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Tech

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for
Personnel Services
information

Interim administrator, Executive Committee appointed for NVC

By Joan Ziemba

Graduate School Acting Dean Joseph Merola has appointed Karen Akers, assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as interim administrator of Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center.

While also continuing in her role as assistant to the dean, Akers will work with a Northern Virginia Center Executive Committee appointed by Merola that includes Jim Wolf, College of Architecture and Urban Studies; Tom Grizzard, Engineering; Barbara Hoopes, Pamplin College of Business; Octavia Madison-Colmore, College

of Human Resources and Education; Sean Bohner, College of Arts and Sciences; and Steve Guiffre, continuing education. As interim administrator, Akers will manage the fiscal, personnel, space and other resource issues that support the academic programs.

"This is a temporary solution to help us finish the academic year smoothly and bridge the gap between the loss of NVC's previous director and the search for a new center director," Merola said. "I'm sure that Karen and the committee will do an outstanding job of building the framework for that search. I'm very

excited about the future of Virginia Tech and the important role our efforts in Northern Virginia will have in shaping that future," he said.

Akers joined the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center as assistant to the dean in 1997. Before that, she served as an outreach manager and administrative associate for the Center for Public Policy Education at the Brookings Institution. She is an Ed.D. candidate in educational leadership at George Washington University where she also earned her master's in education. She received her bachelor's degree in communications from Miami University.

New funding package proposed for building projects

Senator John Chichester and Delegate Vincent Callahan announced Monday that they would sponsor legislation for a multi-phased capital projects package.

The program would partially or completely fund up to 16 projects at Virginia Tech, totaling \$123.2 million. Some projects would be included in a package of general-obligation bonds requiring voter approval. (Editor's note: The package described above is slightly different from and much larger than the program announced in December by outgoing Governor Jim Gilmore.)

Specific projects and amounts announced include \$20.4 million for the second phase of the biomedical-sciences complex, \$19.1 million for the new chemistry and physics building, \$14.2 million for the new biology building, \$14 million for the new engineering facility, and \$12 million for the new vivarium building.

"This plan would ensure a steady and reliable source of revenue for infrastructure needs each year and greatly improve the overall capital-planning process," President Charles Steger said. The General Assembly would assure that each year approximately \$250 million is generated for capital projects either through cash appropriation or debt.

Additional details on the funding package and other legislative actions will be included in *Spectrum's* continued coverage of the Virginia General Assembly session.

SAAP grant to improve response to sexual assault

By Christina D. French

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded nearly \$300,000 to the Sexual Assault Awareness and Adjudication Project (SAAP), a new collaborative effort of Virginia Tech's Women's Center and the university's Office of Judicial Affairs.

The funding comes from the Office of Justice Programs, Violence Against Women Office (VAWO), an organization created to spearhead legal and educational

improvements in how the nation addresses domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and was one of only six given by the Department of Justice in 2001.

The grant proposal was co-written by Ellen Plummer, director of the Women's Center, and Jennifer Calhoun, director of Judicial Affairs, and calls for the creation of SAAP.

"A unique feature of this grant is the highly defined collaboration between the Office of Judicial Affairs and the Women's Center,"

Plummer said. "Ultimately our goals are the same, even if our methods of arriving at them are dissimilar, which is important when you're dealing with two offices with different guiding philosophies that have, traditionally, not always cooperated on issues of victimization."

Plummer and Calhoun estimate that 22 percent or fewer of victimized students report their victimization.

According to Plummer and Calhoun, (See SAAP on 4)

Veterinary College's Large Animal Hospital re-opens

By Jeffrey Douglas

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) has re-opened the large-animal in-hospital services component of its Veterinary Teaching Hospital following a six-month hiatus.

The Harry T. Peters Large Animal Hospital was closed last summer to mount a major renovation and remedial effort designed to solve a stubborn salmonella problem that had posed a recurring infection risk for people and animals.

Salmonella is a zoonotic disease, or one that infects people and animals. The salmonella bacterium infects the gastrointestinal system, causing diarrhea, fever, and flu-like symptoms.

From time to time animals suffering from salmonella infections are in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The organism is shed in the feces of infected animals and people and the disease is spread when salmonella-contaminated fecal material is inadvertently moved from one area to another.

