

# SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 3 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

**TODAY'S EDITION**  
See page 2 for  
information on  
upcoming events.

## University fares well in *U.S. News & World Report* rankings

By Liz Crumbley and Sookhan Ho

Virginia Tech placed in the top 25 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the nation's best public universities.

The university was ranked at 24th among public universities in the magazine's "America's Best Colleges 2002" survey, released September 6. Virginia Tech shares the 24th spot with Rutgers University, University of Delaware and University of Iowa. Last year, Virginia Tech ranked 26th in the public universities category.

The university's engineering and business colleges also did well in the survey.

Virginia Tech's undergraduate engineering program was ranked 20th among all

the nation's engineering schools that offer Ph.D.'s and thirteenth among engineering schools at public universities.

The engineering college shares the national rank of 20th with Rice University, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Washington. Last year, the Virginia Tech college was ranked 17th.

Eight of Tech's undergraduate engineering programs were rated among the top 25 in the nation by engineering school deans: aerospace (17), chemical (22), civil (11), computer (19), electrical (16), environmental (10), industrial (8), and mechanical (17).

"I am very pleased that we continue to be

regarded as one of the very best engineering programs in the nation," commented F. William Stephenson, dean of the engineering college. "Minor changes in the rankings from year to year are not as significant as the fact that we have been a top-20 program for so long. In terms of public engineering colleges we are placed thirteenth and our individual programs did quite well."

The undergraduate program at the Pamplin College of Business was ranked 38th overall, the same as last year. The ranking puts the college in the top 10 percent of the approximately 375 undergraduate programs accredited by the AACSB International, most of which are U.S.

schools. AACSB International (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) is the premier accrediting agency for degree programs in business administration and accounting.

Among business programs at public universities, Pamplin is ranked 24th, also the same as last year.

Pamplin Dean Richard E. Sorensen said the college is pleased to retain its ranking. "We aim to continue strengthening our program to give our students an even better education than before, and we hope that such improvements will allow us to move up in future rankings."

## Committee begins search for permanent graduate dean

By Clara B. Cox

A newly appointed search committee has held its initial meeting to begin the process of selecting a permanent Graduate School dean.

At an organizational meeting on August 30, Provost Mark G. McNamee charged the 14-member search committee with the task of finding a leader with the vision and administrative skills necessary to achieve the goals outlined for the Graduate School in the university's strategic plan.

According to Susan Magliaro, associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning and chair of the committee, the committee had a productive first meeting. "We outlined both the required and desired qualifications for the new dean and reviewed the search process," she said.

Magliaro said that the position will be advertised in mid-September.

The committee will finalize the search timeline along with opportunities for campus input within the next few weeks, she said. The university expects to name the new dean by the end of February, 2002.

Under the strategic plan just approved by the Board of Visitors, Virginia Tech's graduate enrollment will double by the year 2010, with an emphasis on increasing the number of students from diverse populations, and new interdisciplinary programs will be created. "The infrastructure of the Graduate School must be able to support and nurture this growth," Magliaro said.

"Our strategic plan very clearly guides the search committee to identify a person who has the knowledge, creativity, and interpersonal skills to forge strong alliances

(See COMMITTEE on 3)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony and President's Annual Address

All Faculty, Staff and Students are invited to attend  
Friday, September 21, 2001  
5:00 p.m.

in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center Auditorium

### Award Recipients

#### Wayne Patty

John R. Seiler

John A. Peterson

Jeffrey L. Kirwan

Azenegashe O. Abaye

Michael C. Vorster

Sheryl Ball

Thomas H. Ollendick

Leslie P. Graham

Holly S. Bender

William W. Brown

Susan G. Magliaro

Matt McAllister

David H. Vaughan

Stacey Floyd-Thomas

Richard Goff

Monte Boisen

Penny Cook

Jessie S. Eaves

Thomas Head

Christopher C. Peters

Sally Stafford

George W. Norton

Scott Geller

Daniel J. Inman

Herbert W. Pettway

Susan S. Sumner

## Virginia Tech and partners create "VT KnowledgeWorks"

By Jeanne M. Garon

Continuing long-standing efforts to create jobs in the region and commercialize technology resulting from its growing research program, the university has launched a major strategic initiative designed to take new companies from idea to operations at an accelerated pace. Formed by the Virginia Tech Foundation and affiliated Tech corporations in conjunction with three industry partners: eIncubator, LaunchFuel, and Redleaf, VT KnowledgeWorks, as the new technology business accelerator will be called, will provide the region's emerging companies and entrepreneurs with expert support from a trio of premier, national-level company creators.

