Floyd-Thomas, Goff, Boisen selected 2001 Diggs Teaching Scholars

By Sally Harris

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, assistant professor of religious studies in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Richard Goff, associate professor of engineering fundamentals, and Monte Boisen, professor of mathematics, are the newly selected 2001 Diggs Teaching Scholars.

The Diggs Program was begun in 1992 to recognize and foster excellence, imagination, and innovation in linking scholarship and teaching. Each recipient is presented with a plaque, and a cash award goes to both the recipient and the nominating department.

Floyd-Thomas joined the faculty of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in 1998. Since then, she has been appointed coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Interdisciplinary Task Force. She has received CEUT summer faculty and globalizing initiatives grants and an AIRISPEES grant, under which she has collaborated to establish an interdisciplinary study-abroad opportunity at the University of Cheik Anta Diop in Senegal.

Goff is the recipient of three Certificates of Teaching Excellence and the Sporn Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Engineering Subjects. He is the director of the Frith Freshman Engineering Design Laboratory. Working with colleagues, he has received a CEUT Summer Faculty Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Design as well as three SUCCEED grants for Hands-On Laboratory, Early Design, and Curriculum Renewal. Goff has also collaborated with Mitzi Vernon, professor in the Industrial Design Program in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, in creating mixed groups of students from the two colleges that design and build robotic creations.

Boisen, who has taught mathematics at Virginia Tech for 31 years, has received four Certificates of Teaching Excellence, the Spice Award, the Arts and Sciences Diversity Award, and the Xcaliber Award, among many others. As mathematics departmental coordinator for minority recruitment and affairs, he founded the Association of African-American Mathematicians at Virginia Tech, an organization that engages in a variety of efforts to recruit and retain minority students. He has taken a leadership role in transforming the Math Emporium so that it places the student in the center—not the machines, not the material.

In fall 2001, the new Diggs teaching scholars will lead a discussion focused on their recent work. Floyd-Thomas will discuss the raising of ethical issues for the goal of social justice in the classroom in a manner that encourages students to examine difficult and personally challenging material. Goff will present his vision of “Hands-On Collaborative Learning” as an approach to engineering fundamentals, which better serves a diverse student population. Boisen will discuss the essential role of care, concern, and respect in the manner in which teachers interact with women and minority students and apply technology to support learning.

Holocaust Awareness Week observance set

By Clara B. Cox

From the reading of victims’ names to recollections of Holocaust survivors, events during Virginia Tech’s Holocaust Awareness Week, April 9-14, will draw attention to the suffering of millions of Jews in the late 1930s and early to mid 1940s. The events, which will be held on the university campus, are open to the public.

“Holocaust Awareness Week is an opportunity for the local community to remember the atrocities that were inflicted upon (See HOLOCAUST on 4)

Input Sought on Intellectual Properties Policy

By Jeanne M. Garon

Virginia Tech’s University Council is seeking faculty and staff input into proposed changes to Policy 13000, the university’s intellectual-properties policy, according to interim Provost James R. Bohland.

The university has created a web site, http://www.rgs.vt.edu/opd/ipqa1.htm, to facilitate university-wide dialogue on the proposed changes. The site contains the current and proposed intellectual-property policies, a slide presentation on the policies, a schedule of campus open meetings at which faculty and staff input is encouraged, a posting of frequently asked questions and their answers, and an e-mail address (ipqa@vt.edu) where faculty and staff members may submit questions or comments.

“I encourage all faculty and staff members to avail themselves of the opportunity to help guide this important process,” Bohland said. Comments must be submitted before the final 2000-2001 University Council meeting on May 7.

Tech tempts top students with scholarships

By Clara B. Cox

In a move to attract some of the nation’s top high-school students, Virginia Tech has established six Alumni Presidential Scholarships that will provide each recipient with most of their college expenses.

“There are no other scholarships this large that are open on a university-wide basis right now,” said Barry Simmons, director of scholarships and financial aid.

