

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

See page 4 for  
additional campus  
news.

## Searchable database created for Diversity Resources Center

By Jean Elliott

Two years of collaborative effort by faculty members and graduate students in the Department of Teaching and Learning has produced the recent unveiling of the Diversity Resources Center (DRC).

The purpose of the DRC is to promote social equality by transforming educational practices and curricula. The DRC offers a searchable database that provides print, media, and web-based resources relevant to developing "diversity-inclusive" curricula and pedagogy for use by students, faculty members, and educators. Materials are selected for relevance to different subject areas (e.g. math, English, science or social studies) and will eventually include resources for college-level teaching.

"By 'diversity-inclusive,' we intend a commitment to developing anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-homophobic curricula and pedagogies appropriate to K-12 teaching, as well as for higher education," project coordinator and associate professor Megan Boler said.

The resources listed in the Diversity Resources Center database can be located either at the Virginia Tech Newman library, on Newman reserve, or (for browsing only) in the collection housed on the third floor of the War Memorial Hall.

An extensive, reviewed collection of more than 300 resources, the DRC has been a combined effort of teaching and learning faculty members Boler, Kathleen Carico, Peter Doolittle, and David Hicks, librarian Susan Ariew, and graduate assistants Kelly-Ann Nugent, Evelyn Thornton, and Samantha Christopher.

"We have selected materials carefully with an eye towards quality rather than quantity," Nugent said. "All included materials

(See *SEARCHABLE* on 2)

## A Message to the University Community from President Charles Steger

Dear Colleagues,

The Commonwealth of Virginia continues to experience revenue shortfalls. The governor has announced further cuts for state agencies, including Virginia Tech, in this fiscal year. The governor has asked that we prepare reduction scenarios of 7, 11, and 15 percent. All agencies will incur at least 5-percent reduction in General Fund appropriations. For Virginia Tech (208 and 229 divisions), every 1-percent reduction equates to \$2.2 million.

These plans are due to the administration by September 20. In addition to looking for further savings, we will be working to identify other sources of revenue. In anticipation of possible budget adjustments, we have been identifying strategies to minimize the impact on core academic programs. Guidelines will be promulgated by the provost and executive vice president later this week.

While it is distressing that we must again incur losses on top of those already mandated, we must remain focused on why we are here. Most of us work in academe because we are committed

(See *MESSAGE* on 4)

## Farm/Family Showcase offers varied activities

By Netta Benton

Virginia Tech's Second Annual Farm and Family Showcase offers something for the entire family, with programs and events ranging from the world's largest portable aquarium to a cornfield maze, gardening and home-repair demonstrations, and forest management to an air-rifle range, home food-safety tips, recipes, family activities, and displays and programs for farmers including cattle, goats, grain, forest, forage, and aquaculture. The event, scheduled for Kentland Farm Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 5 through 7, will highlight agricultural, natural, and human-resources education and research.

The 1,700-acre Kentland Farm, the university's newest and largest agricultural research and teaching unit, is located along the New River eight miles west of campus. There is no admission charge for the showcase, and parking is free.

More than 12,000 people attended last year's event, and an even larger number is expected for this year's expanded program. A large trade show will be held in conjunction with the showcase.

Many programs specifically for children and teens offer young people opportunities to learn about agricultural and the natural world around them. Homeowners can find out how to maintain their lawnmowers, make simple home repairs, or create a backyard

(See *FARM/FAMILY* on 4)



*Moving In 2002*

(J. McCormick)

## BOV approves Stadium expansion, WFU partnership

By Sarah Newbill

The Board of Visitors met this week and unanimously voted to move forward with the west-side stadium expansion. The board authorized the university to proceed with the original concept for the West Side Stadium Expansion project at a cost of \$47.8 million, once the university administration has confirmed the "reasonableness of the fund-raising target in accordance with the cash-flow requirements of the financing plan."

At the June BOV meeting, the university recommended a delay in finalizing a decision regarding the updated design, which included adding 5,500 seats to the original west-side plans, allotting time to evaluate the financial feasibility of such an endeavor. Turner Construction, a sub-contractor to the architecture firm of HOK in Kansas City,

was hired to do the evaluation over the summer. Their report confirmed to university officials that the added cost for the additional seats was not in their financial best interest at this time. The decision was made to go back to the original plan approved on Monday.

The original west-side expansion plans incorporate a two-story Hall of Fame, four elevators, a new ticket office, new Hokie Club office, administrative offices, and two tiers of press boxes across the top of the entire west side, making it level with the top of the existing press box. There are still two options being discussed for the current press-box area, either to retrofit/renovate the existing facilities or build a new one. Suites and interior club seats will also be available, potentially adding 800 seats, which will provide the main source of revenue for the expansion.