"Virginia Tech is among the world's leading technology-research universities and has been a major economic catalyst throughout the commonwealth," President Charles Steger said. "We've tapped our strengths and our relationships with the technology and venture-capital communities to create a unique mechanism directly linking Southwest Virginia's intellectual and human capital with a level of funding and incubation resources usually available only in major metropolitan areas. Together with eIncubator, LaunchFuel, and Redleaf, Virginia Tech is both investing in and contributing to the economic development of this region."

VT KnowledgeWorks will promote the rapid commercialization of Tech's intellectual property by creating start-up companies and providing these portfolio companies with the mentoring and support services they need to become operational within six to 12 months. The accelerator will help portfolio companies prepare business models, draft business plans, find senior management, form strategic partnerships

(See VIRGINIA TECH on 3)

## Richmond Center to hold grand opening September 17

By Julie Kane

Virginia Tech has extended its reach across Virginia with a new center in Richmond's Henrico County. The official opening ceremony will be Monday, Sept. 17 at the site. Fall classes began on August 27. The center offers a variety of programs and courses to the Richmond Metropolitan area and will confer degrees.

Laura Fornash is the Virginia Tech Richmond Center director. In addition, Fornash will be involved with state government rela-

tions as well as continue to oversee the downtown Richmond office.

Fornash said, "I am excited and challenged to be involved in this role for Virginia Tech and Richmond. Many of our programs have been established in the area over a number of years. We look forward to the center's growth to meet increased demand in the Richmond Metropolitan area."

Establishing the center contributes to the fulfillment of Virginia Tech's obligation as a

(See RICHMOND on 4)

## Competition seeks to improve campus entrance appearance

Since 1951, Alumni Mall has been the main entrance into Virginia Tech, depositing visitors into the core of the university's unique neo-Gothic campus.

In addition to the growth on the campus and the addition of several major new buildings, there has been enormous growth in the Town of Blacksburg.

With the growth of the town and the development of the 460 by-pass, traffic patterns have changed such that now Prices Fork Road

has become a primary entrance way into the campus; an entrance that was not designed to be a welcome center for perspective students or visitors.

As part an on-going effort to improve the aesthetics of the campus, the university architect and the vice president for development and university relations have launched a student competition to improve the appearance of the buildings along Perry Street.

(See COMPETITION on 3)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday 14

**Paydate for Faculty and Staff Members.**

**EHSS Open House**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., building 459, Tech Center Drive.

**FOCUS Kickoff**, 3:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

**Natural History Museum program**, 5 p.m., 1870 Litton Reaves; Gerry LaRue.

**International Club**, details TBA.

### Saturday 15

**Hispanic Heritage Month Begins (Through 10-15).**

**YMCA Hike**, 9 a.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

**Natural History Museum program**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1-3001 for details.

**Chamber Music program**, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

### Sunday 16

**Chamber Music program**, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

### Monday 17

**Einstein's Dreams Week event**, 11 a.m., GBI north lounge.

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

Virginia Institute for Economic Development meeting, 6:30 p.m., DBHCC.

**Rosh Hashanah Begins (Sundown).**

### Tuesday, 18

**Rosh Hashanah.**

**Faculty Senate**, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

**Engineering Expo**, Squires.

### Wednesday, 19

**Leadership Development Program**, 8:30 a.m. to noon, DBHCC rooms D, E.

**Engineering Expo**, Squires.

**Family, Work/Life Resources Program**, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.

**"With Good Reason,"** 7 p.m., WVTF.

**Einstein's Dreams Week event**, 7:30 p.m., 3100 Torgersen.

**Rosh Hashanah.**

### Thursday, 20

**Business Horizons Career Fair.**

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

**Family, Work/Life Resources Program**, noon to 1 p.m., 234 Squires.

**Race, Social Policy Research Center Inaugural Reception**, 3 to 5 p.m., 201 Wall St.

**Einstein's Dreams Week event**, 8 p.m., 3100 Torgersen.

### Friday, 21

**Center for Digital Discourse and Culture Speaker**, 3:30 to 5 p.m., 160 Shanks; Deena Larsen.

**Einstein's Dreams Week event**, 4 p.m., Cranwell Center.

**Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony**, 5 p.m., DBHCC

auditorium.

