

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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resume publication
on May 25.

Ridenour, Shelton appointed to new positions

By Larry Hincker

Virginia Tech President Charles Steger has announced the appointment of Minnis Ridenour as university chief operating officer.

Says Steger, "This action more clearly defines the lines of responsibility at the senior administrative level. The provost is our chief academic officer with all responsibilities attendant to the academic mission. Mr. Ridenour is the senior administrator responsible for operations of other university functions. These functions support me, the provost, and others in academic leadership, as we focus our efforts on developing the academic agenda, strategic planning, and resource development."

"Minnis already exercises leadership in so many areas including oversight of all financial aspects of the university, the affiliated corporations, and resource policy. This new title recognizes him as the person

responsible for all administrative support functions of the university outside the academic enterprise. With administrative and financial responsibility for all sectors of the university including the affiliated corporations."

Ridenour has been employed at Virginia Tech in various financial and management capacities for 27 years. At various times he has formerly held the titles of executive vice president, chief business officer, and chief financial officer. He will continue to carry the title of executive vice president in addition to chief operating officer.

At the direction of the university board of visitors, Anderson Consulting and Arthur Anderson undertook an evaluation of the university management structure last year. The consultants recommended several organizational changes to reflect the changing nature of management within the university, which has become increasingly complex over the past two decades. Several of those

recommendations already have been implemented, including the creation of the vice provost for strategic initiatives, the institute for information technology, and changes in the graduate school.

Ridenour likens the new role of strategic partnerships to a company's business development operation. "President Steger told us to be more responsive to the needs of our constituencies and to quickly adapt to the changing face of the educational environment. My new role will enable the president and others to spend time to focus on the academic agenda, on resource building, and developing new initiatives," notes Ridenour.

In light of the changing complexity of the university and the need to focus more attention on financial management and controls, Vice President Ridenour has appointed Dwight Shelton vice president for budget and financial management.

(See RIDENOUR on 2)

UOIP Director Gray announces resignation

By Jeanne M. Garon

Lyn Gray, director of the University Office of International Programs (UOIP), has announced she will be leaving Virginia Tech to pursue overseas opportunities.

"For the past six years, Lyn Gray has been key to Virginia Tech's expanding international presence," said interim Provost James R. Bohland. "Her work has truly changed the landscape of international programs at Virginia Tech."

Among Gray's top accomplishments, Bohland cited an increase in the number of students studying abroad from 225 in 1994-95 to almost 900 this year; an increase in the number of foreign universities with whom Virginia Tech actively operates bilateral student exchanges from 13 to 36; the

(See GRAY on 3)

VBI part of new biomedical center

The Carilion Biomedical Institute, the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech, and the University of Virginia have created a new center for research in the area of medical bioinformatics.

On April 19, the Carilion Biomedical Institute's (CBI) Board of Directors approved the creation of CBI's third research center, the Medical Bioinformatics Research Center (MBRC). This development will significantly expand opportunities for research and technology transfer for the CBI partnership of the Carilion Health System, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

Bioinformatics research combines biotechnology with information technology to generate data, then turns storehouses of data into useful information. The MBRC is a major outreach development from the state's recent launch of the \$110-million Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) at Virginia Tech. The MBRC will focus on biomedical applications of bioinformatics, with new VBI faculty members and infrastructure at Virginia Tech working together with current and new faculty members to be recruited at UVa. CBI will support technology transfer and commercialization of the results of bioinformatics research at UVa and VBI.

"Hospitals and research centers have been collecting medical records data about cancer and other genetic disorders for years," said CBI Vice President Bill Merk, who is the executive director of the new center. "The challenge is using that information to develop applications that ultimately help

(See VBI on 3)

Forbes to receive 2001 University Distinguished Achievement Award

By David Nutter

Charles M. Forbes, the former vice president for development and university relations, will receive Virginia Tech's University Distinguished Achievement Award during Saturday's Commencement ceremony.