Salmonella infections commonly affect large-animal teaching hospitals in colleges of veterinary medicine across the country. However, this is the first time in 20 years that VMRCVM officials have had to shut down clinical services in an effort to eliminate a persistent problem.

The primary component of the \$275,000 project included the replacement (See VETERINARY on 4)



Large-animal intern Anthony Gray centers work on patient with fourth-year DVM students Patti Sura and Lisa Math in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's newly re-opened Harry T. Peters Large Animal Hospital. (See VETERINARY on 4)

Dolan to head biotech-outreach efforts

By Stewart MacInnis

Erin Dolan, former director of the University of Arizona's BIOTECH Project, will coordinate the state-wide outreach program conducted by Virginia Tech's Fralin Biotechnology Center starting in January.

Dolan is taking over from Toby Horn, outreach coordinator at the Fralin Center since 1999. Horn is joining the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Dolan, who earned a doctorate in neuroscience at the University of California at San Francisco, directed the Arizona outreach program for nearly three years. That program assists secondary-school teachers in using biotechnology techniques in their classrooms by providing material and supplies for experiments.

"Dr. Dolan's creativity and experience in making the science of biotechnology accessible and understandable to young people will help us move our outreach efforts

(See DOLAN on 3)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Saturday, 12

Men's Basketball, 4 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Miami.

Monday, 14

Classes Begin

CommonHealth Flu Shots, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wallace atrium.

Tuesday, 15

Men's Basketball, 7:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Villanova.

Wednesday, 16

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

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

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: WVU.

Thursday, 17

CommonHealth Flu Shots, noon to 2 p.m., Wallace

atrium.

CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC room A.

SEMINAR

Thursday, 17

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Phil Jardine, Oak Ridge NL.

