

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION  
See page 4 for  
information on foot-  
and-mouth disease  
precautions.

## Internet2 to be available to K-12, community colleges, other institutions

By David Nutter

Virginia's school systems and higher-education institutions will be among the first in the country to have access to Internet2, the national high-performance backbone, thanks to an initiative sponsored by Virginia Tech.

"Expanded access to Abilene (Internet2 network) supports the primary Internet2 goal of facilitating the rapid transfer of new network services and applications to the global Internet and especially the broader educational community," said Douglas E. Van Houweling, president and CEO of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, the organization leading both the Internet2 and Abilene projects.

As one of the primary participants in the Abilene network, Virginia Tech has proposed an overhaul and dramatic advancement for Net.Work.Virginia (NWV), the state's next-generation network system, to extend Internet2 technology throughout the state. The university will work very closely with Sprint, Verizon, and other NWV providers to engineer and deploy the new system, called Net.Work.Virginia Next Generation, or NWVng. Sprint, in particular, is making a considerable investment in infrastructure within Virginia in support of this initiative.

"Virginia Tech is very glad Internet2 is supporting our push to connect K-20 schools to the Abilene network. This is in keeping with our overarching commitment to promote early access

to advanced-network technologies for the citizens of Virginia, not just research universities," said Jeff Crowder, Virginia Tech's manager of network services.

The Virginia Community College System, a founding partner with Virginia Tech for the creation of NWV and a leader nationally for network-based educational initiatives, will connect their system including 39 campuses to engage in collaborative distance learning programs with institutions in other states. VCCS currently delivers over 40,000 enrollments through distance learning.

"The faculty and staff members of Virginia's community colleges are very interested in the educational opportunities enabled by Abilene and NWVng. Collaborative

endeavors, such as the Merlot project, that provides a national multi-media technology database for faculty members, may now leverage the converged voice, data, and video networking technology that VCCS currently enjoys and extend the reach nation-wide," said Larry Hengehold, vice chancellor for information-technology services for the state's community-college system.

The Center for Particle Physics at Hampton University is participating with the ATLAS project at Indiana University. The project involves close cooperation with CERN, Duke, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, and the National Science Foundation and will entail analysis of data

(See *INTERNET2* on 2)

## Fuel-cell study nets \$600,000 NSF grant

By Sally Harris

Fuel cells have the potential to produce energy that is environmentally clean for running automobiles, heating homes, and efficiently running lap tops, cell phones and other portable devices; but lack of knowledge about the cells and their components has thus far limited their usefulness.

A partnership led by Virginia Tech has received a \$600,000 two-year grant from the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) program to help build creative interactions among colleges and universities, governmental agencies, foundations, and private corporations to help the community better position itself to accommodate research and development at the local and regional level. A major goal of the award is to advance local economic and educational opportunities.

The mission of the partnership that includes Virginia Tech is to provide science that bridges the understanding, developing, and commercializing of next-generation polymer-electrolyte membranes (PEM), membrane-electrode assemblies (MEA), and related fuel-cell systems.

"We will extend understanding of several critical factors on transport properties for optimizing and developing new materials for use in fuel cells," said James McGrath, director of the Materials Research Institute and co-principal investigator with Kenneth L. Reifsnider, associate provost for interdisciplinary programs. One of the visions of the work is to employ expertise in PEM fuel-cell materials with improved thermal stability developed at Virginia Tech, the lead institution, and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), in partnership with several industries, including

(See *FUEL-CELL* on 3)

## A Message from President Charles Steger on the Arrest of a University Instructor

(Editor's note: The following statement was released by the president on March 30 regarding and incident between two faculty members. Please see accompanying article on page 4.)

On behalf of the university community, we apologize to the students in two classes who were inconvenienced and denied, even in a small way, the educational opportunities they deserve as Virginia Tech students.

I am asking that the disorderly conduct charge against the instructor be dropped. I am also directing the department heads to review the facts, meet with their faculty members and begin a dialogue that will come to an understanding of the cause of this event and prevent such incidents in the future.

We find the incident which resulted in the arrest of instructor to be extremely regrettable. I expect a higher level of respect between colleagues and for rules and policies of the university than was exhibited on March 27. Although each party followed a course of action thought appropriate at the time, the resultant consequence has been an embarrassment to the university. Resolution to the scheduling of a classroom should not have resulted in an arrest.