Forbes served as Virginia Tech's vice president in charge of communications and fund raising from 1979 to 1992. He then moved to the University of Delaware to serve as vice president for development and alumni relations. Forbes retired in 1996 and lives in Wilmington Del.

Throughout his life, Forbes' ties to Virginia Tech have remained strong. He graduated in 1949 with a degree in industrial engineering. In recognizing Forbes, the Board of Visitors noted that he had "devoted over 13 years to directing and guiding an ambitious fund-raising plan which increased the potential for and visibility

of the university and its faculty...and enhanced opportunities for students."

"Through his hard work and leadership, Charlie Forbes helped lay the foundation for the enormous success that Virginia Tech enjoys today," President Charles Steger said. "Charles Forbes is a true son of Virginia Tech."

In its resolution naming Forbes, the board praised his service to the university by noting, "funding needed for the first phase of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine was met; the Campaign for Excellence was completed above expectations; public radio station WVTF was added to the existing assets; the Corporate Research Center began development and provided a bridge between the faculty and the business community; and the UtProsim Society and the William Preston Society were formed to

(See FORBES on 4)



Former Vice President Charles Forbes will receive the University Distinguished Achievement Award at Commencement exercises tomorrow beginning at 9 a.m. in Lane Stadium. Ninth District Congressman Rick Boucher will be the Commencement speaker.

Faculty Senate a Vital Part of University Community

By John Ashby

"The Faculty Senate is an important part of the life of the university," said Mitzi Vernon, this year's senate president. And serving in the senate is an important part of taking civic responsibility for faculty members, Vernon said.

"It's easy to be isolated, it's easy to complain about things," she said, but taking an active part in the administrative life of the university is "about taking responsibility for your life."

While the Faculty Senate has been an active part of the university for many years, Vernon is a relative newcomer to the senate and to the university. She joined the Department of Architecture in 1995, and became a member of the senate three years ago.

The senate serves as an advisory body to the formal university governance structure. One of the major issues which the senate dealt with this year was the intellectual-property policy. "The new version

did not come to us until just recently, and that's because it came to the University Council in March with many changes." Vernon said the policy was discussed last year, but there had been numerous changes between last year and this March. "It was quite a fresh document at that point. I deferred it at council for that reason. We spent an hour-and-a-half discussing it at our senate meeting Tuesday night (April 24) trying to come to terms with it."

Vernon said she expected the intellectual-property issue to be re-introduced into the governance process next fall. And what is at stake for faculty members in regard to a university policy on intellectual property? "There was quite a lot of concern" about the intellectual-property policy. "While we've had this intellectual-property policy sitting out there, most people just didn't look at it, they didn't think about it. They felt like they had an understand-

(See FACULTY on 4)

CAMPUS
PROFILE

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 11

Senior Day.

Graduate Commencement, 4:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.

International Graduation Reception, 1 p.m., Cranwell Center.

VTCC Commissioning, 2 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

VMRCVM Commencement, 7 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Commencement Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: New Virginians.

Saturday, 12

Commencement Breakfast, 6-9 a.m., Dietrick.

University Commencement, 9 a.m., Lane Stadium.
DBHCC Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Graduation Luncheon:
Call 1-5632 for reservations.

Sunday, 13

DBHCC Lunch, 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mother's Day Buffet:
Call 1-5632 for reservations.

Wednesday, 16

Salary and Wage Paydate.

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

Staff Appreciation Day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Rector Field House.

Thursday, 17

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton-Reaves.

Faculty Diversity Workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: E-mail bgso@vt.edu for information.

Monday, 21

Classes Begin.

Tuesday, 22

Service-Learning FDI (Through 2-24), Squires/DBHCC: Call 1-6947 for information.

Wednesday, 23

Last Day to Add.

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

BULLETINS

Staff Senate meeting May 17

The Staff Senate will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, May 17 at noon in 1810 Litton Reaves. There will be an election of officers and representatives for university commissions, councils and committees. All staff members are invited to attend.