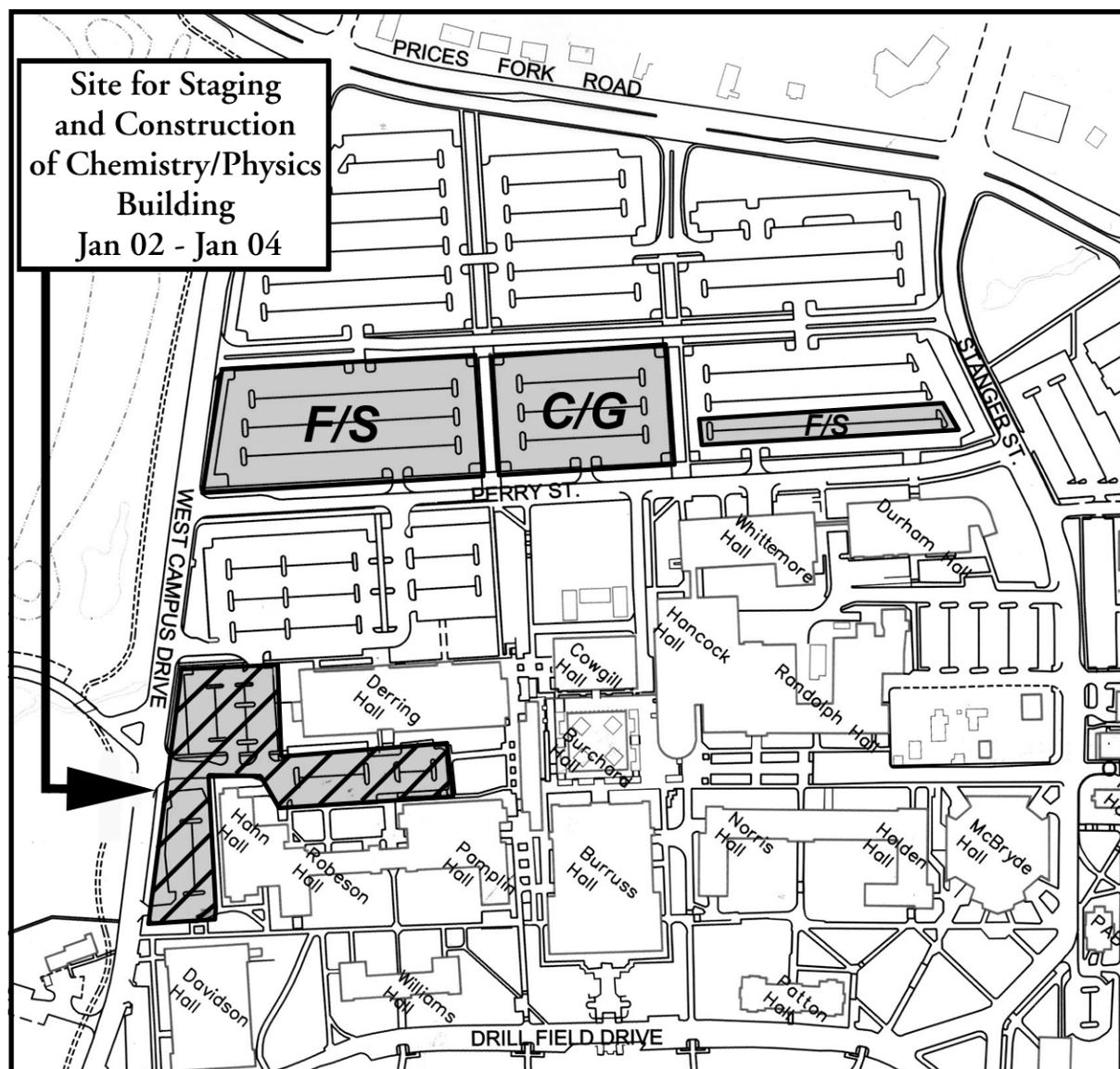
Construction to affect parking lots

(Editor's note: The following article is being re-printed as a service to members of the campus community affected by construction activity.)

A large section of Pamplin/Derring parking lot will be lost for two years to support the project staging area for the chemistry/physics construction begins on January 2. The only vehicles that will be allowed access to the area between Derring and Pamplin halls will be handicapped, service and vendors. There will only be parking spaces for these three types of vehicles.

B-lot (the large commuter lot off Price's Fork Road) parking spaces will change designation over winter break to begin addressing the significant loss of spaces. The center section (behind Cowgill Hall and across Perry Street), which is currently designated for faculty/staff parking will be converted to commuter/graduate parking on December 31. The section of B-lot to the west (behind Derring Hall and across Perry Street), which is currently designated for commuter/graduate parking will be converted to faculty/staff parking on December 31. This change will replace all the faculty/staff spaces lost to the construction project.

Several projects are being scheduled for summer 2002 to increase the number of commuter/graduate spaces in this region to replace those lost spaces.



Service-Learning Center to host workshop

The Service-Learning Center is hosting a workshop on Integrating Service-Learning into Watershed Management on Thursday, Jan. 17, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Tamim Younos from the Virginia Water Resources Research Center will facilitate the workshop, which is titled "Integrating Service-Learning into Watershed Management."

Younos directs the Stroubles Creek Watershed Initiative, a research-based learning community involving students, faculty members, and community agencies in restoring the health of the Stroubles Creek watershed. Younos has also edited a special issue of *Water Resources Journal* on "Integrating Universities' Knowledge and Student Service-Learning into Community-Based Watershed Management Programs."

For more information, or to register for the workshop, contact the Service-Learning Center at 1-6964 or deramo@vt.edu.

Diversity Summit deadline approaching

By Clara B. Cox

Virginia Tech's Fifth Annual Diversity Summit, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will be held January 21, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. The deadline to register for the summit is Friday, Jan. 18.

"This annual event provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our progress toward becoming a more inclusive and welcoming community. Initiated four years ago on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, the summit has heightened our awareness of the various communities by listening to the voices of our students, staff and faculty members," said Barbara Pendergrass, dean of students, whose office coordinates the event.

(See DIVERSITY on 4)

Child Study Center to compare different phobia treatments

By Sally Harris

Thomas Ollendick, university distinguished professor of psychology, and two post-doctoral research scientists at Virginia Tech's Child Study Center are looking for participants for a study of three assessment/treatment programs for children and adolescents with specific phobias.

Children learn to fear many things, from dogs to butterflies, from flying to thunderstorms, Ollendick said. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association defines a phobia as a fear that significantly interferes with on-going activities or causes significant distress to the child.

