Catering Assistant, 007294R, Pay Band 2, DBHCC.
Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Cochrane—West End Market.
Shopleader Supervisor, 006552H, Pay Band 1, RDP/West End Market.
Software Support Analyst, 006780F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries, Systems Department.
Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, Residential and Dining Programs/Southgate Bake Shop.
Sous Chef, 007266H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Dietrick Dining Hall.
Surgical Ward Technician, 002637M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician A, W022563M, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W022143C, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.
Clinical Research Coordinator, W023222J, Pay Band 4, HNFE.
Computer Network Support Tech, W023174G, Pay Band 4, Police.
Fiscal Assistant, W023106F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.
Food Service, W023201H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
ICU Vet Technician-large Animal, W022218M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Inventory Coordinator, W023220F, Pay Band 3, University Controller.
Office Services Specialist, W020230M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Opscan Technician, W022499D, Pay Band 2, Test Scoring.
Pharmacist (Relief), W022501M, Pay Band 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Small Animal ICU Technician, W020101M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Agricultural Supervisor, U000651M, Pay Band 3, College Farm.

OFF CAMPUS

Administrative Assistant, 006186M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Southeast District.
Agriculture Supervisor, 006665M, Pay Band 3, Tidewater Agricultural Research Extension Center.
Court Specialist, 006517J, Pay Band 4, CPAP.
Enrollment Program Assistant, 002091J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.
Nursing Supervisor, 002996M, Pay Band 3, Equine Medical Center.
Office Services Assistant, 007330J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.
Office Services Assistant, 007233J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.
Program Assistant, 006613J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.
Program Assistant, 005866J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.
Radio Announcer, W020800L, Pay Band 3,

University Relations/WVTF Radio.

Research Specialist, 007534M, Pay Band 3, CALS, AREC.
Research Specialist Senior, 006504R, Pay Band 4, CMIS.
Underwriting Account Executive, 001963L, Pay Band 3, WVTF.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Human Development. Early Childhood Development Specialist. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial (0317). Review begins April 2.
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Director, Women's Studies. Restricted to College of Arts/Sciences tenured faculty members. Contact: Carol Burger, 252 Lane (0227). Deadline is April 20.
Educational Leadership/Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor, Educational Research. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial (0317). Review begins April 1.
Engineering Science/Mechanics. Assistant Professor. Contact: Edmund Henneke, 225 Norris (0219). Review begins May 1.
Human Nutrition, Foods, Exercise. Assistant Professor. Contact: Robert Grange, 338 Wallace (0430). Review begins April 15.
Mining/Minerals Engineering. Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Erik Westman, 100 Holden (0239). Review begins June 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Associate Director, Core Lab Facilities. Contact: Bruno Sobral, 1750 Kraft Dr., Suite 1100, CRC (0477). Open until filled.
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Research Software Developer. Contact: Bruno Sobral, 1750 Kraft Dr., Suite 1100, CRC (0477). Open until filled.
University Development. Director of Development, Pamplin College of Business. Contact: Timothy Corvin, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.
Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action. Director, EOAA Office (re-opened). Contact: Ben Dixon, 332 Burruss (0176). Review begins immediately.
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Associate Director, Administration/ Finance. Contact: Bruno Sobral, 1750 Kraft Dr., Bldg. X, Suite 1100 (0477). Review begins March 31.
VCE. Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences. #FA701. Management, Housing, Consumer Sciences. Prince George Co. Contact: John Dooley, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.
VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. #FA856. Crop and Soil Science. Suffolk City. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.
VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. #FA678. Farm Business Management. Dinwiddie Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.
VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. #111089. Dairy Science. Rockingham Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.
VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. #FA833. Animal Science. Goochland Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.

VECCELLIO

Continued from 1

they helped establish the Vecellio Family Foundation, Inc. The foundation provides grants for higher education, scholarships, youth and social-service agencies, art groups, health research and services, and religious support.

The endowment to Virginia Tech is provided by the foundation and several family members: Leo Vecellio Jr., a 1968 civil-engineering graduate of Virginia Tech and head of Vecellio and Grogan Subsidiaries, and his wife Kathryn; his sister, Patricia Vecellio, a former post-doctoral fellow and adjunct professor in biology at the university; and his sons Christopher and Michael Vecellio. Michael Vecellio received his B.S. in business from Virginia Tech in 2001,

and both sons will soon enter the family business after attending law school.