Leave donations requested

A Virginia Tech employee in Virginia Cooperative Extension has requested leave donations

Salaried classified employees or a 12-month regular faculty members may participate by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours. There is no maximum donation limitation per year, nor is there a minimum balance that must be maintained. Donation forms can be downloaded from the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/ps/forms/forms.html>.

Leave donations received after the employee's eligibility status changes (such as, return to work, disability retirement, retirement, etc.) will be returned to the donor in accordance with established Personnel procedures. Leave must be donated to either a specific individual or area. Please return completed forms to Kim Linkous, Personnel Services, Southgate Center, (0318).

'Smart Road' tours offered

"Smart Road" tours will be offered during Staff Appreciation day and on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors will be able to observe the experimental roadway and rain making.

Museum offers Field Days, Second Saturdays

The Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History is offering field walks on the second Saturday of the month. The walks feature field experiences and hands-on activities in a variety of

natural-science areas. The goals of the walks are to explore the flora and fauna of the New River Valley and to showcase field research projects. The walks are appropriate for ages 10 to adult. Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Featured on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to noon will be "Stream Corridor Assessment at the Cascades" with Llyn Sharp, Save Our Streams regional coordinator. The program will examine factors affecting streams and stream-side habitats. There will be practice with the Stream Corridor Assessment Survey that provides a method to rapidly assess general physical conditions of a stream and identifies locations of common environmental problems.

The workshop will also serve as an introduction for assessments to be conducted as part of the Strouble's Creek Watershed Initiative. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Cascades parking area (\$2/car) to avoid Virginia Tech graduation traffic. Bring a lunch and wading shoes if desired, but most of the morning will be spent on the trail. Call 1-3001 to pre-register.

Symposium highlights applying GIS to bioinformatics

By Jeanne M. Garon

A roster of nationally recognized experts will highlight the nation's first symposium on a nascent yet highly promising area of scientific inquiry, "GIS Applications to Bioinformatics." Sponsored by Virginia Tech, the symposium will be held in Blacksburg May 16-17.

"We are pleased to be the first to offer researchers in two of today's most dynamic analytical technologies the opportunity to explore the possibilities for breakaway R&D in areas where GIS [geographic information systems] and bioinformatics converge," said Virginia Tech interim Provost James R. Bohland. The Office of the Provost is co-sponsoring the conference with the university's Office of GIS and Remote Sensing and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI), a Commonwealth of Virginia initiative located at the university.

James B. Campbell, professor and head of Tech's geography department, said the value of GIS analytical systems and data structures to bioinformatics, and the usefulness of bioinformatics methodologies to GIS pattern recognition and analysis, are only now being recognized.

Campbell said some possible long-term outcomes of connecting the two investigative fields are improvements in the ability to understand the spread of human and animal disease; better control of disease outbreaks, for example the recent spread of hoof-and-mouth disease in Britain; better modeling of the spread of insect infestations, for example that of the gypsy moth in the United States; better monitoring of diseases such as rabies in wildlife

populations; improvements in agricultural productivity; and reductions in the negative environmental impacts of some agricultural activities. "The cross-pollination of research that is a goal of the symposium could accelerate multiple outcomes not even yet envisioned," he said.

The symposium will be beneficial to almost all investigators in bioinformatics and GIS, Campbell said, particularly those with interests in GIS data structures, epidemiology, ecology, spatial analysis, bioinformatics, precision agriculture, pattern recognition, geostatistics, and genomics. The university will limit enrollment, he added, to increase the time allotted to "unfettered exploratory discussions."

The symposium's presenters and panelists include Campbell; VBI Director Bruno Sobral of Virginia Tech; Carol Bult of the University of Washington State University; Carmelle Cote of ESRI, Inc.; L. W. Carstensen of Virginia Tech, Michael Goodchild of the University of California at Santa Barbara; Barbara Buttenfield of the University of Colorado; Randy Wynne of Virginia Tech; Geoff Jacquez of Biomedware, Inc.; John L. Havlin of North Carolina State University; and Clark Tibbetts of Virginia Tech.

The registration fee is \$125. The fee is waived for Tech faculty members and students, who must register for the conference by May 16. To register, contact the conference registrar at 1-5182 or register on line at www.conted.vt.edu/gisbio.htm.