Ollendick, along with Alison Shortt and Janay Sander, will study various aspects of phobias, looking at factors that pre-dispose some children and not others to develop certain phobias and the best treatments for them. Angela Scarpa-Friedman and Bruce Friedman,

professors in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech, will serve as consultants to the project.

With \$1.6 million in funding from the National Institute of Mental Health over the next four years, the study will offer free assessment and treatment for participants, as well as payment to parents for the time required for the study.

The program will divide youths randomly into three groups to study children and families under one of three conditions. The first is an intensive and abbreviated exposure-based treatment delivered in one three-hour session in which the child will gradually be exposed to the phobia-inducing object, but never asked to do anything he or she does not want to do. A therapist will model the appropriate behavior around the object, correct the child's false beliefs, and praise the child's progress. "We think it's

(See CHILD on 4)

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

Accountant Senior, 007320F, PB 4, Bursar's Office.
Administrative Assistant, 001135J, PB 3, HTM.
Administrative Associate, 007161S, PB 3, Development.
Cashier, 000772H, PB 1, RDP.
Cashier, 000559H, PB 1, RDP.
Coordinator of Administrative Affairs, 007879R, PB 4, Executive Vice President's Office.
Financial Planning Manager, 007567F, PB 5, BFP.
Fiscal Assistant, 000011F, PB 2, Controller's Office.
Food Production Supervisor, 000405H, PB 1, RDP.
Government Documents Assistant, W023251G, PB 2, ULTS.
Laboratory Mechanic B, 002629M, PB 3, VMES.
Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, PB 3, CE.
Laboratory Specialist, 007860M, PB 3, CVM.
Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.
Office Services Specialist, 000041M, PB 2, FST.
Operations Manager, 007121H, PB 4, RDP.
Program Support Technician, 000446R, PB 3, Graduate School.
Program Support Technician, 002230J, PB 3, Military Affairs.
Program Support Technician, 005577M, PB 3, APS.
Program Support Technician Senior, 002443R, PB 3, IRD.

Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.
Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP.
Sous Chef, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.
Web Designer, 007510A, PB 4, BEV.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician Large Animal, W020066M, PB 2, VTH.
Fiscal Technician, W020810M, PB 3, VTH.
Graphic Artist, W020567H, PB 3, RDP.
ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.
Laboratory Specialist, W023305M, PB 3, APS.
Laboratory Technician, W023356J, PB 2, FWS.
Motor Pool Office Attendant, W023000F, PB 1, MP.
Postal Delivery Driver, W020720A, PB 2, UMS.
Program Support Technician, W023353S, PB 3, CAUS.
Program Support Technician, W023352J, PB 3, HTM.
Research Specialist, 007465M, PB 3, Horticul-

ture.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.
UNIVERSITY ONLY

Fiscal Technician, U002402J, PB 3, Near Environments.

Research Specialist/Lab Manager, U007910J, PB 4, WSFP.

OFF CAMPUS

4-H Program Assistant, 005845M, PB 2, VCE.

Adult Program Assistant, 006602J, PB 2, HNEF.

Adult Program Assistant, 006604J, PB 2, Prince William County.

Efnep Adult Program Assistant, 006103M, PB 2, VCE—Prince William County.

Efnep Adult Program Assistant, 006348M, PB 2, VCE—Virginia Beach.

Fiscal Technician, 007407M, PB 3, VCE—SML 4-H Center.

Program Assistant, 007816J, PB 2, VCE—

Suffolk.

Program Assistant, 007234J, PB 2, VCE—Petersburg.

Radio Announcer, W020800S, PB 3, UR/WVTF Radio.

Research Specialist Senior, 003230M, PB 4, Hampton Roads AREC.

Unit Administrative Assistant, 005327M, PB 3, VCE—Essex County.

Unit Administrative Assistant, 005451M, PB 3, VCE—Northampton County.

Unit Administrative Assistant, 005190G, PB 3, VCE—New Kent County.

Unit Support Staff, 007905M, PB 2, VCE.

Youth Program Assistant, 005889J, PB 2, HNEF.

Youth Program Assistant, 007464J, PB 2, HNEF.