Charles W. Steger, president

## University construction to reduce size of golf course

By Larry Hincker

Virginia Tech officials have announced that the university will not rebuild the golf course holes lost from construction of the new alumni and conference center near Prices Fork Road and West Campus Drive.

Plans called for replacing six holes concurrent with a planned expansion of the club house. Sometime in 2002, the golf course will begin using only nine holes.

"We've evaluated the cost benefit of this investment and compared it to our needs for possible future growth. Considering the value of the property and the realization that it represents the only large acreage contiguous with the academic core of campus, we feel that we must preserve the university's future growth options," said Landrum Cross, vice president for student affairs. Cross oversees the golf-course operations which is a part of the office of

recreational sports.

The university estimated the cost to replace the holes at \$1.1 million. The clubhouse and related facilities was estimated to cost \$1.5 million. The golf course is a privately supported auxiliary enterprise. No state taxpayer funds are used in the maintenance or support of the golf enterprise.

Campus officials are concerned about future building sites. For almost two decades the university has followed an "infill" concept where major campus buildings are slipped into open space between other buildings. Few suitable sites remain. "We have a large campus, but through the infill approach, we have maintained a very compact academic core. Few universities of our size have all academic buildings within easy walking distance" said

(See *UNIVERSITY* on 4)

## A Founders Day Invitation

Virginia Tech has moved beyond the grounds of the Drillfield to serve communities across the state and around the world. In so doing, the institution has been transformed from the small agricultural and mechanical college its founders first conceived to an internationally recognized research institution. Founders Day is an opportunity for us to reflect on the nature of education and Virginia Tech's role.

On Friday, April 27, Virginia Tech will celebrate the 129th anniversary of its founding at a convocation in Burruss auditorium at 3 p.m. The highlight of the ceremony will be a keynote address from special guest speaker, His Excellency Alfred Defago, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States. The title of his address will be "Globalization: A Challenge and An Opportunity—An Ambassador's Reflection."

Founders Day also provides us the opportunity to confer two of the university's highest awards—the Alumni Distinguished Service Award and the Ruffner Medal. The convocation will be followed by a Corps of Cadets Review Ceremony on the Drillfield and a reception under a tent in front of the War Memorial Chapel (weather permitting).

(See *FOUNDERS DAY* on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 13

**International Club Coffee Hour**, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: Joseph E. Marcy.

**Ensemble Recital**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: The Marimba Quartet.

### Saturday, 14

**YMCA Hike**, 10 a.m., Lancaster House parking lot.

### Sunday, 15

**DBHCC Lunch**, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Easter Buffet: Call 1-5632 for reservations.

### Monday, 16

**Salary and Wage Paydate.**

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

**Ensemble Concert**, 7:30 p.m., War Memorial Chapel: The Meistersingers.

### Tuesday, 17

**ULD Training Program**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., (Through 4-18), DBHCC room C, 116 Robeson: 1-6727 to register.

**Bloodmobile**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.

**VTU Lively Arts**, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: *Crazy for You.*

### Wednesday, 18

**Family/Work/Life Resources Program**, noon-1

p.m., location TBA.

**Bloodmobile**, noon-6 p.m., Squires Student Center.

**"With Good Reason,"** 7 p.m., WVTF: "Of Leonardo and Statues."

### Thursday, 19

**Bloodmobile**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.

**Staff Senate**, noon, 1810 Litton-Reaves.

**YMCA Slide Show**, noon, Cranwell Center: Shaadi Elswaifi.

**NCHERM, URMIA Web Seminar**, 1-4 p.m.: Visit [www.ncher.org](http://www.ncher.org) for information.

**TA-UT**, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man.*

### Friday, 20

**TA-UT**, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man.*

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 13

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Sylvia Ceyer, MIT.

**MCBB**, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Steve Beverley, WUSTL.

**STS**, 3:30-5 p.m., 132 Lane: Tyler Veak.

### Monday, 16

**Horticulture**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Bonnie Appleton.

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Josh Smith, University of Pennsylvania.

### Tuesday, 17

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 4052 Derring: Josh Smith, University of Pennsylvania.