Three to in-state students and three to out-of-state students for the fall 2001 semester. Virginia recipients will receive $7,000 each and out-of-state recipients, $14,000 each. The scholarships, which are merit-based only, are renewable for those recipients making progress toward an honors degree.

At the height of the program, as many as 24 students will receive the funding. Current plans call for the scholarships to be awarded for at least four consecutive years.

According to Jack Dudley, director of University Honors, the scholarship winners will be selected from the pool of students applying to University Honors. Approximately 1,600 students currently participate in the program, 104 of them living in Hillcrest Hall; next year, they will comprise the Hillcrest Community. Applications to University Honors are mailed to qualified students in mid-February.

“The world-class students we attract will, by their very presence here, make a statement about the quality of the institution. As we increase the number of these students on campus, we can anticipate more Rhodes, Marshall, and Truman scholars within our student body,” Dudley said.

According to Simmons, the university will bring 16-18 Alumni Presidential finalists to campus on April 6-7. The first day, (See TECH on 4)
EVENTS

Friday, 30

Spectrum and Wage Paydate.
Stroubles Creek Watershed Forum, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., DBHCC room A: Call 1-5624 to register.
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.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Jessica Green, Tula Pisano.
Women’s Month Film, 8:30 p.m., 150 Squires: kalin’s prayer.

Saturday, 31

Women’s Month Run, 10 a.m., 1715 Pratt Drive: dianna.benton@vt.edu or slowel@vt.edu for information.
Women’s Month Event, 2 p.m., Henderson Law: Call 931-8639 for information.
Student Recital, 5 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chris Zawadowski.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Nikole Giraldi.

APRIL

Sunday, 1

Gay Awareness Week Begins (Through 1-7): Call 1-7975 for information.
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.
Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: David Day, David Ball.

Monday, 2

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Mathematics Speaker, 4 p.m., 455 McBryde: Margaret Murray.
Reading, Book Signing, 7 p.m., Volume Two: Margaret Murray.

Public hearing on BT service cuts announced
There will be a public hearing to discuss service reductions to several Blacksburg Transit routes on April 9 in 236 Squires from 5-6:30 p.m. Faculty and staff members and students can make recommendations for reductions and/or cancellations of bus routes. The possibility of service cuts is the result of a project shortfall in funding for the next fiscal year. For information, contact Debby Freed at 1-1737 or dfreed@vt.edu.

Astronaut to discuss space flight
Kathryn Cordell Thornton, physicist and former NASA astronaut, will present “Space Flight from a Human Perspective” on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Hancock. Thornton was on the team that fixed the Hubble Space Telescope and has logged over 975 hours in space. She is a professor at the University of Virginia. This presentation is sponsored by several organizations in celebration of Women’s Month, Math Awareness Month, and National Science and Technology Week. For information, contact Toby Horn at 1-2692 or thornb@vt.edu.

Graduate Education Week presentation held today
A docu-drama entitled “Schooling, Segregation, and Society: A Collaborative Collection of Oral Histories from the Christiansburg Institute” will be held today from 4-6 p.m. in Squires Brush Mountain Room A. Recently reopened, the Christiansburg Institute (CI) was founded in 1866 for the education of African Americans. It remained open for 100 years, expanding to include an industrial education department under the supervision of Booker T. Washington. Oral histories focusing on schooling and life experiences during periods of segregation and desegregation were documented for the CI archives. The docu-drama results from an inquiry conducted by doctoral students from a variety of disciplines in a graduate-research class and is part of Graduate Education Week.

DMV customer service center to be on campus
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Mobile Customer Service Center will be on campus on April 4 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the stadium parking lot at the south end of Lane Stadium. The center can provide the following services: license-information changes; vehicle registration and title; written test and renewals for CDL license; duplicate licenses; photo ID cards; driver transfers; disabled parking permits; applications for voter registration.

Seminars

Friday, 30

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: David M. Hercules, Vanderbuilt.
MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Frajin: Natalie Ahn, University of Colorado.
FST, 1:25-2:15 p.m. 132 Food Science/Technology Building: Tatiana Lorca, Brian Yuan, Fletcher Arritt.
STS, 3:30 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: Alondra Nelson, NYU.
Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4052 Derring: Peter Wilf, University of Michigan.