The exterior face will mimic the gothic look of Burruss Hall, with two illuminated VT logos on the elevator towers. The fence will be removed to provide a landscaped front area, and a parking lot there will serve visitors on non-game days who want to buy tickets, visit the Hall of Fame or see employees housed in the structure. Also included in the plans is an extensive student athletic academic area with computer rooms and study halls to accommodate the 500-plus university athletes.

"We looked at as many scenarios as possible for the most effective expansion," said Tom Gabbard, associate director of athletics, internal affairs. Gabbard added the original plan was the best way to go, since it did not compromise any of the programmed areas needed. "The academic situation was most critical—we want

(See *BOV* on 4)

## EDA provides \$2 million for incubator

By Jean Elliott

The U.S. Department of Commerce, through its Economic Development Administration, is providing a \$2-million grant to the Virginia Tech Foundation for the construction of a small business in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The announcement was made by Congressman Rick Boucher at the CRC on Monday.

(See *EDA* on 4)

### Governor Warner's Bond Kick-Off Event

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m.  
Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke

For more information about the bond campaign, go to <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/bonds/>.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 30

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.  
Last Day to Add.

### Sunday, 1

Football, 2:30 p.m., Lane Stadium: LSU.

### Monday, 2

Labor Day for Staff Members. (Classes Meet)  
Art Gallery Exhibit Opening, Squires Perspective Gallery. (through 10-10).

### Tuesday, 3

Art Gallery Exhibit Opening, Armory Art Gallery. (through 9-20).

On-campus Bloodmobile. (through 9-5).

### Wednesday, 4

Farm Family Showcase, Kentland Farm. (through 9-7).  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF.

### Friday, 6

Rosh Hashanah Begins.

## BULLETINS

### Provost issues WMAS call for proposals

The Office of the Provost has issued the annual call for proposals for the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Series for 2002-2003. The deadline for applications is September 20. The fund, as in past years, provides up to \$500 to supplement departmental or college funds in support of guest lectures and performances from women and minority members.

The primary purpose of the program is to increase the number and diversity of scholarly voices and artistic expressions from groups that are under-represented on the faculty. Typically, guest lecturers or performers meet with students, faculty members, and administrators; attend or assist in related classes; and do a public presentation open to the university and larger community where appropriate. The program may lead, in some cases, to new or strengthened scholarly collaborations or even a serious interest in pursuing an appointment to the faculty. Students should have a significant opportunity to interact with each of these guests so that we can increase their exposure to successful women and minority role models.

Application forms are available on line at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/WMASLS/overview.htm>.

### 'Super Job Search Saturday' scheduled

Career Services is sponsoring "Super Job Search Saturday," a one-day seminar September 7, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown front auditorium.

Topics include evaluating offers and benefits, behavioral interviewing, transitioning from college to work, and job-search strategies. The registration fee is \$12; lunch will be included. Register in Career Services, Henderson top floor. The registration deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 5 p.m.

### Printing Services now on line

Virginia Tech Printing Services is now on line at <http://www.printing.vt.edu>. Visit the web site for information about services, billing, and policies for students and departments. Questions and comments may be directed to [printing@vt.edu](mailto:printing@vt.edu).

### International forestry symposium set

The Department of Forestry in the College of Natural

Resources and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) will present a "Symposium on Statistics and Information Technology in Forestry" September 8 through 12 on campus. Professors, graduate students, and forestry professionals will present their research work and advancements to the international forestry world.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a scientific forum for the exchange of information related to the advancement of statistics and information technology in the practice of forestry. The forum will include oral and poster presentations by participants, as well as computer demonstrations of recent advances relevant to the symposium theme. Meeting sessions will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Computer demonstrations will be held in the Advanced Communications and Technology Center.

The registration fee is \$350. To register, visit [www.conted.vt.edu/iufro.htm](http://www.conted.vt.edu/iufro.htm).

IUFRO is a non-profit, non-governmental scientific organization open to organizations and individuals involved in forestry research and forest-related sciences.

## MACRO 2002 Review to update industry

During the last 25 years, synergies of proven macromolecular design and synthesis capabilities have been integrated with expertise in characterization, analysis, modeling, and physical property determination at Virginia Tech. The interdisciplinary teams of investigators plan to integrate their skills and to describe activities in several emerging technological areas of national importance. These areas include polymer synthesis, structure-property-processing behavior, adhesives, sealants and interfacial science, and biomaterials.

The joint MACRO 2002: An Update of Macromolecular Education and Research at Virginia Tech, scheduled for September 4 through 6, will be held at the Squires Student Center. There will be opportunities for scientists and engineers from industry and government to learn new aspects of the integrated research and education programs at Virginia Tech, with special focus on the Center for Adhesive and Sealant Science and the Polymer Materials and Interfaces Laboratory, through faculty presentations and student posters.