### Wednesday, 18

**CASS**, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 307 Davidson: Manoj K. Chaudhury.

### Thursday, 19

**Plant Physiology**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Ben Holt, University of North Carolina.

**CSES**, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Jose Ochoa.

**ESM**, 4-5 p.m., 300 Whittemore: Priscilla Nelson, National Science Foundation.

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Timothy Bralower, University of North Carolina.

### Friday, 20

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Matt McIntosh, University of Arkansas.

**MCBB**, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Susan Liebman, University of Illinois.

**STS**, 3:30-5 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room: Andrew Pickering.

## BULLETINS

### Service-Learning Expo set

The sixth annual Service-Learning Expo is set for Wednesday, April 25 in Squires Old Dominion Ballroom. The Expo features outstanding service-learning projects from the past academic year. Posters are on display from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A reception will begin at 3 p.m. and an awards ceremony at 4 p.m. For information, visit <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/sl/expo2001.html>, or call the Service-Learning Center at 1-6964.

### Violence-Prevention Semintart set

A seminar titled "Forging Community Connection to Protect Children From Violence" will be held on Wednesday, April 18 in Fralin auditorium from 4-5 p.m. The featured speaker is Gary L. Bowen, a professor in the school of social

work at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a joint appointment in communication studies. There will be a question-and-answer period following the lecture. This event is sponsored by the Department of Human Development and is free and open to the public.

### Artistic director to speak at TA forum

As part of its forum series, the Theatre Arts (TA) department will host a free lecture by Molly Smith, artistic director of Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. The lecture will be held in Squires Studio Theatre on April 23, at 3:30 p.m. Smith will talk about her experiences as a theatre founder and artistic director as well as the role of theatre in the 21st century. There will be a reception following the forum in Squires Dogwood Room.

### YMCA announces program for young children

The YMCA announces Tykes Hikes, a new hike program adapted for families with young children. The Tykes Hikes are free and open to the public. No registration is needed, but children will need to be accompanied by an adult. Hikers will meet at the YMCA office at 403 Washington St. on scheduled Sundays at 2 p.m.

Hikes planned for the spring include Pandapas Pond, Brown Farm, Ellet Valley Nature Trail, and the Cascades. More hikes will be scheduled for the summer and early fall. For information, call the YMCA at 1-6860, or check the schedule at <http://www.vtymca.org/>.

## FDA to visit

By Susan Trulove

Thanks to efforts by Joe Cowles, biology department head, several high-level officials from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will visit Virginia Tech April 25.

Visiting will be representatives from the six FDA centers: Helen Winkle and Ajaz Hussain of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research; David Feigl Jr., director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health; Stephen Sundlof, director of the Center for Veterinary Medicine; Dan Casciano, director of the National Center for Toxicological Research; Robert Buchanan and Catherine Derover of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN); and Dano Murphy, regulatory counsel with the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

The purpose of the visit is to encourage student internships, graduate-student and faculty-member sabbaticals, and exchanges in which FDA staff members could work towards doctoral degrees. CFSAN would also like to

(See FDA on 4)

## Linguist to speak on diversity, Internet

Virginia Tech welcomes the public to a presentation on "Linguistics Diversity and the Internet" by distinguished linguist Susan Herring on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Conference Center auditorium.

Herring will explore the effects of the Internet on the status of major and minor languages, as well as cultures, around the world. She is an internationally recognized expert on the dynamics of gender, language, culture, and computer-mediated communication, and has published widely in the field. She is currently an associate professor of Information Science and adjunct associate professor of Linguistics at Indiana University in Bloomington, IL.

The program is being sponsored by the School of Public and International Affairs, the Institute for the Social Assessment of Information Technology, and the Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association. For more information, contact Maria Papadakis at 1-3805 or e-mail [papadakis@vt.edu](mailto:papadakis@vt.edu).

## INTERNET2

Continued from 1

sets expected to be measured in petabytes.

Several higher-education institutions that offer master's degrees with access to Net.Work.Virginia have already developed proposals. Examples include a multi-media language program already under way at the University of Richmond in collaboration with the University of Minnesota to use very-high-quality video and audio to perform real-time transmission and recording of native speakers to enhance foreign language instruction and to preserve cultural records.