Friday, 30

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Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4052 Derring: Peter Wilf, University of Michigan.

APRIL

Monday, 2

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Bill Clapham, USDA-ARS.
ESM/AQK, 4 p.m., 136 Norris: Alicia Kim, University of Warwick, UK.

Wednesday, 4


Thursday, 5

Horticulture, noon, Squires Brush Mountain room A: Duncan Porter.
STS, noon-1:30, Squires Cardinal Room: Daniel Brelau.
Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Steven Cessna, Eastern Mennonite University.
CSES, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Jodie Clarke.
Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Stuart Rojstaczer, Duke University.

Friday, 6

FST, 12:20-1:10 p.m. 132 Food Science/Technology Building: Wes Schilling, Mark Tolbert, Bert Quinn.

BULLETINS


College celebrates Wright’s visit
Faculty and staff members and alumni of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies will participate in the festivities to honor internationally renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who visited the campus in 1951.

Key events will be held on Thursday, April 5. At 2:15 p.m., Wright’s grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright, will give a lecture in Hancock Hall on “Frank Lloyd Wright and Organic Architecture,” followed by a reception in Cowgill Hall, where female architect Lois Green, Tula Pisano, and female architect Lois Green will participate in the festivities to honor the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Women's Month Event, 7-9 p.m., 154 Squires: Jean Meehan, Nicky Wolf, Blue Ridge Massage and Yoga Scholl.

University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Ensemble Concert.

Tuesday, 3

Women’s Month Speaker, 7:30–9:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Kathryn Cordell Thornton, UVA.

Wednesday, 4

Bloodmobile, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., VMRCVM.

Southern Culture Conference, 1 p.m., DBHCC room E: athena.english.vt.edu/ for information.

Sexual Assault Summit, 6-8 p.m., Owens Banquet Room: Call 1-3787 to register.

“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTF: “New Thinking on Parkinson’s Disease.”

Thursday, 5


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

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Rob Speiden.

Guest Lecture, 2-3:15 p.m., Owens Banquet Hall: Anne Petera, Commonwealth of Virginia.

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

Women’s Month Closing Reception, 4-6 p.m., DBHCC East Common Room.

Friday, 6

International Week Begins (Through 4-14).

Stepping Conference (Through 4-6), DBHCC: www.cis.vt.edu/humanities/step/index.html for information.

Einstein’s Dreams Discussion, 4-5 p.m., Cranwell Center: 1-2375 for information.

International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: Bryce L. Geyer.

International Week Presentation, 7-9 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: African Student Association.

By Sally Harris
Associate Professor of English Katherine Soniat will read from her fourth collection of poems, Alluvial, April 11 at Virginia Tech’s Volume Two at 7 p.m.

Alluvium means the perpetually shifting, settling, and re-shifting sediment deposited in a riverbed that, in turn, by shaping the watercourse, creates “the shallows and rapid, treacherous holes and long planks that run” that define the restless shoreline.

Alluvial is set in the watery landscape of the Chesapeake Bay, the world’s largest estuary, and in Louisiana, the land of braided tributaries, according to Bucknell University Press, publisher. “Katherine Soniat’s Alluvial charts the course of individual and collective histories influenced by the rich alluvium of culture and geography, ecology and autobiography. Lives large and small, recorded and unrecorded—those of Captain John Smith, Frederick Douglass, a community of Ursuline nuns, a home full of exiled children of tubercular parents, the poet’s mother, nameless others—merge into the past’s archetypal sediment, only to arise again in these beautiful poems to dance in memory’s drift and to filter a future always infused with the past.”

Soniat has published three other volumes of poetry and a chapbook. A Shared Life was the

(See COLLEGE on 4)

(See SONIAT on 4)
The provost, the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the University Promotion and Continued Appointment Committee have recommended the following candidates for promotion, tenure, continued appointment, or administrative appointment. The president concurs and will present these recommendations to the Board of Visitors for action at their June meeting.