**International Club**, details TBA.

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 14

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Allan Shultz.

**MCBB**, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Bill Balch, Scripps.

### Monday, 17

**Philosophy**, 3 p.m., 126 McBryde: Susan Haack, Miami.

**Biochemistry**, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Rik van Antwerpen. VCU.

### Wednesday, 19

**MCBB**, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Hans Bohnert, Arizona.

### Thursday, 20

**Natural Resources**, 3 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Craig Hover, WWF.

### Friday, 21

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: David Uehling, Glaxo SmithKline.

## BULLETINS

### Reilly to guest of Staff Senate

The Staff Senate will hold its regular monthly meeting at noon, Thursday, Sept. 20, in 1810 Litton Reaves. In addition to regular business, the guest will be Virginia Reilly who will speak on EO/AA and ADA. All Virginia Tech staff members are welcome to attend.

### EHSS holds Open House

Environmental, Health and Safety Services Open House will hold an Open House for faculty and staff members today

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, see web site <http://www.ehss.vt.edu/index.htm> or contact Charlotte Waggoner at [ren@vt.edu](mailto:ren@vt.edu) or 1-5864.

### Museum offers two programs

The Museum of Natural History will present "Do You Care About Where and How Your Coffee Is Grown?" today from 4 to 5 p.m. in 1870 Litton Reeves. The presenter is Gerry LaRue. The presentation is co-sponsored with the biology department's.

Botany Seminar Series.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the museum will present Save Our Streams training with Llyn Sharp, SOS regional coordinator. Call 1-3001 for more information and to pre-register.

## Economic-development institute starts Monday

By Jeanne M. Garon

Barry E. DuVal, Virginia's secretary of commerce and trade, will deliver the keynote address at the Virginia Institute for Economic Development on September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Held annually, the institute is designed to help volunteers and local government officials better understand the economic-development process. The institute provides specific training in the economic-development process and outlines how it is used to benefit cities, counties, and towns in furthering business development and growth.

This year, the institute focus on specific state programs available for community economic development, other economic-development programs that produce results, expanding networks of key economic-development leaders, applying knowledge of programs that can enhance their own community's economic-development initiatives, and learning from economic-development leaders at the state, regional, and local levels.

The institute is a non-credit program leading to a certificate of completion. Its program includes five days of seminars and four weeks of home study. The seminars are divided into two sessions, one at the beginning and one at the conclusion of the home-study program.

The institute is coordinated by Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs Outreach Division, the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

The first session will be held September 17-19. Participants may make lodging reservations at 1-5156.

The second session will be held October 15-17 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. Call 540/985-5900 for lodging reservations.

On-line registration for both sessions is available at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/vied.htm>. Participants may also register by calling 1-5182. Payment of \$395 per participant registration fees is required before attendance.

For more information, e-mail [eaagee@vt.edu](mailto:eaagee@vt.edu), or call 1-6638.

Richmond.

Other events next week include the following:

Monday, Sept. 17, 7-9 p.m., in the Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires, Bilingual Poetry Workshop featuring Estrella Gabrie-Garcia.

Thursday, Sept. 20, noon-2 p.m., Black Cultural Center, Cultural Food Festival featuring Latin American Cuisine.

For later events or information, contact Kimberly Philpott, assistant dean of students, at 1-3787/TDD or 1-8718.

## Philosophy colloquium set

By Sally Harris

The Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences has set its Philosophy Colloquium schedule for fall.

The presentations are as follows:

Friday, Sept. 14, 3 p.m., 126 McBryde: Susan Haack (University of Miami), "Clues to the Puzzle of Scientific Evidence." This talk is co-sponsored by the Science and Technology Studies Program. (Haack also will give a talk sponsored by the College of Architecture Thursday, Sept. 13, at 5 p.m., in Hancock auditorium entitled "Science, Literature, and the 'Literature of Science.'")

