Exemplary Department Award winners announced

By Clara B. Cox, Lynn Davis, and Joan Ziemba

The Residential Leadership Community, Department of Forestry, and Marriage and Family Therapy Program at the Northern Virginia Center will receive the 2001 Exemplary Department Awards for their work in developing and sustaining innovative and effective approaches to introductory courses at the graduate or undergraduate level.

The Office of the Provost established the awards in 1994 to recognize the work of departments and/or programs that maintain exemplary teaching and learning environments for students and faculty members. Each year, the awards committee selects a different focus for the awards. Last year’s recipients were cited for effectively increasing diversity of faculty and staff members and students and for enhancing multi-cultural perspectives in teaching, research, and outreach programs.

Recipients will receive a plaque and a monetary award during a ceremony October 4. President Charles Steger and Provost Mark McNamara will present the Residential Leadership Community with $20,000 and the Department of Forestry and the Marriage and Family Therapy Program with $10,000 each.

“This year’s awards particularly illustrate an impressive range of work being undertaken in departments and programs at Virginia Tech,” said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs. “The Residential Leadership Community represents an innovative residentially based learning community which links academic and student-affairs programming through a common denominator of leadership. The Marriage and Family Therapy program, a Northern Virginia-based graduate program, and the Forestry Department each have become well-known for their innovations in introductory course work achieved in response to very different students and needs.”

(See EXEMPLARY on 4)
**Activities**

**Events**

**Friday, 28**
- Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
- Leadership Development Program, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 116 Robeson.
- International Club, details TBA.
- Theatre Arts Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: "Cole."
- Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

**Saturday 29**
- Football, noon, Lane Stadium: Central Florida.

**Sunday, 30**
- Theatre Arts Production, 2 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: "Cole."
- YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

**Monday 1**
- Sexual-Assault Awareness Month Begins.
- University Council, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
- VTU Production, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: "My Fair Lady."
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
- Family, Work-Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room C.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.

**Tuesday, 2**
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Squires.

**SEMINARS**

**Friday, 28**
- Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Michael J. Kelley, William and Mary.
- Philosophy, 3 p.m., 225 Majors Williams: Ben Bradley.

**Monday, 1**
- Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Joe Chalovich, East Carolina.

**Wednesday, 3**
- ESM, 4 to 5 p.m., 110 Randolph: Damir Khismatullin.

**Thursday, 4**
- Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4096 Derring: Randy McFarland, USGS.

**Friday, 5**
- MCBIB, 12:30 p.m., 102 Fralin: Bob Dietrich, Syngenta.
- Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Isaiah Warner, LSU.

**BULLETINS**

Workshop highlights faculty research support

New faculty members are invited to a special workshop entitled “Your Research Career at Virginia Tech: Getting Started,” to be held Friday, Oct. 12, 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium. The workshop will familiarize faculty members with a variety of services offered by the university to support their research interests.

Featured will be an overview of the services offered by the Research Division, including the Office of Program Development and the Office of Sponsored Programs. Also reviewed will be the role of Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP), an affiliate corporation that protects and licenses new technologies developed by Virginia Tech faculty members.

Other topics include funding opportunities for young investigators, conducting a funding search, developing and submitting a proposal, the award process, financial issues of award administration, basic concepts of intellectual property, and requirements for disclosure.

Presenters include Robert Porter and David Richardson from the Research Division, and Michael Martin from VTIP, with welcoming remarks by Mark McNamee, university provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Len Peters, vice provost for research.

Those planning to attend should notify Debbie Nester at 1-5410 or e-mail debbiei@vt.edu. For more information, contact Porter at 1-6747 or reporter@vt.edu.

Senates invite candidates to campus

The Staff and Faculty senates invite all members of the university community to attend a discussion of higher-education issues on Tuesday, Oct. 16 by candidates for delegate David Nutter at 7 p.m., and Creigh Deeds at 7:30 p.m.

The presentations will be in 32 Pamplin.

EHSIS re-schedules Open House

Environmental, Health and Safety Services invites faculty and staff members to its Open House on Friday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants may learn about the services provided, test their knowledge of health and safety practices, meet the staff, and tour the facilities. There will be food, demonstrations of hearing testing, air monitoring, fire extinguishing, ergonomics, and other activities. Door prizes will be awarded. For more information, visit web site http://www.ehsis.vt.edu/Events/OpenHouse/OpenHouse.htm or contact Charlotte Waggoner at renn@vt.edu or 1-5864.