Other master-degree-granting institutions now connected to Net.Work.Virginia include James Madison University, Longwood College, Norfolk State University, Radford University, Virginia State University, Mary Baldwin College, Averett College, Hampton University, Liberty University, Lynchburg College, Regent University, Shenandoah University, and the University of Richmond.

Baccalaureate degree granting institutions now connected to the network include Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University, Emory and Henry College, Hampden-Sydney College, Hollins University, Randolph-Macon College, Randolph-Macon

Woman's College, Roanoke College, Sweet Briar College, and Washington and Lee University.

NWVng will have the capability to extend Internet2 technology also to Virginia's K-12 classrooms ahead of all but four other states in the country. One K-12 program, "Cave Aps for Inquiry in Science," uses CAVE simulation software developed at Virginia Tech and the CAVE facilities at Virginia Tech to create interactive virtual environments to investigate topics in biochemistry and physics among students at Governor's Schools across the state. This program can be a model for extending this program to other schools outside Virginia.

Another program in association with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Weinberg Education Center in Maryland is "Nitrate Net." Middle school students in Virginia and Maryland participate in collection of data deposited in a USGS database concerning low-range nitrate and ammonia levels and measuring phosphate and pH in the airshed as well as in the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay. The "real data" collected by this program has influenced the U.S. Clean Air Act. New water-quality-monitoring technology will produce data volumes that cannot be accommodated by the current Nitrate Net network system.

# 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.

**Administrative Assistant**, 002025M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Medicine-Dean's Office.

**Administrative Assistant**, 007745R, Pay Band 3, Graduate School.

**Animal Care Technician**, 002630M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Assistant Business Manager**, 007740B, Pay Band 4, Engineering.

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

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

**Editor/Communications Coordinator**, 007681S, Pay Band 5, OIRD.

**Electrical Engineer**, 007742Y, Pay Band 5, Physical Plant.

**Event And Maintenance Supervisor**, LC000019J, Pay Band 3, Athletics.

**Fiscal Assistant**, LC000086J, Pay Band 2, VTAF.

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

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

**HVAC Technician Senior**, 000516H, Pay Band 4, RDP.

**Lab Specialist**, 002198M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Medicine/MDL—Academic Affairs.

**Lab Specialist Senior**, 007743M, Pay Band 4, PPWS.

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

**Laboratory Specialist**, 007245M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 001305M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Medicine.

**Laboratory Specialist Advanced**, 007735M, Pay Band 4, BSE.

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, 004275B, Pay Band 4, Chemistry.

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

**Manager Of Development Communications**, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.

**Network Analyst**, 007747A, Pay Band 5, CNS.

**Office Services Specialist**, 001858B, Pay Band 2, Engineering Fundamentals.

**Office Specialist**, 002236H, Pay Band 2, RSP/Facilities and Services.

**Payroll Manager**, 002501F, Pay Band 5, Controller's Office.

**Power Plant Mechanic**, 007309Y, Pay Band 3, Power Plant.

**Practical Nurse**, 001776J, Pay Band 3, Health Center.

**Pre-portion Supervisor**, 000752H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

**Programmer/Analyst**, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNR Information Technology.

**Registered Nurse**, 000924J, Pay Band 4, Health Center.

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

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

**Student/Program Support Specialist**, 001990B, Pay Band 2, Geography and International Studies.

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

### PART TIME

**Assistant to College Alumni Coordinator**, W023173S, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture/Natural Resources.

**Clinical Research Coordinator**, W023222J, Pay Band 4, HNFE.

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

**One** part-time food-service position available.

**ICU Vet Technician-large Animal**, W022218M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Industrial Hygiene Technician (Program Support Technician)**, W022050Y, Pay Band 3, EHSS.

**Inventory Assistant**, W023230F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W020627B, Pay Band 2, Chemistry.

**Office Service Specialist**, W022120Y, Pay Band 2, Physical Plant/Grounds/Recycling/Solid Waste.

**Office Services Specialist**, W023141J, Pay Band 2, Dean's Office, Business.

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

**Photocopy Technician**, W023235A, Pay Band 2, Printing Services.

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

### UNIVERSITY ONLY

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, U007746M, Pay Band 4, PPWS.