Friday, Sept. 28, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Ben Bradley (Virginia Tech): "When is Death Bad for the One Who Dies?"

Friday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Talbot Brewer (UVA): "Pleasure, Practical Reason and the Good Life."

Friday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: James Mahon (Washington and Lee): tentative title: "The Desire to Do One's Duty."

Friday, Nov. 9, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Anita Silvers (San Francisco State University): title TBA.

Monday, Nov. 12, 3:30 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Mike Kruse (Virginia Tech): title TBA.

Friday, Nov. 30: Stephen Turner (University of South Florida): Time, place and title TBA. Co-sponsored by the Science and Technologies Studies Program.

Friday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Joe Neisser (Radford University): "The Swaying Form: Metaphor, Imagination, Embodiment."

## Diggs Roundtable next Friday

By Sally Harris

The 2001 Diggs Roundtable will be held Friday, Sept. 21, 2-4 p.m. in the Hillcrest dining room.

The reception and roundtable discussion are open to all members of the university community and the general public. The three presenters are the 2001 recipients of the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award: Monte Boisen, professor, Department of Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences; Richard M. Goff, associate professor, Department of Engineering Fundamentals in the College of Engineering; and Stacey Floyd-Thomas, assistant professor, Religious Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Arts and Sciences.

Boisen, whose topic is "Valuing Diversity: an Opportunity to Grow," will discuss the essential role of care, concern, and respect in the way teachers interact with women and minority students and apply technology to support learning.

Goff's presentation, "Hands-On Collaborative Learning," will address the subject of transforming course material to make it more stimulating and accessible to creative students who need to experience the connections between theoretical learning and the practical application of knowledge.

In her talk, "Teaching for Social Justice Through Conflict Resolution," Floyd-Thomas will discuss raising ethical issues for the goal of social justice in a manner that encourages students to examine difficult and personally challenging material.

Hosts for the occasion are the Diggs Teaching Scholar Association, the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Honors Program.

## Hispanic Heritage Month begins tonight

SOLAZO in Concert will kick off Virginia Tech's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month tonight at 8 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. The event is open to the public and is free.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, a Catholic mass and celebration, conducted in Spanish, will be held at the War Memorial Chapel, followed by a cultural reception. The guest speaker will be Elisa Montalvo, director of the Office for the Hispanic Apostolate Catholic Diocese of

# EMPLOYMENT

## CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

### FULL TIME

Three full-time food-service positions available.  
**Assistant Front Office Manager**, 001136Y, PB 3, DBHCC.  
**Assistant Manager**, 001378H, PB 3, RDP/Shultz.  
**Assistant Manager**, 001209H, PB 3, RDP/Dietrick.  
**Asst Director Of Uusa (Building Operations/Facilities)**, 000292J, PB 4, UUSA.  
**Bioprocess Laboratory Specialist**, 003373M, PB 4, BSE.  
**Cashier**, 007189F, PB 3, Parking Services.  
**Director of Information Services**, 007831B, PB 4, MPRG/ECE.  
**Electrician**, 007829H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities/Services.  
**Executive Secretary**, 007826Y, PB 3, University Outreach.  
**Financial Planning Manager**, 007567F, PB 5, Budget/Financial Planning.  
**Grants Administrator**, 004070R, PB 4, Sponsored Programs.  
**Housekeeping—Night Crew**, 002742H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities and Services.  
**Housekeeping Manager**, 006926H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities/Services.  
**Laboratory Specialist**, 007820R, PB 3, VBI.  
**Laboratory Specialist**, 007245M, PB 3, Biochemistry.  
**Laboratory Specialist**, 007707B, PB 3, CE.  
**Network Analyst**, 007795R, PB 5, VBI.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 002023M, PB 2, CVM.  
**Payroll Manager**, 002501F, PB 5, Controller's Office.  
**Plumber**, 007830H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities.  
**Power Plant Superintendent**, 000326F, PB 4, Power Plant.  
**Program Support Specialist Sr.**, 007828B, PB 3, CHPM.  
**Program Support Technician Senior**, 003474R, PB 3, CWT.  
**Programmer/Database Support**, 001864G, PB 4, Library Systems.  
**Shopleader**, 000404H, PB 1, RDP/West End Market.  
**Shopleader/Cashier**, 000405H, PB 1, RDP/Owens Food Court.  
**Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician**, 007655R, PB 3, VTTI.  
**Sous Chef**, 000940H, PB 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.