IDDL presents instruction-evaluation seminar

The Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning will present a seminar on evaluation of instruction on October 19, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in 150 Squires.

The seminar is for faculty members with concerns about appropriate evaluation of instruction for promotion and tenure, or who are in an administrative position that requires knowledge of what constitutes appropriate evaluation of instruction for critical personnel or management decisions.

Other topics include funding opportunities for young investigators, conducting a funding search, developing and submitting a proposal, the award process, financial issues of award administration, basic concepts of intellectual property, and requirements for disclosure.

The syndicated newspaper column, which is widely syndicated, is distributed to over 400 newspapers worldwide.

Individuals planning to attend the conference are also invited to present papers. The deadline for paper submissions is October 5; sessions will take place in McBryde Hall. Complete the on-line call-for-papers form at the meeting web site.

Natural-history museum offers workshop

The Museum of Natural History will offer a workshop for teachers Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum.

Project WET is a nationally recognized environmental-education program that focuses on water as a habitat, a resource, and an integral part of a functioning ecosystem. It provides lessons and activities to supplement existing curricula and to develop young persons’ awareness and knowledge about the world and the elements of the environment. Enrollment is limited—pre-register by calling 1-3001.

‘People’s Pharmacy’ comes to Roanoke

Joe and Terry Graedon, hosts of “The People’s Pharmacy,” will be at Shaftman Performance Hall at Jefferson Center on Thursday, Oct. 4, from 7-9 p.m. The event, sponsored by WVTF Public Radio and The Roanoke Times, is free and open to the public.

Tickets will be needed for admission to the event and can be obtained by calling WVTF Public Radio at (540) 989-8900 or (800) 856-8900, or by filling out a coupon in The Roanoke Times. Copies of the Graedons’ latest book, The People’s Pharmacy Guide to Home and Herbal Remedies will be given as door prizes.

In an open-microphone discussion, audience members are invited to ask the Graedons questions and make comments on health-related topics. The live show will be taped by WVTF and re-broadcast on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 7 a.m.

The syndicated newspaper column, which is widely distributed in the United States and abroad. The column appears in The Roanoke Times each Sunday and Tuesday. They co-host an award-winning health talk show, by the same name, that airs weekly on over 500 public radio stations. WVTF Public Radio broadcasts the Graedons each Saturday at 7 a.m.
EMPLOYMENT

Staff and Faculty Annual Fund successful

Since May, Virginia Tech employees have chosen to support a variety of projects through the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund. The projects include university priorities, colleges, departments, VTWF, campus beautification and others.

The most popular choice continues to be the Employees’ Spouse and Dependents Scholarship Fund, garnering almost one-third of total funds collected. Next year, this will facilitate more than 10 scholarship awards to spouses and children of Virginia Tech employees—up from four this year (see below) and two the year before. For more information on the Employees’ Dependent and Scholarship Fund, visit: www.fst.vt.edu/vtsp/

This year’s Employees’ Dependent and Scholarship Fund recipients are Adam Snelling, Heather Wright, Mark Washenberger, and Regan Bond.

A new level of participation in the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund has been reached—a 49 percent increase over last year. Upcoming staff and faculty members and retired employees provide input to the Office of University Development, resulting in a Staff and Faculty Annual Fund that represents staff and faculty priorities, and provides options that make it easy and painless to support campus initiatives. On-line giving at www.givinto.vt.edu/payroll deduction, assisting employee groups to make collective gifts, pledges with choice of payment schedule, in addition to outright gifts are all welcome to help employees participate at any level and to whatever campus initiative they wish.

Employees who haven’t yet joined may visit one of the web sites mentioned above. The site offers a printable version of a gift form (choose payroll deduction), or the opportunity to give using your credit card on line.

STEGER

Continued from 1

ians and vital properties. After the analysis, the panel will examine Virginia’s ability to prepare and to respond to the identified risks. If the members find any gaps or threats to the state’s preparedness and ability to protect Virginians, it will make recommendations to close the gaps.