For more information, contact Campbell at 1-5841 or jayhawk@vt.edu.

Faculty Diversity Workshop set for May 19

The First Annual Faculty Diversity Workshop will be held Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Squires Student Center. Wilder Innovative Training Associates (WIT Associates) will facilitate the event.

Faculty members must be knowledgeable in diversity issues. They lead the intellectual activities of the learning community, and so are likely to shape the tone of campus life. They also contribute significantly to the retention of students and how a student may reflect on his/her educational experience. The objectives of the workshop are to educate faculty and staff members concerning the experiences of diverse campus communities and to provide them with strategies for fostering a welcoming environment for all students. As a result, increased awareness of gender, race, ethnicity, age, and sexual-orientation diversity inside and outside the classroom will be gained.

A respectful, comfortable and accessible environment will be created for minority mem-

bers where people can learn to relate to those different from the majority, and to work cooperatively in a diverse community.

The workshop will play a vital role in facilitating constructive inter-group conversations and fostering intercultural understanding. Diversity-related initiatives will be improved along with an increase in awareness of the faculty and staff. Participating faculty members will receive practical advice on and examples of effective educational techniques for diverse classrooms and strategies to foster a more welcoming climate for diverse student bodies.

Student organizations representing diverse campus communities will present a brief overview of their respective historical and personal experiences and lead discussions with a focus on diversity-related classroom dialogue.

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. RSVP to bgso@vt.edu.

RIDENOUR

Continued from 1

Says Ridenour of Shelton's new role, "As the university evolves into an organization adopting increasingly diverse organizations and legal entities, it is imperative that we have in place a management team to help these groups plan strategies for financial success and put in place systems for appropriate university oversight."

"With more than two decades of

experience in various budgetary and financial capacities at Virginia Tech, Dwight is well prepared for this new role," said Ridenour. He has been director of internal audit and management services, university controller, budget director, and associate v.p. for budgets and financial planning. He holds a Bachelor and Masters degree from Virginia Tech and the C.P.A.

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

FULL TIME

Two full-time food-service positions available.

Accountant Senior, 002169F, Pay Band 4, University Controller.

Administrative And Research Assistant, 007674B, Pay Band 3, ECE/MPRG.

Applications Analyst, 002725S, Pay Band 5, AIS Student Systems.

Asphalt Lab Technician, 007750R, Pay Band 3, VTTI.

Athletic Facilities Manager, LC000081J, Pay Band 4, Athletics.

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

Communications Officer, 001567Y, Pay Band 3, Police.

Computer Systems Administrator, 007444B, Pay Band 5, CEE.

Development Associate, 007758S, Pay Band 3, University Development.

Dishroom Supervisor, 002988H, Pay Band 1, RDP/West End Market.

Dishwash, 002947H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.

Engineering Support Specialist, 007738Y, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.

Executive Secretary, 004406S, Pay Band 3, MME.

Fiscal Technician, 002360M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Grounds Worker, 006854F, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant/Grounds.

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

Human Resources Assistant,

002479R, Pay Band 3, Personnel Services.

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

ICP Spectroscopist, 003475M, Pay Band 4, CSES.

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

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

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

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

Locksmith, 007754H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Facilities and Services.

Office Services Specialist, 001314J, Pay Band 2, Cook Counseling Center.

Office Services Specialist, 002436F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.

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

Photography Manager, 002415S, Pay Band 5, University Relations/Visual and Broadcast Communications.

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

Pre-prep Assistant, 000397H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Southgate Center.

Program Assistant, 007756R, Pay Band 3, VTTI.

Program Support Technician, 001615R, Pay Band 3, Graduate School.

Program Support Technician, 001019J, Pay Band 3, Pamplin College

of Business.

Public Relations Assistant, 007755S, Pay Band 4, Office of President.

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

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

Training/Documentation Coordinator, 007518S, Pay Band 3, University Development.

Video Production Specialist, 005356S, Pay Band 3, University Relations/Visual/Broadcast Communications.