### OFF CAMPUS

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

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

**Public Relations Assistant**, 007382J, Pay Band 3, Alexandria Research Institute.

**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, CMI.

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

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Continuing Education Assistant Director for Administration/Finance.** Contact: Beth Schroder, 820 University City Blvd. (0364). Review begins April 15.

**Undergraduate Admissions Assistant Director of Admissions.** Contact: Bonnie Lucas, 201 Burruss (0202). Deadline is June 1.

## FUEL-CELL

*Continued from 1*

Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), Acacia Elastomers in Blacksburg, United Technologies, ChemFab, Dias Analytic, BP-Amoco, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Polymer-electrolyte membranes (PEM) and membrane-electrode assemblies (MEA) are critical components of fuel cells, McGrath said. "Fuel cells do not work without them and will work better if we're successful."

The work will be led by the universities, which will include Hampton University and Grambling State in Louisiana. Hampton University will have two students doing research in Blacksburg this summer and McGrath is visiting Grambling

## CORRECTION

The Virginia Tech Department of Mechanical Engineering's graduate program was ranked 20th among peer programs nationwide in the recently released *U.S. News & World Report* America's Best Graduate Schools 2002 survey (see April 6 *Spectrum*, front page).

## AMPLIFICATION

The promotion-and-tenure listing published in the March 30 issue of *Spectrum* did not list an office location for Linda M. Robinson under Administrative Promotion to Extension Agent, Extra-Collegiate Faculty. She is with VCE—Hampton.

April 20 to encourage this partnership. The universities will integrate their work with current critical needs of industries working in this area.

BP-Amoco is interested as a possible materials supplier, as the group is one of the leaders in engineering polymers. In addition, the group will continue to collaborate with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), via student exchanges. LANL is interested in polymeric membranes, adhesives, and composites for their fuel-cell components. Newport News Shipbuilding Co. will be provided systems engineering analysis of MEA fuel stacks, with Professor Michael von Spakovsky of Virginia Tech's mechanical engineering heading that work. Professor Ken Reifsnider will investigate the predictive modeling of the durability of MEA systems.

Fuel cells exist now, but have further potential for energy that is environmentally clean, McGrath said. Identified applications include automobiles, such as the prototype Chevrolet Lumina "Future Car" the Virginia Tech engineering group earlier built with a fuel-cell propulsion system. It runs on a PEM system that McGrath's group hopes to improve. However, several things must be considered, such as materials, mechanics and other systems issues.

Other major applications are for stationary power such as homes that are not accessible to electric or gas heating. They could have a separate unit based on a fuel cell, McGrath said.

"There are a lot of companies interested in that," he said.

Another area of the application of fuel cells is to replace batteries in computers. Fuel cells are intrinsically more efficient and have the potential to operate much longer. McGrath has discussed this with Motorola, which is interested in this aspect, as are other companies.

"One of the big issues is to make these materials cheaper and less exotic than the materials NASA has been using for 30 or 40 years," McGrath said. "The users would like to choose materials inherently less costly than existing systems. "We hope some of our partners will commercialize some of these materials."

Fuel-cell energy involves the reaction of hydrogen and oxygen (or air). The main fuel-cell reaction product is water, so instead of having harmful substances such as unburnt hydrocarbons or sulfur impurities come out of tailpipes, theoretically they could have zero harmful emissions. "We'll never get to zero," McGrath said. "But it can be very much lower in hazardous emissions."

The NSF grant is for \$600,000 over two years. "We hope that this will enable efforts to develop from other programs," McGrath said. One example, he said, is that several other agencies such as ONR, NASA-Glenn, LANL/DOE, Argonne/DOE and DARPA either have been started, or soon will start, major complementary research efforts at Virginia Tech.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
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## University will dedicate lactation rooms

By Jeanne M. Garon

Virginia Tech has announced two new milestones in a project that has placed the university at the leading edge of a national trend usually seen only in industry.

On April 17, at 4:30 p.m. in the Wallace Hall atrium, the university will dedicate its newest facilities for nursing mothers. Renovation and equipment of two new campus facilities, one each in Wallace and Burruss halls, were made possible in part by a grant from Montgomery Regional Hospital (MRH). Speakers at the dedication will include interim Provost James R. Bohland and MRH Chief Executive Officer David Williams.