Youth Program Assistant, 007233J, PB 2, HNEF.

PERSONNEL SERVICES INFORMATION

State Retirement Policy Changes Affect Virginia Tech Community

By Paul Smartschans,
University Relations intern

Changes in federal and state laws and the large number of baby boomers approaching retirement age are making retirement a hot topic on campus and at the Volume II Bookstore.

As Virginia retirement laws are modified, the numbers of workers eligible for unreduced and early retirement continue to rise. Recent changes in Virginia Retirement System policy allow workers to improve their retirement options by using prior state service, military time, and time with other out-of-state public institutions, and related time to enhance retirement benefits.

The recent rule change is not the first time the VRS has made retirement more attainable for state workers. Several years ago, the law was modified to allow early retirement at age 50 with 10 years of state service and unreduced retirement at age 50 with 30 years of service.

According to Doug Martin, senior human-resources manager with Personnel Services, these alterations in state retirement law will

have a profound influence on the Virginia Tech faculty and staff members. "The ability to buy prior services," he said, "permits faculty and staff members to reach eligibility for full retirement sooner and will ultimately result in more retirements at earlier ages. Virginia Tech hired many faculty and staff members during the growth era of the 60s and 70s. Many of these individuals are now eligible for full or partial retirement benefits. In five to eight years, 1,000 to 1,400 faculty and staff members will be eligible to retire."

Faculty and staff members who are interested in learning about new retirement and pre-retirement laws can locate information in more than one place. According to Martin, the university provides various retirement resources for its employees. "Formal pre-retirement programs are provided annually in the spring," he said. "To address recent and upcoming rule changes and updates, the university also arranges special programs periodically throughout the year. For example, several retirement programs will be conducted next month to inform faculty and staff members of new tax-

legislation revisions as well as the change in law concerning the purchase of prior services."

Virginia Tech Volume II Bookstore, located in the University Mall, is now catering to the community's growing need for retirement information. Paul Clark, the store's assistant manager and general book buyer, said, "Six months ago, bookstore management recognized that there was a community and university need for a book section dedicated to retirement and pre-retirement. Since then, our new retirement-book section has sold really well. The section draws good customer responses from the community as well as Virginia Tech faculty and staff members."

According to Clark, the store's retirement-book section is very diverse. "This section has books for everyone," he said. "Because retirement is a part of life that addresses so many different dimensions and expectations, the section includes a broad range of books...spiritual, physical, emotional, recreational, financial, etc." Clark said. Volume II management hopes to expand its retirement section and search for new ways to reach out to retirees.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
 AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Editor
 John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor

Production Manager
 Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

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Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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DOLAN

Continued from 1

to new levels of excellence," said Tracy Wilkins, director of the Fralin Center. "We take our outreach mission very seriously, and we're very pleased to be able to bring Dr. Dolan to Virginia Tech."

Before joining the University of Arizona, Dolan did extensive outreach work with the University of California in San Francisco's Science and Health Education Partnership. At Arizona, in addition to directing the BIOTECH Project, she established the Bio-Boot Camp program to help secondary-school teachers update their skills and knowledge in biology.

She also started the Partnership for Research and Education in Plants, funded by the National Science Foundation's plant-genome research program, to bring together high-school students, their teachers, and plant scientists to design and conduct experiments to study genes involved in the growth and development of certain plants.

Heading the biotechnology outreach effort for Virginia's largest research university gives Dolan a mission that spans the state and

the nation.

Her outreach efforts will include an annual biotechnology conference that, in the past, has attracted participants from across the U.S. The conference is designed to help high-school teachers as well as college faculty members keep informed on developments in the rapidly changing field of biotechnology. She will also produce a quarterly newsletter for 1,600 high-school and college faculty members state-wide, and she will conduct workshops for teachers across the state.

Another part of the outreach effort is an equipment-loan program. Teachers can check out trunks of equipment and supplies to use for one- or two-week sessions on biotechnology in their classrooms. The trunks provide the teachers with access to as much as \$6,000 worth of equipment and expendable supplies. That cost is enough to prevent most schools from exposing students to sophisticated biotechnology techniques.