PART TIME

Administrative Assistant, W023132S, Pay Band 2, University Relations.

Applications Developer, 023246S, Pay Band 5, AIS—IRM.

Assistant Editor, W020344S, Pay Band 4, University Relations/Outreach Communications.

Development Program Coordinator, W023244M, Pay Band 3, FST.

One part-time food-service position available.

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

Lab Specialist Senior, W023245J, Pay Band 4, WSFP.

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

Registered Nurse, W023026J,

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

OFF CAMPUS

Administrative Assistant, 007761M, Pay Band 3, VCE 4-H.

Computer Help Desk Analyst, 007725J, Pay Band 4, Northern Virginia Center.

Program Support Technician, 002280J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.

Program Support Technician, 007751R, Pay Band 3, Virginia Tech Richmond Center.

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

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

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

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Finance Director. Contact: Tom Dingus, 3500 Transportation Research Plaza, Blacksburg VA 24061. Deadline: May 25.

Food Science/Technology. Superintendent, Southwest Virginia Aquaculture Research & Extension Center. Contact: Gerald Jubb, 104 Hutcheson (0402). Review begins June 1.

VBI

Continued from 1

people.”

“We can now relate the map and the DNA sequence of the human genome, to look deeper into the genetic roots of complex diseases, and design strategies to more effectively cope with new threats of drug-resistant infectious diseases,” said Clark Tibbetts of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and director of MBRC activities at VBI. “This enables us to learn which drugs and treatment plans are more likely to provide favorable outcomes for individual patients. New genomics technology and bioinformatics will be the basis for more effective, individualized approaches to the practice of medicine, and may

even lead to design of specific drugs to meet the needs of specific individuals.”

MBRC will have a presence at both Virginia Tech and the University Of Virginia. At Virginia Tech, MBRC will operate as part of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. MBRC will interact within existing research centers at UVa, and have access to resources and research at the UVa School of Medicine.

MBRC is also expected to develop close ties and collaborations with the first two CBI research centers that have been operating at UVa (medical automation) and Virginia Tech (optical sciences). The overall MBRC program will be coordinated at CBI in Roanoke using the

business support infrastructure already in place to accelerate commercialization of the research. MBRC has potential to spin off new companies in the region that would specialize in data services and new technologies related to MBRC research activities.

MBRC will seek collaborations and partnerships among other research universities, health systems and private sector enterprises in Virginia. CBI, UVa and VBI are working together in such an initiative towards improved health research and expanded economic development.

GRAY

Continued from 1

development of new processes to make it easier for faculty members to lead study-abroad programs; the origin of a study-abroad fair and handbook outlining the academic, administrative, financial, logistical, health and safety, emergency, and liability aspects of study abroad; and changes in financial aid policies to permit aid for students who study abroad at or through other institutions because their departments do not have study abroad options.

During a 16-month period in which the university's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) was without a director, Gray ensured that programs continued to run smoothly and expanded summer-student enrollment. Bohland said Gray was instrumental in developing the University Council for International Programs and led its effort to write an international mission statement for the university.

Gray, who intends to leave in July, cited

personal as well as professional reasons for her departure. “I have always divided my time between periods in the U.S. and periods overseas, and this is the right time in terms of my goals at Virginia Tech and my life goals to make another transition.

The provost will name an interim director for the coming year, while the university examines the structure of its international programming.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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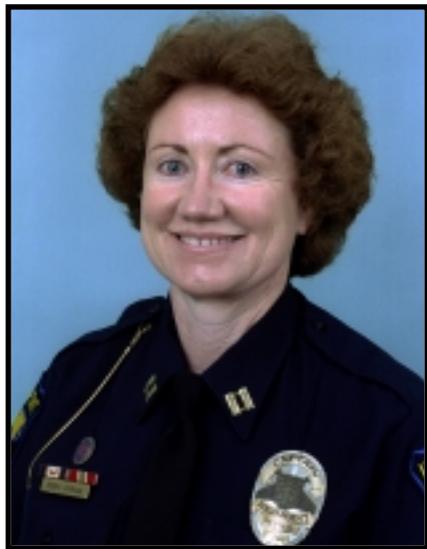
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DUNCAN

Duncan named Virginia Tech Police chief

By David Nutter

A 21-year veteran of the High Point, N.C., Police Department has been named chief of the Virginia Tech Police Department.