The announcement came less than two years after Tech established a dedicated, private room for breastfeeding or expressing milk. The addition of the new facilities brings the total number of campus nursing facilities to five—an unusually high number when comparing Tech to other universities without a medical school.

“Our intent in setting up these rooms,” Bohland said, “was to respond to a clear and present need of female faculty and staff members, and students who were having to nurse or express in places that are unsanitary, uncomfortable, inconvenient, and lacking in privacy, places such as stairwells, restroom stalls, and their own cars.” What the university did not predict, he said, was that its responsiveness to the family needs of employees and students would make Virginia Tech stand out among its fellow academic institutions.

“We believe we’re the first university to work with a university architect to locate facilities in zones where the highest concentrations of female employees under age 45 work,” said Cathy Jacobs of Tech’s Family and Work/Life Resources, adding that the university employs nearly 5,000 women of childbearing age.

Project coordinator Jessie Meltsner of Tech’s Women’s Center said that establishing lactation facilities benefits institutional

productivity. “We expect the project to help Virginia Tech retain female employees who decide they want to keep working or come back to work sooner after their baby is born.” MRH board-certified lactation consultant Marjorie Young added, “One of many reasons Montgomery Regional Hospital is pleased to support Virginia Tech mothers in their work environment is that breastfed infants’ superior health, nutrition, and mental development translate into Tech’s working mothers and fathers needing fewer absences from work.”

Patricia Hyer, associate provost for academic administration and a founder of the Women’s Center, said the university hopes to add more sites if the initial spaces are well utilized. Where appropriate, the university architect will include space in new or renovated buildings for lactation rooms. “Ideally,” Hyer said, “we would create a network of facilities located such that no woman would have to walk more than five minutes to reach the space.”

The new rooms were renovated and equipped using university funds as well as a grant from MRH. In addition, MRH, whose lactation consultants have provided advice to Tech since the project’s inception, is providing patrons with reduced-rate pre-natal breastfeeding classes and in- and outpatient lactation consultations. The hospital is also providing all nursing mothers at Tech, regardless of where they delivered, with complimentary bra fittings, literature, videos, phone consultations, and working and breastfeeding classes.

Facilities at Virginia Tech open to all lactating faculty and staff members and students are in Newman Library, near the third-floor restroom for the handicapped; Wallace Hall, adjacent to the third-floor restroom; and in the Burruss Hall entryway to the third-floor restroom. Contact Donna Pitt at 1-7177 for information regarding the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

For more information on services or on accessing the sites, or to suggest new locations, call Jessie Meltsner at the Women’s Center at 1-7806 or Family and Work/Life Resources at 1-3213.

## Faculty Diversity

### Workshop re-scheduled

The First Annual Faculty Diversity Workshop will be held Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Squires Colonial auditorium. The workshop has been re-scheduled from Saturday, April 14.

Faculty and staff members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Respond to [bgso@vt.edu](mailto:bgso@vt.edu) by Monday, April 30. For more information or questions, contact [bgso@vt.edu](mailto:bgso@vt.edu).

## FMD threat limits access to stock

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Virginia Tech has announced that it is limiting access to university herds and flocks in an effort to help U.S. officials keep the foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) epidemic now raging in the United Kingdom from surfacing in the United States and infecting U.S. livestock.

Visitors from countries where FMD is active will be banned from the university’s veterinary, agricultural and wildlife facilities on the Blacksburg campus as well as on all university-operated facilities around the state for a period of five days following their arrival in the United States.

Additionally, all university faculty and staff members and students traveling abroad will be barred from entering any farm or animal facility for at least five days following their return to the United States.

The measures were outlined in a memorandum authored by Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM); Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL); and Greg Brown dean of the College of Natural Resources (CNR), which was circulated widely to students, staff and faculty members around the state.

The university has decided to take the action because of the special threat posed by the university’s many international activities. Members of the university community are frequently engaged in teaching, research and service activities in countries around the world. International visitors often travel to Virginia to work with university personnel in Blacksburg and in university-operated facilities around the state.