Steiger, who has graduate degrees in urban planning and environmental engineering, was selected for his own expertise and for the university’s disaster-risk-management and bioinformatics resources. Steger played a major part in creating the World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, a partnership between the university, the Swiss Institutes of Technology, and the World Bank.

The panel is expected to submit its findings by November.

SPECTRUM 3
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

PRESIDENT

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seminars in marketing, business, gardening, computing, architecture and education. Future programming includes courses in: history, forestry, project management, women’s studies, marketing, software development and internet security.

On another positive note, Steiger reported that U.S. News & World Report has recognized Virginia Tech as one of the nation’s top 25 public universities. “The College of Engineering undergraduate program was ranked 20th in the nation, and business was pegged at the 38th best in America. In April, U.S. News ranked the graduate-engineering program as one of the 25 best in the nation. The vocational and technical Education program was again ranked ninth, the Center for Public Administration and Policy was ranked tenth.

To achieve continued success in raising its national and international reputation, Steger said, Virginia Tech must have a cluster of programs that are considered to be among the best in the world. “More important than reputation, though, is impact. In our plan, we say, ‘As Virginia Tech enters the 21st century, we are mindful of the key role the university plays in the development of productive citizens and future professionals, of the contributions of our faculty members and students to the generation of new knowledge, and of our impact on multiple levels of community and society.’”

Steiger said specific plans call for continuing to expand research and applications in information technology. “Before the end of the semester, we hope to announce the creation of several new graduate degrees in information technology. Later this year we will make an announcement on a bold initiative concerning a range of emerging critical technologies and new facilities. We have been in discussion throughout the summer with various other universities and health providers about partnerships in bioengineering, biomedical, and health applications.

“We plan a new way of doing business in Northern Virginia built around four ‘footprints’ of information technology, urbanization and built environments, policy and governance, and education and leadership. And, I would expect that over the next decade we will strengthen the social sciences, fine arts, and humanities by selective addition of several graduate programs.”

Wildlife Biologist, 007764J, PB 4, CMI.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Engineering Science/Mathematics. Assis-
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Civil/Environmental Engineering. As-
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tact: John Little, 419 Durham (0246). Re-
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Milos Hudlicky, 82
Milos Hudlicky, 82, professor emeritus of chemistry, died August 31.
Born in Czechoslovakia, Hudlicky studied at the Institute of Chemical and Technological Engineering at the Technical University in Prague (the Institute of Chemical Technology of Prague since 1952) until 1939 when all institutions of higher learning were closed for the duration of the German occupation. He completed his doctoral studies at the Technical University in 1946.
At Virginia Tech, Hudlicky continued his work in organofluorine chemistry. A prolific writer, he wrote 18 books, among them the popular "Organofluorine Compounds," "Reductions in Organic Chemistry," and "Chemistry of Organic Fluorine Compounds." He published 68 scientific articles—31 of them as the sole author—and held 29 patents. Unlike most senior scientists, he continued to work at the bench until his retirement in 1989; then he devoted his time to writing. In the words of a former colleague in Prague, he was "an example of a professor who was able to combine scientific, mentoring, and public activities ideally into one harmonious whole."
In 1992, he was awarded the Votocek Medal for Merit in Science and Technology by the Institute of Chemical Technology Prague, one of the highest methods of recognition in chemical education in the Czech Republic. He was a member of the Division of Fluorine Chemistry of the American Chemical Society for his contributions to research in organofluorine chemistry. He was also active in the Votocek Medal selection committee.

Virginia Tech professor named 2001 state engineering educator

By Liz Crumbley

"A good researcher is usually a good teacher—you need clarity of thought and communication for both," said Professor Hanif Sherali, recipient of the Pletta Award as the 2001 Virginia Engineering Educator of the Year.

The award, established in honor of the late Dan H. Pletta, a nationally renowned educator and an engineering science and mechanics professor at Virginia Tech from 1932 to 1972, is presented annually by the Virginia Engineering Education Committee to recognize an engineering educator who has demonstrated outstanding teaching and public service.

The Pletta Award is co-sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, Virginia Section; American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Central Virginia Section; Consulting Engineers Council of Virginia; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Virginia Council; and Virginia Society of Professional Engineers and its Professional Engineers in Education Division.