“The Vecellio family and our corporation have been involved in heavy and highway construction for over 100 years,” Leo Vecellio Jr. said. “Construction is an ever-evolving field that needs high-quality research, education and well-trained personnel. Virginia Tech has a great program that answers many of the industry’s needs, and we hope that our endowment will boost the program to greater heights.”

CEE Professor Michael C. Vorster, director of the program, said the endowment will help attract the best graduate students and faculty members. The Vecellio Lecture Series, he said, will provide an opportunity for faculty members

and students to interact with industry leaders of international stature.

“We are extremely grateful to the Vecellio family for the vision and leadership they have shown in the establishment of this endowment,” CEE Department Head William R. Knocke said.

“The Vecellio Program in Construction Engineering and Management is one of only three endowed and named construction-engineering programs in the United States,” Knocke said. “The resources provided through the endowment will greatly enhance an already superb construction-engineering-and-management program and make it one of the very best in the nation.”

CEUT

Continued from 5

past are welcome to attend. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Consultation with Margaret Hable, Thursday, April 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Hillcrest small conference room. The CEUT staff will be available to plan workshops for 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.

RESEARCH

Continued from 2

field.”

As a new person, his role on the research division team is being worked out, he says. He will work with Tom Caruso, among others, to create connections and programs, provide workshops, and assist in proposal writing.

Gene Brown, associate provost for research program development, said, “I am delighted to have Bob as a member of our team. I look forward to working with him in finding ways to assist the faculty in reaching the university’s top 30-research goal. Bob’s considerable experience as a strategic planner will be of great help to us in this connection.”

Porter’s bachelor’s degree is in mathematics from Lycoming College in 1963, and his master of arts and Ph.D. in speech communications are from the University of Michigan in 1971 and 1973. He has published on strategic planning and team building, led management training and board education programs, and given conference presentations on strategic planning, conflict resolution, management, and training.

NSF SELECT

Continued from 1

immersed himself in a number of research activities, including a project with the international space station (ISS), as well as applications of active materials to energy systems, and biomechanics-related work.

For the ISS, Leo served on a team that investigated ways to reduce vibrations of space structures and noise control for payload fairings—the shrouds on the top of the rockets that protect the payloads during the first few minutes of launch. From this initial work, he was named to an Air Force team in 1998 to further study this problem. His role was to develop autonomous algorithms that could be tested in orbit. If the software can control deliberately induced vibrations, typical of spacecraft systems, then it will be an important contribution in the eventual design of self-reliant spacecraft able to “think” through and solve problems without human intervention.

In the field of energy systems, Leo is teaming with Virginia Tech colleagues Doug Nelson, also of ME, and director of the U.S. Department of Energy Graduate Automotive Technology Education (GATE) Center of Excellence at Virginia Tech for automotive technology, and Ron Kander of materials science and engineering, to study the use of sensors inside fuel cells. A fuel cell is a device

that combines hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity and water. It functions like a battery but with an external fuel source. Fuel cells emit significantly less carbon dioxide and other air pollutants during energy production.

The DOE estimates that air pollutants could be reduced by one million tons per year and oil imports by 800,000 barrels per day if only 10 percent of domestic automobiles were powered by fuel cells. And unlike batteries, fuel cells don’t have to be recharged, although they do require a supply of hydrogen or hydrocarbon fuel.

The purpose of Leo, Kander, and Nelson’s research is to develop active material systems that can sense and diagnose a breakdown in the fuel-cell membrane before irreversible failure occurs. This is an important aspect of fuel-cell safety and reliability for automotive systems.

Leo believes fuel cells are “destined to become an important part of the energy structure of the U.S., but there are still a number of technical research issues to be solved. The technology fascinates me.”

In the biomechanics area, Leo is teaming with Harry Dankowicz of engineering science and mechanics. They are studying the properties of biological materials and subsequently investigating the use of electro-active polymers in the medical field. Dankowicz is leading an effort to develop a program in advanced human

augmentation, and Leo believes that active materials can play an integral role in the development of devices for injury protection and rehabilitation. Some examples are active devices that offload the weight of injured patients to reduce recovery time, and wearable devices that assist the circulation of diabetic or elderly patients.