Debra C. Duncan, a patrol commander of the High Point Police Department, will oversee a department of 36 sworn officers and 39 security officers," said Ray Smoot, vice president for administration and treasurer. Duncan, who was appointed after an extensive nation-wide search, will begin her new position July 16.

"Debra Duncan possesses long and significant experience in law enforcement and she is well versed in the operations and unique needs of higher education," Smoot said. "She will be an outstanding chief at Virginia Tech." Since 1990, Duncan, 46, has also been the High Point police liaison with High Point University, and has been employed with the university on part-time basis. At the university, she implemented a program to combat underage drinking and she teaches classes on self-defense and safety.

Duncan is also responsible for scheduling police officers to supplement the school's security staff and helps advise university officials on public-safety issues.

Smoot said he was particularly impressed with Duncan's interest in the position. "She came to Blacksburg on her own before her interview to get acquainted with our community. She talked with students and asked their impressions of Virginia Tech. Their enthusiastic response did much to make her feel this a place where she wants to be."

Duncan received her bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and policies from Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. in 1997. She earned her master's degree in adult education from North Carolina's A&T State University in 2000.

Duncan has also continued her professional development through advanced training. She graduated from the FBI's National Academy in Quantico in 1997, and she completed the Senior Management Institute for Police, through the Police Executive Research Forum in 2000. Duncan received her Advanced Law Enforcement Professional Certificate from the North Carolina Department of Justice in 1989.

Smoot expressed appreciation for the contributions made to the department by Lieutenant John Brotherton who has served as acting chief since last year. Under Brotherton's leadership the department attained re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies earlier this year.

Heth family gives portion of farm

By Larry Hincker

The Virginia Tech Foundation has contracted to acquire the last remaining large tract of land adjacent to the central university campus. The land, which is approximately 323 acres, represents a significant portion of the Heth farm and is bounded by university property near the U.S. 460 Bypass, Merrimac Road, and a portion of the Stroubles Mill development.

"We are elated that the Heth family has generously donated a portion of this property's value to Virginia Tech. While we have no immediate plans for its use, this will protect the university's future development and enable us to proceed with slow and methodical expansion when and should it be necessary," said Raymond D. Smoot, vice president for administration and treasurer.

"We extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to Henry Heth and Anne Heth Connor for this magnificent donation. In its very beginning, Virginia Tech started with land philanthropy of local citizens. Continuing in that tradition, the Heth family has ensured that Virginia Tech will have sufficient space to grow well into the 21st century," university President Charles W. Steger said.

"My father and I are pleased to be able to entrust a portion of this farm, which has been in our family for generations, to the enhancement of this great university," Anne Heth Connor said.

Nickerson to head dairy science

By Stewart MacInnis

Stephen C. Nickerson, who earned a master's and doctoral degree in dairy science from Virginia Tech, will take over as head of the department August 1.

He is currently a lactation physiologist at Louisiana State University's Hill Farm Research Station in Homer, La. He joined the LSU faculty in 1981, and has held professor rank since 1990.

"Dr. Nickerson brings a wealth of experience to this very important leadership position," said Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Not only does he bring with him knowledge of dairy science both in the areas of research and Extension, he brings an understanding of dairy science at Virginia Tech and in the state."

Before his work with LSU, Nickerson was a post-doctoral researcher for Purdue University and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He has coordinated basic and applied research projects at LSU directed at the control of bovine mastitis, including disease prevention and disease treatment.

Charles Stallings, professor of dairy science, has been acting department head since former Department Head Bill Vinson's departure.

Farm and Family Showcase scheduled

By Charlie Stott

The first Virginia Tech Farm and Family Showcase, which will take place Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 5 and 6, highlighting agricultural, natural- and human-resources' education and research.