**Student Activities Program Specialist**, 001020J, PB 3, UUSA.  
**PART TIME**  
**Animal Care Technician**, W022565M, PB 2, CVM.  
**Animal Care Technician**, W020066M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Animal Care Technician/Small Animal**, W022675M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Department Administrative Support**, 007832B, PB 3, CEE.  
**One part-time food-service position available.**  
**Large Animal Husbandry**, W022155M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Office Services Specialist**, W020548G, PB 2, University Registrar.  
**Operations Specialist**, W022862S, PB 2, AIS—IRM.  
**Pharmacy Assistant**, W020839M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Program Coordinator**, W023080R, PB 3, Graduate School.  
**Secretary Senior**, W023132S, PB 2, University Relations.  
**Trades/Utilities Worker**, W022966H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities.

### UNIVERSITY ONLY

**Police Sergeant**, U007833Y, PB 4, Police.

### OFF CAMPUS

**Efnep Program Assistant**, 007811M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.  
**Fiscal Technician**, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering.  
**Office Manager**, 007796Y, PB 4, IALR.  
**Program Administrator**, 006436Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.  
**Program Assistant**, 006606J, PB 3, HNF.  
**Program Assistant**, 007827J, PB 2, HNF.  
**Program Support Technician**, 002209R, PB 3, Graduate School.  
**Radio Announcer**, W020800L, PB 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.  
**Research Grounds Technician**, 007589M, PB 1, CALS—Hampton Roads AREC.  
**Secretary Senior**, 006828M, PB 3, VCE.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology. Assistant/Associate/Full Professor, Clinical Pathology.** Contact: Holly Bender, Phase II, CVM (0442). Deadline is Jan. 1.  
**Electrical/Computer Engineering. Assistant/Associate/Full Professors.** Contact: W.L. Stutzman, 340 Whittemore (0111). Deadline is March 31.

**Urban Affairs/Planning. Tenure-track Positions.** Contact: John Browder, 201 Architecture Annex (0113). Deadline is Dec. 1.  
**Industrial/Systems Engineering. Tenure-track Positions (re-advertised).** Contact: Hanif Sherali, 250 Durham (0118). Deadline is Jan. 4.  
**Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Assistant/Associate Professor, Equine Health.** Contact: Craig Thatcher, CVM (0442). Review begins Dec. 1.  
**Finance/Insurance/Business Law. Assistant Professor, Finance.** Contact: John Easterwood, 1016 Pamplin (0221). Deadline is Dec. 15.

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Office of Vice Provost for Research. Special Assistant for Research Contract Affairs.** Contact: John Wilson, 301 Burruss (0244). Review begins Oct. 1.  
**College of Engineering. Director of Undergraduate Recruiting.** Contact: Beville Watford, 212 Hancock Hall (0275). Review begins Sept. 17.  
**Biology. Postdoctoral Associates.** Contact: Asim Esen, 2125 Derring (0406). Positions open until filled.  
**Geological Sciences. Postdoctoral Associate.** Contact: Nancy Ross or Ross Angel, 4044 Derring (0420). Review begins Oct. 1.

## Einstein's Dreams Week events announced

The following events have been scheduled during Einstein's Dreams Week.

On Monday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m. in GBJ north lounge, Provost Mark McNamee will host a discussion for interested students and faculty members.

On Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in 3100 Torgersen Hall, there will be multi-media presentation and discussion titled "The Common Book Project and the Creative Process:

Turning text into Art." Three faculty members and several students will discuss the process of turning the text of *Einstein's Dreams* into art. Three media will be discussed: 2-D design by architecture students, 3-D design by interior design students, and a theatre performance will be featured. Panelists include faculty members Ron Daniel, Hilary Bryon, and Ann Kilkelly.

On Thursday, Sept. 20, at 8 p.m. in 3100

Torgersen, the German film *Run Lola Run* will be shown. Admission is free.

On Friday, Sept. 21, at 4 p.m., in the Cranwell Center there will be an informal discussion of culture and time. Participants will be asked to reflect on how time is experienced in their culture or in cultures they have visited.