A bequest by the late Horace Fralin of Roanoke, a Virginia Tech alumnus and proponent of the biotechnology effort on campus, has provided funds for many of the innovative outreach activities at the center.

International Forestry Center created here

By Lynn Davis

Greg Amacher, associate professor in the Department of Forestry in the College of Natural Resources, has announced the creation of the new International Forestry Center (IFC). "The mission of the new center is to facilitate research and Extension in international forestry," Amacher said.

Assisting him with the center is Frank Merry, research scientist in international forestry in the Department of Forestry. A steering committee of industry professionals helps to set the agenda. Faculty members in the College of Natural Resources and across the university participate. Amacher said, "The center will draw on a wide range of faculty members in all aspects of international forestry to provide a medium through which faculty members and students at Virginia Tech can collaborate with the international community."

The IFC works in partnerships with gov-

(See *INTERNATIONAL* on 4)

First universal-design forum hosted on campus last fall

By Sarah Newbill

The first universal design forum, INEEDS, was hosted on campus this fall, and was the first of a three-part series bringing together design-related programs across the university, and serving as an internal forum for future design endeavors.

Specific objectives included making students aware of ergonomics, accessibility, and usability principles as they relate to consumer-product design, and to promote a shared working environment across disciplines with respect to this topic.

"Universal design is a big movement across the world right now and we are sitting at the forefront of being able to make a really strong initiative in this direction," said Professor Ellen Braaten, coordinator of the event who first developed this idea out of her own needs as a person with physical limitations. "This first forum addressed issues that might seem beyond what we consider normal, like a normal walking person. What universal design will hopefully do is expand what our concept of what normal is."

Eight presentations were a part of the day-long event, and included topics ranging from designing clothing for women with physical disabilities, to problems and solutions in the design of consumer-product labeling, particularly for seniors or those who are visually impaired.

The INEEDS acronym came from combining letters of the sponsors, which include the College of Architecture and Urban Studies' industrial-design program, the near-environments program in the College of Human

Resources and Education, the industrial-and-systems-engineering program in the Civil Engineering department, and the support roles that the university's Virginia Assistive Technologies lab and the EOAA office play.

The second forum to be hosted on campus next fall with plans to showcase objects developed that keep universal-design characteristics in mind. Prototypes of these items would then later be submitted to corporations for possible sponsorship. Plans for next year also include offering a cross-college course addressing universal-design issues.

STUDENT DEATH NOTICE

Steve Jonathan Thomas, sophomore in the College of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

DIVERSITY

Continued from 2

Individuals can sign up for the summit as a community—for example, organization, race, ethnicity, Greeks, gender, religion, cadets, sexual orientation, student leaders—or can state a preference for sitting with a particular community. A minimum of six individuals is needed for each community. People who do not have a preference for a specific community will be assigned to one by program administrators.

The registration form for the event is available from the Dean of Students Office by calling 1-3787 and should be submitted to Judy Whitenack, 152 Henderson Hall (0255).

SAAP

Continued from 1

SAAP will increase awareness of violence against women among first-year and sophomore students, increase awareness of response options, and raise the number of referrals to adjudication systems both on and off campus. Plummer and Calhoun said they plan to use the grant money to hire a full-time victim advocate in the Women's Center and a judicial administrator for sexual misconduct and harassment in the Judicial Affairs Office, create a response protocol for cases of sexual assault and other gender-based crimes, and distribute improved educational materials for students, their families, and key referral agents.

A focal point will be to develop an effective response to electronic abuse, such as threatening e-mail messages or electronic stalking. "Most of the time, our jobs are thought of as reactive. So one of the unique things about this project is that it's proactive through educating and creating awareness," Calhoun said.

A number of resources are already in place on the Tech campus that will help researchers meet the intended goals of the project. Among them are the university's Sexual Assault Task Force, mandatory orientation prevention and education program, and on-going training of campus police and disciplinary-board members.

"We are pleased to be collaborating with Student Affairs on this important project for the

Virginia Tech community. Sexual assault and related crimes of violence against women can have devastating consequences, often derailing the academic careers and ambitions of victims and perpetrators. What we want to do is create a safer environment for students and this grant will help accomplish that important goal," said Pat Hyer, associate provost, who oversees the Women's Center.