With his focus on smart materials, Leo is also looking at vehicular applications of smart material systems. Along with his graduate students, Leo has worked with Daimler-Chrysler on the development of piezo-electric motor technology for vibration isolation in hybrid-electric vehicles.

Currently, Leo is advising eight graduate students, two of whom are doctoral candidates. His research sponsors include the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, NASA/DARPA, Daimler-Chrysler, and the National Science Foundation.

POTTS

Continued from 1

room temperature. Cell division resumed when the cells were rehydrated.

“This technology could be important to the storage of stem cells, red blood cells, platelets, organs, tissues, and biosensor materials,” Potts said. “Storage of such materials presently requires refrigeration, which is a tremendous load for the transport of organs and skin grafts from pharmaceutical companies to hospitals, for example, or the transport of blood products to disaster sites and war zones.”

Another application is protein-based sensors being developed to detect biohazards, which presently work in the laboratory but don’t often reach the field, Helm said. “This technology will result in more robust biosensors.”

Long-term space flight is also a consideration, Potts said. Astronauts may need to carry tissues, organs, and cell lines.

“Seeds, biochemicals, and pharmaceuticals could be given almost indefinite shelf life,” he said. The world market for biomedically stable products is \$500 billion.

The DoD awarded 48 grants to 32 academic institutions as part of the fiscal 2001 DoD Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) program, “designed to address large multidisciplinary topic areas representing exceptional opportunities for applications and technology,” according to the DoD news release. “The awards provide long-term support for research, graduate students, and equipment purchase supporting research themes vital to national defense.”

“The Department of Defense expects that we will create technologies for use in the public and private sector,” Potts said.

The award is initially valued at \$2.6 million for three years. An additional two years of support (\$1.9 million) is also possible, contin-

gent on program success and the availability of funds. Thus the total award is potentially \$4.5 million for five years. The researchers are also eligible for proteomics equipment funding (\$300,000) and support for up to three MURI graduate research fellows. A competition amongst MURI awardees will be conducted in April for the equipment and research fellow funds.

In addition to Potts and Helm, collaborators are Tom Sitz of biochemistry and Lenwood Heath and Naren Ramakrishnan of computer science, all of Virginia Tech; John Battista of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and Fred Bloom of Invitrogen-Life Technologies of Rockville, Md.

Potts’ and colleagues’ early work to understand the structural, physiological, and molecular basis for desiccation tolerance in cyanobacteria received university research seed money (ASPIRES) and earned a \$950,000 grant from DARPA in 1998 that allowed them to launch VIGEN.

“VIGEN researchers use our understanding of genes to manipulate the cells—to do metabolic engineering that is technology driven,” Helm said. “VIGEN provides a focus for interdisciplinary research and teaching in functional genomics, statistical genetics and bioinformatics, and molecular engineering.”

The award may be the largest research grant received by a single researcher in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, according to Pat Hobbs, team coordinator of sponsored programs. The project was the only one selected from among many proposals in the biomimetic cell and tissue stasis research category.

Learn more about the research and VIGEN at <http://vigen.biochem.vt.edu/>. Contact Potts at geordie@vt.edu or 1-5745. Contact Helm at helmrj@vt.edu or 1-4088.

GRADUATE

Continued from 5

cation; Darroch Whitaker, College of Natural Resources; and Christiane Massicotte, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Outstanding Thesis Award: Terry Pettinger, College of Arts and Sciences.

Outstanding Dissertation Award: Barry Bickmore, College of Arts and Sciences; Jean Marie Whichard, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award: Mary Catherine Aime, College of Arts and Sciences.

Graduate Student Service Award: Chung-Yen Oliver Chen, College of Human Resources and Education.

Martha Reifsnider, assistant dean of the Graduate School, said, “It is gratifying to see the most gifted graduate students receive recognition for their work. The efforts of the colleges and other groups across campus have provided a rich collaboration to make Graduate Education Week a success.”

For more information on these events, such as time and location, click on Graduate Education Week under Featured Sites on the Virginia Tech home page, or call April Mayes at 1-3521.