For more information, call Dianna Benton at 1-2375.

## VIRGINIA TECH

*Continued from 1*

with other entities, and attract initial seed funding. It will also take start-up companies through their first round of institutional funding.

"Over the past several years," said Raymond Smoot, executive vice president of the foundation and chair of the CRC board, "the university has worked diligently to provide the region with access to the early-stage funding necessary to launch successful technology companies and attract senior-management talent to the area." To date, the foundation has invested nearly \$25 million in national and regional venture-capital funds and local company equity shares and has underwritten the development of the CRC.

John Phillips, director of economic development, said VT KnowledgeWorks "builds on Tech's past successes by bringing development and management expertise and capital to the CRC."

The accelerator is the brainchild of Leonard Ferrari, vice provost for special initiatives. Ferrari has been instrumental in establishing several of the university's recent technology programs, including the graduate program in information technology, the Alexandria Research Institute, and the Institute for Information Technology.

VT KnowledgeWorks will be managed by the CRC in conjunction with an advisory board comprised of representatives from Tech, the foundation, the CRC, Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP), and the partner companies. Phillips said initial foundation and partner funding for the accelerator, which is "expected to yield more than 40 companies over the next five years," is anticipated to reach nearly \$2 million.

The foundation has committed \$300,000 to help cover start-up and operating expenses of the accelerator and will underwrite costs associated with building VT KnowledgeWorks' permanent CRC home and other infrastructure costs. In exchange, the foundation will receive a

small equity stake in each of the accelerator's portfolio companies.

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties (VTIP) and the trio of technology partners will work closely together to review university inventions in terms of their potential to yield a business. If a given invention cannot start a business, the partners will provide VTIP with marketing leads for licensing the technology.

In addition to capital contributions, the partners will contribute full-time staff members and recruit portfolio companies to the accelerator. They will also help identify commercially viable technologies, business concepts, and emerging companies having very high commercial potential.

CRC President Joe Meredith underscored the accelerator's built-in synergies. "The growth in Tech's research efforts as a result of our recently announced top-30 research initiative will create new and exciting intellectual properties that can be commercialized through the accelerator. VT KnowledgeWorks provides a win-win situation for the region, new technology companies, the university, and our strategic technology partners."

## COMMITTEE

*Continued from 1*

across all precincts of the Virginia Tech community: on campus, at our extended campus sites, and throughout the world with our strategic partnerships," she said.

In addition to Magliaro, members of the search committee are Robert Bush, associate dean for research in the College of Natural Resources; A. Jack Davis, professor of architecture; Laura Fornash, director of the Virginia Tech Richmond Center; Tom Grizzard, director of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory; Valerie Hardcastle, director of the Center for the Study of Science in Society and

## COMPETITION

*Continued from 1*

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students or student organizations are eligible to enter the competition. Designs will be accepted from October 1 through Feb. 1, 2002. A \$1,000 award will be shared by the winning designs and competitors.

"For decades, Alumni Mall was the entrance way to Virginia Tech," said Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president for Development. "However, more and more people are using the by-pass to go around the town and enter the campus from Campus Drive. The competition will enable the university to tap into the creative energy and talents of our student body to devise unique ways to enhance beauty of the campus and preserve the historical character of the campus."

Students will prepare a conceptual plan or design that will express their ideas about how the designated area can be made more attractive in a way that is pleasing and consistent with the campus environment. The cost to implement the design should not exceed \$25,000.

director of the Science and Technology Studies Graduate Program; Janet M. Johnson, dean of the College of Human Resources and Education; Marilyn Kershaw, director of graduate-student recruiting; Marquee King, the graduate-student representative; David Kingston, professor of chemistry; William R. Knocke, head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Gerhardt Schurig, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Veterinary Medicine; Robert Sumichrast, associate dean of graduate and international programs in the Pamplin College of Business; and Susan Summer, head of the Department of Food Science and Technology.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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## Common Book Project gets under way

By Clara B. Cox

Members of the faculty who teach first-year students have received an invitation to *Einstein's Dreams Week* (see details elsewhere in *Spectrum*), September 17-21, along with examples of ways to incorporate the text of the Common Book Project selection into classroom discussions.