**Promotion with Tenure to Associate Professor, College Faculty**

Martha Ann Bell, psychology; Brian M. Brit, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Jean B. Crockett, educational leadership and policy studies; Paul A. Deck, chemistry; William A. Duckor, chemistry; Kimberly E. Forsten, chemical engineering; Hilda M. Getz, educational leadership and policy studies; Mark A. Gifford, philosophy; Jeryl C. Jones, animal sciences; Christopher K. Klagge, philosophy; David E. Kline, forestry, wildlife and fisheries sciences; Diane L. Zahm, archaeology.

**Promotion to Associate Professor, College Faculty**

Mehdi Ahmadian, mechanical engineering; S. Ansar Ahmed, biomedical sciences and pathology; Jeffrey R. Alwang, agricultural and applied economics; Richard A. Ashley, economics; Allen H. Rachelder, history; Gregory K. Evanylo, crop and soil environmental sciences; Robert B. Viegah, physics.

**Promotion to Full Professor, College Faculty**

Marc A. Ehrlich, animal and environmental engineering; Robert H. Sturges, industrial systems engineering/mechanical engineering.

**Tenure, College Faculty**

Peter E. Doolittle, teaching and learning; Mark J. Estienne, animal and poultry sciences; Mehdi Ahmadian, mechanical engineering; A.L. Hammert, wood science and forest products; Michael L. Jahnke, food science and technology; Steven M. Janosik, educational leadership and policy studies; Gregory L. Mullins, crop and soil environmental sciences; Robert B. Viegah, physics.

**Promotion to Associate Professor, College Faculty**

C. Andrew Dolloff, fisheries and wildlife sciences.

**Promotion to Professor, College Faculty**

Mehdi Ahmadian, mechanical engineering; S. Ansar Ahmed, biomedical sciences and pathology; Jeffrey R. Alwang, agricultural and applied economics; Richard A. Ashley, economics; Allen H. Rachelder, history; Gregory K. Evanylo, crop and soil environmental sciences; Robert B. Viegah, physics; Victoria T. Kok, veterinary medicine library; Michael T. Lambur, Extension education program; Gail M. McClean, digital library and archives.

**Promotion to Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty**

Dawn M. Allenman, VCE—Norfolk; Susan E. DeBolt, VCE—Prince William; Scott Jesse, VCE—Wythe; Lonnie L. Johnson, VCE—Charlotte; Kendra J. Kyle, VCE—Patrick; Marion W. Lawrence, VCE—Chesapeake; Kenner P. Love, VCE—Petersburg; Michael Martin, VCE—Wythe; Michael T. Roberts, VCE—Southampton; Cynthia K. Rovles, VCE—Caroline; Lynnette J. Swanson, VCE—Extracollege; Tom Tyler, VCE—Arlington; Ania T. Uzel, VCE—King; and Ruth E. Wallace, VCE—Buckingham.

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<td>Surgical Ward Technician</td>
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<td>Web page contact: Philip Mellen, 323 Major Williams, Deadline is April 1</td>
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**INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Student-Athlete Office of Academic Resources**

Assistant Director: Philip Mellen, 323 Major Williams, Deadline is April 1
Final Grades Deadline Timing Questioned

In the Fall 2000 Instructions for Entry of Final Grades, I was informed that the “Deadline for submission of Fall 2000 Final grades (all campuses) was 8 a.m., Monday, Dec. 18, 2000.” I was also informed that: “Note: System is available until 2:30 a.m. daily.”

I ask the following questions: Why was the fall 2000 final grade-deadline at 8 a.m. on Monday? What horrible consequences would occur if I missed this 8 a.m. deadline? Why was the electronic-entry system inoperative after 2:30 a.m.? If I administer a final examination on the last day of exams, why was I given less than two workdays after the final exam week to grade exams, grade portfolios, and calculate final grades? Who makes the decision to set the deadline for final grades at the end of a semester? Is the faculty ever consulted about this decision? Does anybody care about this problem other than the department heads in the College of Engineering? Finally, just how many decisions—ones that should logically rest in the hands of the university faculty—have been usurped by the administration?