VETERINARY

Continued from 5

and the Class of 2004 will present an animal anatomy display.

A variety of presentations concerning the academic program, contemporary clinical approaches in veterinary medicine, and related clubs and organizations will be featured. Demonstrations on ultrasound, endoscopy, bovine fetal sexing, necropsy and acupuncture will be presented.

The open house will feature information on alternative careers in the veterinary profession and include presentations on preparing a competitive application for veterinary school and the human/animal bond. A video profile of the college will be presented throughout the day.

Service dogs in training with the St. Francis of Assisi Service dog Foundation will conduct demonstrations and the annual Omega Tau Sigma Service Dog of the Year Award will be presented at 11 a.m.

Based at the land-grant universities of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland College Park, the regional professional school operates campuses in Blacksburg, Leesburg, and College Park, Maryland.

For more information, e-mail Kim Goldman at kgoldman@vt.edu or contact Joyce Bohr at 1-4699.

George E. Stern, 88

By Lynn Davis

George E. Stern, who was known for setting international standards for construction, died Monday, March 19.

Stern was the Earle B. Norris research professor emeritus of wood construction in the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products as well as the creator of the Stern Fastener and Pallet Research Laboratory and the inventor of particle board. Essentially, he pioneered the wood sciences program at Virginia Tech.

A scholarship fund in his honor has been set up in the wood science department of the College of Natural Resources. Contributions may be sent to the Virginia Tech Foundation Inc for the George Stern Memorial Scholarship, Department of Gift Entry, Office of University Development, 201 Pack Building, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

"George was especially known throughout the world for designing fasteners, or nails and screws, and as the pioneer in pallet design and construction," said Department Head Geza Ifju. Because he spent a lifetime researching, testing and improving more than a thousand fasteners, Stern was fondly called "Mr. Nail."

Although retired, Stern continued to come into his office almost daily to work on research projects. And he continued to give presentations around the world about his findings.

Stern standardized industry definitions of nails, staples, and pallets. He spent 10 years developing national standards for railings and staircases and was in the process of internationalizing them.

He had chaired an International Standards Organization task force to harmonize British and American English terms into an international building and civil-engineering vocabulary to break down some of the barriers in wood construction.

Stern attended the University of Munich in Germany and received a bachelor's and master's degree in architecture. In the early 1940s, he immigrated to the United States. He earned another master's degree and then a doctorate in architectural engineering at Penn State and had been the only man in the world with such a combination until Penn State recently re-started that program.

Tech center to do nursing survey

By Susan Trulove

The Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research has been awarded a contract from the Virginia Department of Health Professions to conduct a state-wide survey of the nursing workforce.

There have been no previous survey data on Virginia nurses, but there is a nation-wide shortage of nursing professionals, including in the state. "Part of the objective of this project is to explore how to improve the supply of nursing professionals and improve health care services in Virginia," center Director Alan Bayer said.

This project, renewable for update biennially, is in response to House bill 1249 and Senate bill 488 of the 2000 session of the General Assembly. This legislation requires that the Virginia Board of Nursing contract to collect workforce information biennially from licensed nurses in the state. The award includes

having the Virginia Tech center design the state-wide survey that will be used by the Board of Nursing, and collecting the survey data and reporting results of the first benchmark Virginia survey.

Data collection will include information on present work status; availability for work in the nursing profession; current nursing credentials or certifications (RN, LPN, CNA, CNS, etc.); plans for future training in the profession; if currently employed in the field, information on work setting and work responsibilities; and, if not currently employed in the field, reasons why not.

Project co-directors are Bayer, professor of sociology, and Susan Willis-Walton, associate director of the center. The completion of the survey and release of the report to the public is scheduled for fall, 2001.

The Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research is a full-cost-recovery service unit of the university.

Two win diversity awards

By Sally Harris

Two members of the Virginia Tech faculty received Cultural Diversity Awards for 2000-2001 at the Ebony Affair.

One winner, Beverly Bunch-Lyons, assistant professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a founding member of the College of Arts and Sciences Cultural Diversity Committee. "Her dedication to centering issues of diversity through her work in the area of university service is unparalleled," said Ingrid Banks, co-chair of the awards committee. "Her nomination was unique in that it was a 'grassroots' effort by undergraduate and graduate students." Nominations focused on Bunch-Lyons's leadership in diversity in relationship to university service, teaching, and research, Banks said. Those who nominated her also described her as an inspirational role model.