“Everyone who is engaged in international

## Students protest campus racial climate

By David Nutter

A protest rally about racism on campus took an unexpected turn Wednesday when about 100 students decided that they needed to take their complaints to university leadership, and marched en masse to the president’s office.

While President Charles Steger was away on business, interim Provost Jim Bohland met with the students. He originally proposed moving the group into the auditorium to begin a dialogue, but the students wanted him to come outside so that all of the students could see and hear what he had to say.

Bohland has agreed to meet with a small group of students on Monday to continue their discussion.

The student protest was initially sparked by an altercation between two faculty members over the use of classroom space. Students used the demonstration to protest what they believe to be other examples of racism on campus.

travel should recognize their individual responsibility to do whatever is necessary to ensure the integrity of the bio-security measures that the United States Department of Agriculture has taken to protect our nation,” Eyre said.

University personnel engaged in international travel are required to observe the new regulations, and all faculty and staff members and students are being asked to take steps to make sure that university visitors observe the bio-security protocols.

The action has been taken to manage risks associated with the devastating outbreak of foot and mouth disease currently centered in Great Britain, where over 1,000 cases have been identified and several hundred thousand animals have been slaughtered as part of eradication efforts.

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease that infects domestic and wild cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, sheep, swine, deer, elk and others. FMD causes its victims to develop blisters on their feet and in their mouths that eventually rupture into painful, raw sores. Although the disease is generally not fatal to adult animals and does not present a health risk for people, it causes major agricultural productivity problems and is extremely contagious.

Most outbreaks are controlled by establishing virus-free perimeters around confirmed outbreaks and destroying all animals that could be infected. FMD is so contagious that virus particles can be transported intercontinentally on a pedestrian’s clothing or a truck or an airplane before infecting an animal host in another country several weeks later.

The United States has been FMD-free since the last epidemic was contained in California in 1929. But because of the economic implications associated with an outbreak, the USDA has elevated surveillance and bio-security measures at our nation’s borders and ports of entry.

“It is difficult to overestimate the gravity of the risk that is presented to the United States and the rest of the world by the current epidemic on the European continent,” Eyre said.

## UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

Raymond Smoot, vice president for administration and treasurer.

Yet, even Virginia Tech is experiencing spatial challenges. At the beginning the 2000-01 academic year, the course schedule was changed to allow 15 minutes between classes. Formerly, 10 minutes separated the ending and beginning of the next class. “We want to preserve the residential and rural feel of our campus, where students and faculty comfortably walk to the labs and classes,” Smoot said.

The university has no immediate building plans for the space. However, Smoot said there are approximately 30 buildings on the six-year capital plan. Many of them are not yet sited. “If we are to maintain the intimate nature of our residential campus, we have to start looking to acreage close to the campus core,” Smoot said. He said Virginia Tech does not want to follow the route of many other large universities that were compelled to create satellite campuses or ruined campus aesthetics by overbuilding.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the Alumni Center in mid-2002. There will be no change in golf course operations until then. The university has not determined which of the current 18 holes will become the new nine-hole course. The university will begin exploring the possibility of teaming with courses in the region to allow reduced rate access for Virginia Tech students.

“We also have not ruled out creating a new 18-hole course in the area and will be searching for potential partners to make that happen,” Cross said.

## FDA

Continued from 2

discuss having students and faculty members rotate through the FDA labs and review divisions. The FDA also provide some funding for university research activities, and this will be an opportunity to discuss some of these opportunities, such as research to evaluate the safety of genetically engineered products.

There will be a series of presentations by the FDA visitors from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology auditorium. Each visitor will have an agenda scheduled for the day according to their requirements.

Individuals who wish to meet one-on-one with FDA representatives should contact Debbie Nester at 1-5410 or [debbiell@vt.edu](mailto:debbiell@vt.edu). Nester will also help organize meetings with students.

## FOUNDERS DAY

Continued from 1

I extend a personal invitation to you to attend Virginia Tech’s Founders Day Convocation 2001 and join in the celebration. You may have already received an invitation to participate in the academic procession that day. If your schedule allows, I hope that you will process. If you are unable to join the procession, I hope that you will make plans to attend as a member of the audience.

I look forward to seeing you on April 27. Sincerely,  
Charles W. Steger

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Blacksburg, VA 24061