We seem to have a one-size-fits-all approach to the semester, course-grade-deadline. Faculty members deserve customized grade deadlines that take their different workloads at the end of a semester—examples being (a) administering a final exam on the last day of final week, (b) different grading requirements for this final exam, (c) evaluation of course portfolios submitted after this final exam, (d) participation in spring Commencement activities, and so forth.

Regarding the grade-submission deadline, what will happen at the end of the spring semester?

Peter Rony
Department of Chemical Engineering

In Other News

Carlisle play to be produced in Chicago

By Sally Harris

Barbara Carlisle’s original work, Offending Shadows, will be produced in May and June by TriArts, a professional production and design company in Chicago.

In March, TriArts mounted the 2001 New Noise Festival, a series of staged readings featuring playwrights from New York, Chicago, Atlanta, and Virginia writing about topics such as the deterioration of family values and gay issues. Each of these playwrights either attended or has taught at Virginia Tech. The New Noise Festival ran March 5-28 and included a reading of Carlisle’s play in the Performance Loft in Lakeview in Chicago.

The fully produced run of Offending Shadows will open to the general public at the Viaduct Theatre in West Lakeview in Chicago May 12-June 19. On June 9, there will be a special evening for Chicago-area alumni with Carlisle and Theatre Arts Head Don Drapeau in attendance.

The production will involve several Virginia Tech students and alumni, as well as Carlisle, who is chair of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. TriArts, for example, was created three years ago by a group of Virginia Tech theater alumni. It now boasts a staff of 12, has a half dozen productions under its belt, and has emerged on the Chicago scene as a strong voice for original, technically proficient theater.

Carlisle, who spent 15 years directing in professional theater before coming to Virginia Tech, will direct the production.

Offending Shadows considers the stories of Oedipus and Antigone in the framework of a group of actors who have done these classic roles for centuries, and who now, in the light of a new millennium, are questioning the traditions as well as the stories. The audience is made to look at what happens to those people who die offstage, forgotten—the women, the children. The audience is led to ask whether the opening premises of the plays are not loaded in ways that ought to be questioned. It puts messengers, toppers, and sisters and aunts center stage for at least an opportunity to be seen, even if the story itself remains unchanged. It questions, with a sense of humor, the political arguments as well as the moral ones.

Carlisle began her theater career in her teens as a puppeteer and dancer and then went on to act and direct and eventually to do choreography. She began to write original scripts in the 1980s and has had a dozen produced in different venues.

For more information see www.triarts.org or call the company at 773-866-8082.

SONIAT

Continued from 2

Iowa Poetry Prize and a Virginia Prize for Poetry. Notes of Departure received the Camden Poetry Prize from the Walt Whitman Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Soniat has received Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowships, the William Faulkner Prize, and an Ann Stanford Prize. Her poems have been published in such literary journals as The Nation, The New Republic, Southern Review, Virginia Quarterly, Gettysburg Review, and TriQuarterly.

TECH

Continued from 1

said, will be spent giving the finalists information about the university, followed by a reception and dinner hosted by the Hillcrest Community. On the second day, the finalists will be interviewed by faculty committees. Winners, as well as alternates, could be named before the finalists leave the campus.

The scholarships will be funded from a “re-volving,” or endowment-type, fund that will also provide money for diversity grants, which were announced recently by the university. At its announcement, the fund will approach $3 million.

PROMOTION

Continued from 3

Administrative Promotion to Senior Extension Agent, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Llewellyn S. Allison, VCE—Accomack; John K. Arbogast, VCE—Roanoke; Edith A. Austin, VCE—Buckinghum; Charles H. Littson, VCE—Giles; Kathy R. Miller, VCE—Wythe; Linda M. Robinson, VCE—Tazewell.

Administrative Promotion to Assistant Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Byron Ladd Brown II, University Libraries; Ellen M. Krapur, University Libraries; Margaret C. Merrill, University Libraries.