"I feel Dr. Bunch-Lyons as a mentor, role model, and friend was important in my decision to seek an advanced degree," one student wrote in nominating Bunch-Lyons.

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, assistant professor of religious studies in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, received praise from colleagues and students. Floyd-Thomas's research, teaching, and university service "represent her unrelenting dedication in promoting diversity within the context of social justice," Banks said.

"Dr. Floyd Thomas epitomizes the kind of leadership necessary to change institutional and personal contexts to make them more relevant for an increasingly pluralistic society," one colleague wrote.

Dean Robert C. Bates of the College of Arts and Sciences spoke at the event, as did Michael Hughes, chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee. The other co-chair of the awards committee was Chris Thomas of physics.

The Ebony Affair is an annual event sponsored by the Black Student Organization and other sponsors.



NORTHERN VIRGINIA CENTER Graduate Dean Joe Merola and Program Outreach Manager Laura Comas are the first to start up the new Computer Lab at Tech's Northern Virginia Center. The new lab contains 25 Dell G4110 Pentium III computers with 10 gigabyte hard drives, DVD's, zip drives and 17-inch Triniton monitors.

UNIVERSITY

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Leesburg, the Commonwealth Engineering Program, or the Center for Family Services, as these programs either have special funding circumstances or were judged already successful in integrating the three university missions and responding to community needs.

"Part of our strategy," said Graduate School acting Dean Joseph Merola, "is to use strategically our finite resources of people, dollars, and space so that we achieve a critical mass in our footprint areas." Elizabeth Holford, interim director of the NVC, agreed, adding: "The footprints enable Virginia Tech to use each step it takes in Northern Virginia to leave a lasting imprint, because our footsteps will be guided by our knowledge of where our expertise is most needed in this community."

Bohland said that in addition to the desire to address Northern Virginia's needs better, the initiative resulted from the university's need to increase research and scholarship in Northern Virginia. "Our instructional efforts in Northern Virginia have experienced tremendous growth in enrollment," he said. "Thirty-two years ago, our Northern Virginia Center consisted of a handful of professors teaching 65 graduate students in a Reston farmhouse. Today, we have facilities in Falls Church, Leesburg, and Alexandria and have approximately 45 degree programs, 90 faculty members, and 30 support staff members." The challenge, Bohland said, is that this growth was conducted largely on a course-by-course

basis, and growth in research and scholarship has not kept pace with enrollment growth. "We have many fine programs in Northern Virginia," he said, "but our intent is to grow in Northern Virginia those programs that best make use of the location and have the widest impact in research and outreach as well as instruction."

Another impetus was the university's current strategic-planning process, which is prompting the development of a more cohesive overall plan for Virginia Tech's presence in Northern Virginia. Bohland said, "We needed a strategy that would enable us to be more responsive to the needs of the Northern Virginia community, to synergize activities in Northern

Virginia with those in Blacksburg, and to build innovative R&D partnerships and collaborations able to serve Northern Virginia while reducing the university's dependence on funding from the state."

Paul Knox, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, which has a Northern Virginia presence at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, said there is "strong and enthusiastic support" for the initiative among the university's deans. "The strategic themes will allow several colleges to pursue important, focused interdisciplinary work in areas of interest both to our faculty members and to the community in Northern Virginia."

Nader Here

Consumer activist and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 in Burruss auditorium. Admission is free for students, and \$5 for the general public.

EXEMPLARY

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the academic excellence of individuals is achieved within collaborative working and learning environments to which many individuals contribute," said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs. The program was established as a part of Virginia Tech's Faculty Rewards Project, which seeks to clarify the expectations of faculty members and define appropriate rewards for accomplishments.

Nominations are invited from students, faculty members, or others who have benefited from the work of the nominated entities. Letters of nomination (not to exceed two pages) should describe the achievements of the department(s) or program(s) and should be addressed to Exemplary Department and Program Awards Committee, c/o Ronald W. Daniel, Office of the Provost, 330 Burruss Hall, 0132.

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