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, the program will begin at 1 p.m. with welcoming remarks by James Blair, associate provost for research and interdisciplinary programs, and will conclude with a student poster session, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Owens Banquet Room South.

Thursday's joint program begins at 8 a.m. with remarks by Leonard Peters on research opportunities and how the university and industry can work together and continues until noon and then picks up again at 1:30 p.m. and continues until 5 p.m. The day concludes with a student poster session, beginning at 5:15 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Commonwealth Room. The university community is invited to attend any part of the technical program.

On-line registration and more information is available at [www.cass.vt.edu/MeetingsEvents.htm](http://www.cass.vt.edu/MeetingsEvents.htm).

## Staff mentoring program begins fourth year

By Clara Cox

Newly placed classified staff members working in pay bands 2, 3, and 4 office/clerical positions have the opportunity to participate in a mentoring program designed to provide professional support from mentors in existing similar positions. The Mentoring Program for Classified Employees of Virginia Tech, initiated in 1999, will hold its Fourth Annual kick-off luncheon on September 12.

According to Robin Atkins, Vickie Carroll, Shelia Collins and Carolyne Dudding, the four writers of the original Affirmative Action Incentive Grant, and members of the Office Managers Development Group (OMDG), which developed and operated the mentoring program, the luncheon will target those mentors identified by membership in the OMDG, attendees of the April Mentoring Evaluation Program, mentees from last year's program, and any prospective mentors who may wish to participate. The event will be held September 12, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Hillcrest Hall.

Employees interested in learning more about the upcoming program or becoming a mentor or mentee should contact Terri Tishman at [ULD@vt.edu](mailto:ULD@vt.edu) or 1-6727 today.

One of the objectives of the program is to facilitate initial and continuing professional

support to Virginia Tech classified employees within the pay bands 2 through 4. Other objectives of the program are to enhance a communication network within the office-managers profession, to encourage present staff members in office-management positions to exercise leadership skills, to provide an opportunity for cross training and shared learning between departments and colleges as a method of improving the quality of service, and to maintain a reference handbook that includes URL's, and contact information concerning university policies and procedures.

The program provides a significant opportunity for new employees to create or enhance their comfort level and allows the ability to "tap into" an already existing network of experienced office managers.

The original committee that operated the program has expanded to an advisory board with seven initial staff members and one ULD representative.

The program is supported by the Office Managers Development Group, University Leadership Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Personnel Services.

For more information, contact any Advisory Board member at <http://uld.vt.edu/4.1oprograms.htm> or ULD at 1-6727.

## Hush Harbor Choir seeks participants

Nikki Giovanni's Hush Harbor Choir (directed by Carolyn Dixon) will perform in conjunction with the Fifth Annual Celebration of Diversity and in commemoration of last year's tragedy on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

No audition is required however, sign-up and one rehearsal are required. Call 1-3787 to sign up. Those who wish to participate will need to attend the rehearsal at 4 p.m. in Burruss auditorium on the afternoon of September 11. The performance is at 7 p.m. on September 11.

No special attire is required.

Since 1997, Hush Harbor has been celebrated by Nikki Giovanni's Harlem Renaissance Class. It is a way of remembering, through songs, the perils that slaves of African descent faced in their efforts to practice their religious beliefs.

Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodations to attend this program should contact the Dean of Students office at 1-3787, TTY 1-8718.

## TechStart offered to entrepreneurs

Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, with support from the Virginia Tech Intellectual Property Foundation and the New Century Technology Council will present TechStart BootCamp at the Donaldson Brown Center on September 12 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The program is designed for university technology researchers, as well as local start-up technology companies and entrepreneurs, to attend the event. President Charles Steger will present opening remarks on Entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech.

Topics include financing your tech business, federal funding, IP protection, elements of a successful business plan, assessing a technology's commercial potential, regional support services, balancing academic and entrepreneurial demands, technology transfer from university, entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, and more.

For more information or to register, go to <http://cit.registrationonline.com/citorg/events.asp> or call 703-689-3080

## SEARCHABLE

Continued from 1

have been reviewed to ensure their integrity according to the 'social justice' criteria our group developed."

The project has been made possible by funds from the Department of Teaching and Learning, the College of Human Resources and Education, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The database is at <http://edpsychserver.ed.vt.edu/diversity>.

## CAMPUS UPDATE

### Parking lots expanded, renovated

Over the summer Parking Services, Physical Plant, and Virginia Tech Electric Services have expanded and renovated parking lots to better meet the university's growing needs. Several projects have been completed and several more are under way.