Edward Spencer, who oversees judicial affairs, said he hopes that "through this grant, we will improve the overall environment and social norms to the point where all members of the Virginia Tech community will agree and ensure that such acts should not, can not, and will not be tolerated."

CHILD

Continued from 2

very effective and a good treatment that will work well with children," Ollendick said.

The second group will get an education-support treatment in which they learn, also in one three-hour session, about the phobia-inducing object and about fear and how it is acquired. The child is not exposed to the feared object. "Once the child has detailed information about the phobic object and they understand why it seems fearful to them," Ollendick said, "they become less afraid of it." There is evidence that indicates the education-support treatment is good when done well, Ollendick said. However, if the children in either group do not respond to the treatment to which they are assigned, they will be offered the other.

The third group of children will be in a wait-list control group that will receive one of the two active treatments three weeks after the initial assessments to determine whether some children improve simply by going through the assessment process, without subsequent treatment, as some evidence suggests. All three groups will get follow-up assessments at six months and one year to determine the treatments' long-time effectiveness.

The researchers hope to gain an understanding of what severe phobias look like in children and what the long-term effects are. "Often, phobias are viewed as relatively insignificant," Ollendick said, "but that's not the case. For many children, effects persist into adolescence and adulthood."

"Some phobias affect not only the child, but also the entire family," Shortt said. Some

children, for example, may not be able to visit friends or go to the park with the family if they fear dogs."

The group wants to study, also, what causes phobias, what temperaments pre-dispose children to phobias, and what thought processes cause an incident to evolve into a phobia.

The researchers need children and adolescents between the ages of eight and 14 for the study, which is all free and confidential. Shortt and Sander will provide the treatments, and trained graduate students will do the assessments, all under Ollendick's supervision. The study will start January 14. To enroll a child in the program, call Shortt or Sander at 1-3514.

INTERNATIONAL

Continued from 1

ernments, universities, non-governmental organizations, and communities throughout the world to better participate in local and regional forestry issues. The center is involved in short- and long-term consultancies in international-forestry-development projects.

Current IFC projects and consultancies cover a breadth of international-forestry issues, including forest policy and economics, forest management and reduced-impact logging, community forestry, industrial forestry, agro-forestry, and the tropical timber trade.

For more information, go to <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/ifc/Fmerry/pages/IFChome.htm>, or contact Amacher at gamacher@vt.edu, or 1-5943.

VETERINARY

Continued from 1

of about 14,000 square feet of flooring with a urethane/concrete composite material that establishes a water-tight seal between the floor and its supporting infrastructure. Hospital officials and epidemiological investigators had theorized that residual moisture from routine cleaning had penetrated the surface of the original 20-year old floor through cracks and other breaches and was harboring the salmonella bacteria.

In addition to resolving the leakage issues, the new floor also possesses a rough, granular surface that provides adequate traction for the animals and hospital personnel under both wet and dry conditions. Major improvements were also made by incorporating better drainage into the new floor surface.

"The floor renovation has been completed and we have a heightened surveillance plan in place to manage our patients and monitor our facility," wrote Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Director Robert Martin to area veterinarians in a letter informing them that the facility had reopened. "We believe we can serve you better now than ever before and that is our goal and commitment." A task force of university faculty members has been working with the university facilities staff and private contractors throughout the remedial and improvement effort.

A number of other structural enhancements were made to the Peters Hospital complex as part of the improvement efforts. Some of those include the replacement of existing wood casement and counter areas with stainless steel, the installation of new stall matting in many of the animal holding areas, and new electronic plumbing fixtures designed to foster high standards of biosecurity in the hospital environment, according to Hospital Administrator Rick Hiller.

VMRCVM clinical services for large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep and goats had been available throughout the shut-down period on an outpatient basis, Martin said. But major clinical services had been curtailed in the facility that includes animal holding stalls for 37 patients and two large-animal surgical suites. About 1,100 large-animal patients are treated in the Peters hospital annually.

"This has been a major project that has required the assistance, cooperation and understanding of many people in our college and among those we serve," said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre. "Our clients expect excellence in animal health care from us, and these steps were taken to ensure that we meet those expectations."

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