Now in its second season, the Common Book Project was initiated last year to help students understand how seemingly different courses and disciplines can be interconnected and to create communities in which students have the common bond of reading and discussing the same book. Professors incorporate ideas from it in various courses in different disciplines.

Last fall, nearly 5,000 first-year students found a complementary copy of *Einstein's Dreams* in their dorm rooms when they arrived on campus. This fall, with new transfer and veterinary students added to the project, more than 6,000 books were distributed to students and interested members of the faculty.

"Many transfer students face transition issues," said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs, in explaining the project's expansion. "By welcoming all new students with a copy of *Einstein's Dreams*, we hope to send a clear and early message that we are glad the students are here and we are committed to their success."

Written by Alan Lightman, *Einstein's Dreams* is a series of short fictional vignettes representing dreams that Einstein might have had. They describe what life in a small village might be like if time were configured differently—as a circle repeating itself every 24 hours, for example—or if people lived only one day.

Faculty participation in the project is vital, according to project directors. "Our assessment of the project in the spring semester showed very clearly that faculty members are a key element to the success of this project. Students gained from the project when faculty members used the book in class—whether the students read the book or not. Students are making connections, and that is the most important goal of the project," said Melinda Crowder, associate director for University Unions and Student Activities.

The project even extends to administrators. Mark McNamee, the university's new provost, told first-year students during his Opening Convocation address, "I will always share a special connection to this class because we will be reading [*Einstein's Dreams*] together."

Information on the Common Book Project and *Einstein's Dreams Week* is available at [www.einsteinsdreams.vt.edu](http://www.einsteinsdreams.vt.edu). The site features discussion boards for faculty members to share ideas about the project.

The Common Book Project is a joint venture by the Provost's Office, the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Learning Communities Initiative. For more information, contact Dianna Benton at [einsteins.dreams@vt.edu](mailto:einsteins.dreams@vt.edu) or 1-2375.

## Veterinarians gather at comparative cancer conference

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Veterinarians from throughout Virginia and Maryland will hear about new approaches to cancer therapy and gain insights on the emotional implications of the disease during a day-long symposium hosted by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech today.

Several cancer experts from around the country will join college and regional practitioners to make presentations on topics ranging from contemporary approaches to clinical-case management to explorations of how the disease impacts the human/animal bond during "Comparative Oncology," a conference presented as part of the annual VMRCVM/Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) Fall Conference.

"While cancer remains a leading cause of death for people and animals, it is being diagnosed earlier and treated more effectively," said John Robertson, event co-organizer, a professor of veterinary pathology on faculty in the college's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP) and director of the college's emerging Center for Comparative Oncology (CeCO).

Kathy L. Mitchener, a veterinary oncologist and specialist on the human/animal bond from

MedVet Memphis, a veterinary referral hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, will present "An Integrated Approach to Private Oncology Practice" during the symposium. Mitchener, will also present a keynote address entitled "Building Lifelong Professional Relationships" during a veterinary student mentoring workshop held early in the day.

Alice Villalobos of the VCA Coast Animal Hospital and Cancer Center in Hermosa Beach, California, will present "Hospice Care for Veterinary Cancer Patients."

Rod Page, veterinary oncologist and director of the Cornell Cancer Center at Cornell University's New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, will present "Differences in Human and Veterinary Patient Chemotherapy" and other case presentations.

The conference features a variety of lectures that focus on different aspects of clinical oncology, the treatment of cancer; and comparative oncology, the evaluation of how the disease affects people and animals. Otto Lanz, assistant professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS), will present "Surgical Management of Oncology Patients—Problems, Pitfalls." Bernie Feldman, professor, DBSP, will present "Confirming Clinical Suspicions of Cancer," and Robertson will

present "Cancer Basics—What do you need to know?"

Bill Huckle, associate professor, DBSP, will present an update on "Angiostatin in Cancer Therapy."

Rick Broadstone, associate professor, DSACS, will present "Practical Pain Management in Cancer Patients," and Howell Little of Hill's Pet Products will discuss "Canine N/D: (Neoplasia/Diet: Nutritional Support for the Veterinary Cancer Patient."