The family-oriented showcase will appeal to those in the agriculture and forest industries as well as to homeowners and landowners. Activities over the two days will include displays, demonstrations, seminars, and family programs for children, youth, and adults. The showcase will provide technical information to those in the industries of agriculture and natural resources, as well as informative and enjoyable activities for landowners, homeowners and families.

The showcase will feature information on field crops, cattle, fruits, swine, horses, poultry, forestry and wood, as well as lawn and garden care, landscaping, wildlife, forages, and many other topics of interest.

Special events include an Amazing Maize Maze, sheep-dog trials, a Wood Magic show, Water Wizard information, biotechnology, antique farm equipment, fishing, equestrian vaulters, saw-milling, butterfly gardens, woodland management, the Toms Creek Conservation Project, fall vegetable gardening, cheese-making, a livestock birthing center and

displays of buffalo, dairy calves, goats, and baby pigs.

There will be walking tours viewing streambank conservation and wildlife habitat projects. As part of the showcase, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is planing a Hunting and Fishing Educational Center with such topics as new hunting regulations, sport-fishing restoration, small-game habitat, hunting-dog demonstrations and a fishing simulator.

For families, nutrition and food safety programs are planned, including a Healthy Family Check-up. There will be sessions on improving home sale value from the outside in, household pest control, indoor environmental education, and the importance of soils in selecting a home site.

Many activities will take place on both Wednesday and Thursday. A large trade show will be also be tailored to a diverse audience.

The showcase will be at Kentland Farm, located along the New River a few miles west of the Blacksburg campus. The event is sponsored by the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Resources and Education, Natural Resources, and Veterinary Medicine.

For more information and a program schedule, visit web site www.farmandfamily.vt.edu.

FACULTY

Continued from 1

ing that scholarship and certain other patentable things were separate items, and if you fell into one of those categories, that would determine your measure of interest" in the intellectual-property policy.

Vernon said that changing the policy brought renewed interest in the issue. "Suddenly, you have everybody looking at it." While the Commission on Research has been looking at the policy for at least two years, Vernon said, "the reality is that it takes a long time to get a large group of people to see the relevance of something—especially something as broadly based as the intellectual-property policy."

The broader implication of the intellectual-property policy now under discussion, Vernon said, is the relationship to the goal of becoming a top-30 research university. "The intellectual-property policy has to be tied into that because entrepreneurship is a huge issue within the academic environment now. It's an issue that many universities are dealing with, especially universities that are heavily research oriented. A lot of people are having to re-examine what it means to own something." The broader question, Vernon said, "is what is scholarship?" Being dependent on university-provided technology

and equipment to engage in scholarly activities can change the concept of who owns something, Vernon said. "There is a lot of frustration and mistrust" because of the changing concept of ownership, and "trust must be rebuilt."

Vernon said one her goals as senate president was to make the governance structure within the university—"as it is, and what its potential could be"—much more public. Asked what she perceived the senate's role within the governance structure to be, Vernon replied, "I know that President Steger appears to be significantly interested in constant faculty input. I have felt all year that we have been warmly embraced by the administration. The fact that I sit with the Board of Visitors is a significant thing. We probably don't know how lucky we are about that, because so many institutions in Virginia don't have that."

While the faculty at Virginia Tech has a voice with the Board of Visitors. Vernon said she believed that many faculty members were not aware of this. "It's unfortunate, but I think that a lot of faculty members don't know what the Faculty Senate is." She said this year's vote on the senate constitution was very helpful in raising visibility within the faculty.

While all these activities help raise awareness of the senate and its role in the life of the university, Vernon said there needs to be more of a civic sense of duty among faculty members. As for her, she said, "Serving in the Faculty Senate has been one of the best things I have done since I've been here."

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recognize support and service to the university.

After his graduation from Virginia Tech, Forbes worked as an engineer for DuPont before moving into the development business. He returned to Blacksburg after serving as vice president for development and public affairs at the Memorial-Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.