Sherali, the W. Thomas Rice Chair of Engineering at Virginia Tech and a professor of industrial and systems engineering (ISE), has received numerous education awards during his tenure at the university, including the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia and the Institute of Industrial Engineer's (IIE) Albert G. Holzman Distinguished Educator Award.

At Virginia Tech, Sherali's teaching achievements have been recognized with the university's Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, as well as four Certificates of Teaching Excellence and two Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards from the College of Engineering. Since joining the Virginia Tech faculty in 1979, he has directed 10 award-winning theses and dissertations.

At both the graduate and undergraduate levels, Sherali strives to give his students insights into concepts, helping them to think creatively and find solutions to problems for themselves. He calls teaching "a self-educating process" and believes teachers also can help students learn by building up their confidence.

Sherali also has been recognized for his research, with honors including the David F. Baker Distinguished Research Award, the Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Research Excellence, the IIE Fellow Award, and the Thomas L. Saaty Prize for Applied Advances in the Mathematical and Management Sciences.

In 2000, Sherali was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) for his contributions to engineering system design based on optimization theory. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded an engineer.

The Pletta Medal will be presented to Sherali during the Virginia Tech College of Engineering's Committee of 100 meeting tonight.

Department of Forestry

The College of Natural Resources' Department of Forestry's Emerging Excellence Award thanks, in large measure, to department head Harold Burkhardt's ability to foster an environment where course innovation is encouraged and supported by both equipment and personnel.

"As a result of this support, the department has risen to the national leader in computer and technological innovation for teaching woody plant identification and forest biology," said Forestry Professor John Seiler, who submitted the department's award application.

Daniel called the department's submission for the award "outstanding." In 1994, Seiler began an effort to develop a multi-media tutorial for wood plant (mainly trees) identification for the department's dendrology course. The department supported development of a multi-media lab for both undergraduate and graduate students.

The multimedia team developed a wide array of specific tools, including the textbook, "Woody Plants in North America," to help students learn how to identify trees. The CD-ROM-based textbook contains the single largest collection of color photos of native North American woody plants in existence.

Comparison studies have shown that students taking these re-designed courses that use technology have greatly enhanced performance, not only in those courses but also in subsequent courses.

Marriage and Family Therapy Program

"This program is both an academic and clinical training program, and the faculty has expertly entwined the two to create a program that is indisputably in the top three in the country, if not the best," said a graduate student about the Marriage and Family Therapy Program. It was this dynamic that led to students themselves preparing the nominating package that captured the Exemplary Department Award for the Northern Virginia Center (NVC) program.

"The mission of the master's program," said Sandra Stith, director of Off-Campus Programs for the Human Development Department at the NVC, "is to train competent marriage and family therapists who are well grounded theoretically and clinically and have a strong research base. We accomplish that in what we feel is a variety of innovative ways."

The individually focused program accomplishes its mission with three core faculty members working closely with 43 graduate students in small classes. "We have seminar-type classes where the instruction and content include the students' experiences and their interpretation of the literature," Stith said. "Our students contribute to the education of each other."

An on-site clinic provides students with the experience of first observing, then providing therapy to real people with real-life problems. Students also serve internships in community agencies.

Students also begin working with faculty members on a variety of clinically relevant research projects in their first year. These faculty members have engaged in research grants totaling more than $6 million.

NVC DIRECTOR

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Research fellow in the Virginia Tech Transportation Industry Institute, and a fellow of the Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement.

Before joining the faculty at Virginia Tech, he was a senior partner of KPMG Consulting, serving for four years as the coordinating partner of the firm's world-wide management-consulting operations. He also served as a vice president of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), as the CEO of two consulting firms, and as a faculty member at Northwestern University and the University of Wales. Additionally, he was president of Mahoe Bay Management Consultants, a professional services firm providing transportation, business strategy, and management services to public- and private-sector organizations.

A native of Great Britain, Worrall received a Fulbright and attended Northwestern University, where he earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Durham (England).

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution may send checks for the School of Public and International Affairs in the name of Virginia Tech Foundation, 315 Burruss Hall. Donors should identify that their contribution is in memorial to Worrall, either on the check or in a note.