Clinical presentations will also be made by John Rossmeisel, veterinary resident, DSACS, who will present "An Unusual Gastric Mass in a Cat"; Ian Herring, assistant professor, DSACS, who will present "A Case of Ocular Neoplasia"; and Erin Stimson Herring, who will present "Sentinel Lymph Nodes—Comparative Aspects."

Other events include a briefing on the status of the development of the Center for Comparative Oncology by Robertson.

Conference sponsors include the Virginia and Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations, the American Cancer Society, the Gunst Foundation, Biophile and Hill's Pet Products. For more information, call 1-4716.

## Farm and Family Showcase successful; 12,000 attend

By Stewart MacInnis

With the success of last week's event, Virginia Tech's Farm and Family Showcase will become an annual event for farmers, forest landowners, homeowners, and families.

"This was a success beyond our wildest dreams," said the university's Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Andy Swiger. "Our mission of education for both ag and non-ag people was fulfilled to a considerable extent. The impression that our visitors had was clearly upbeat on behalf of Virginia Tech and the sponsoring colleges."

The event was sponsored by the university's colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Resources and Education, and Natural Resources, as well as the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

An estimated 12,000 people attended the two-day event held at the university's Kentland

Farm in McCoy. Approximately 150 exhibitors, ranging from farm equipment dealers to government agencies to Virginia Tech student organizations, participated in the showcase.

"I visited with each exhibitor," Swiger said. "They were almost unanimously pleased with the crowd and the management of the event."

More than 400 fourth graders from Floyd and Montgomery counties participated in a formal educational program, while hundreds of others from schools as far away as Patrick County and Lexington came to sample other educational enrichment offered by the showcase.

The formal educational program fulfilled a number of requirements in Virginia's Standards of Learning, said John Hillison, head of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and chief organizer of the public-school-student events.

The experiences of those not involved in

the formal educational program were just as educational. Staff and faculty members from the College of Veterinary Medicine on hand to answer questions.

The showcase had elements to appeal to those in the agriculture and forest industries as well as to homeowners and landowners. Activities included displays, demonstrations, seminars, and family programs for children, youth, and adults. The showcase also provided technical information to those in the industries of agriculture and natural resources, as well as information and fun activities for landowners, homeowners and families.

Swiger said much of the success of the event was due to staff and faculty members who worked for months in planning. He especially recognized Dwight Paulette, coordinator of the college farm, for leading the effort to organize the showcase.

## RICHMOND

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land-grant university. By extending its wealth of knowledge to local communities, the university enhances economic opportunities and quality of life enjoyed by all Virginians.

"In today's knowledge-based culture, there is a clear need for life-long learning," President Charles Steger said. "Globalization and rapid technological change continue to put increasingly higher premiums on skilled workers who possess both strong reasoning skills, and the ability to keep up with expanding knowledge and evolving technologies. The extended cam-

pus emerges as an integral part of the university's answer to this need."

Extended campus centers offer access to structured higher education across the state in both physical and electronic environments. At the Virginia Tech Richmond Center, students can take courses to enhance a professional career, to work toward a graduate degree, or for personal development. The center will accommodate Richmond's working professionals as well—those who desire to expand their knowledge but cannot sacrifice their jobs or time with family to pursue a graduate education full-time.

"With the immense changes wrought by

global communications technologies, any university can be on any desk in the country," said Joseph Merola, acting dean of the Graduate School. "Virginia Tech provides leading-edge information technology through the Internet and interactive video-conferencing. With these capabilities, Richmond students can receive instruction from any remote location, not only throughout the state, but also throughout the world."

The Virginia Tech Richmond Center offers traditional face-to-face instruction, web-based courses, and interactive video-conferencing degree programs in the following disciplines: master of public administration, master of business administration, doctor of education in educational leadership, master of science in career and technical education, master of information technology, Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program, teacher licensure programs, and continuing-education short courses, seminars, and workshops.

In addition to offering educational opportunities for the greater Richmond area, Virginia Tech looks forward to creating new ties with the region's universities, the high-tech industry and with state government. Featuring those topics, the evening's speakers include Senator John Watkins of the Tenth District in Virginia and Bob Stolle, executive director of the Greater Richmond Technology Council.

To contact the Richmond Center, call (804) 662-7288 or e-mail [vtrichmond@vt.edu](mailto:vtrichmond@vt.edu).

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