The bus lane that ran through the length of the B-Lot has been removed and replaced by approximately 115 new parking spaces. This was done to address the spaces lost from the construction of the Chemistry/Physics building. The East Coliseum gravel lot by the Washington Street tennis courts was curbed and paved to improve the quality of the lot. The Shultz lot was expanded on the north side in response to customer requests for improved access to handicap parking spaces in the Upper

Quad region.

While the above work was finished over the summer, the following projects are still in progress. Design work has been completed on the expansion of the section of Litton-Reaves lot that is closest to The Grove. Work will begin this fall to expand this site by another 90 new spaces to address the loss of spaces from the Bio-Informatics building. Design work has begun to renovate the two lower parking lots on Stanger Street (across from Collegiate Square) and to expand this site to include the vacant lot on Perry Street. This location will consist of a unified lot with approximately 160 new spaces when completed next summer.

For more information, contact Dale Huff, transportation planner, at 1-7641.

### Element K software training expanded

Educational Technologies has negotiated a new contract with Element K to increase the number of free on-line software tutorials from 200 to more than 500 and to include Books24x7 on-line reference manuals.

Technical courses such as Oracle, Windows 2000 system administration and Visual Basic are now available to all students, faculty and staff members. Microsoft Project is included with Office products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), while other popular topics include web design (Dreamweaver, Flash), graphics (Photoshop, Freehand) and multi-media development (Authorware, Director). A complete list of tutorials is available at [www.elementk.vt.edu](http://www.elementk.vt.edu).

A user name is required to access the tuto-

rials and may be obtained by signing up through the Hokie Portal at [portal.vt.edu](http://portal.vt.edu) or [my.vt.edu](http://my.vt.edu) (when it becomes available). Detailed instructions are provided at [www.elementk.vt.edu](http://www.elementk.vt.edu). To maximize the value of Element K under today's budgetary constraints, inactive user names must be dropped at the end of each semester. Users may re-register at any time, however, by obtaining a new user name via the Hokie portal.

For staff members who feel the need to get away from the office to concentrate on the tutorials, the New Media Center (1140 Torgersen Hall) is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and welcomes Element K users.

Questions, comments or suggestions may be addressed to [elementk@vt.edu](mailto:elementk@vt.edu).

## BASA members raise money for ACA

By Ada Hatzios, University Relations intern

Members of the Business Affairs Staff Association (BASA) raised more than \$8,000 for the American Cancer Society and won an award for the first year team raising the most money when they took part in the sixth-annual Christiansburg-Montgomery County Relay for Life held in May.

The theme of this year's Relay for Life was "United... We Relay." At dusk, participants lit more than 2,000 candles in honor of survivors or in memory of those who have lost their battle with cancer, said Carolyn Sowers, chairwoman for the relay and a personnel manager in the Cooperative Extension office. There were a record 72 teams at this year's relay, raising more than \$130,000 for the American Cancer Society, she said.

The BASA members named their team the "Hokie Hikers," and were the first official Virginia Tech team that has ever competed in the Christiansburg-Montgomery County Relay, Sowers said. Forty-one BASA members from the Controller's Office, Purchasing, Personnel and the Bursar's Office made up three teams of Hokie Hikers.

Jackie Hester, a Hokie Hikers team captain and BASA chairwoman, said BASA does a service project every year and chose to participate in the Relay for Life as this year's service project because they had lost several co-workers to cancer and were acquainted with other co-

workers who were cancer survivors.

"Not one of us has been untouched by cancer with a family member, friend or co-worker having battled this terrible disease," Hester said.

The money that is collected by the relay participants goes toward research, education, patient services and advocacy, but a large portion of the money that is raised at the event is returned to the New River Valley, Sowers said.

"A large percentage of the money is returned to the locality. It is used for patient services designed to assist folks going through a cancer experience, including providing transportation to treatments and for programs to teach prevention and early detection. Also, there are research projects being conducted here at Virginia Tech that are funded from the American Cancer Society," she said.

For more information on the Relay for Life, contact Sowers at 1-7619 or [csowers@vt.edu](mailto:csowers@vt.edu).

### 2002-2003 Academic Year Religious and Ethnic Holidays

University officials have provided the following information regarding religious and ethnic holidays for the 2002-03 academic year:

First Day of Rosh Hashanah, (Jewish New Year, begins at sunset September 6) September 7; Yom Kippur, (Jewish Day of Atonement, begins at sunset September 15) September 16; Diwali, (Hindu Festival of Lights) November 4; First Day of Ramadan, (Islam month of fasting) November 6; Eid al-Fitr, (Islam Ramadan ends) December 5; Martin Luther King Day, January 20; Eid al-Adha Islamic Holiday, (End of Hajj rituals) February 12; Ash Wednesday, (Christian Lent Begins) March 5; Pesah, (Jewish Passover begins at sunset April 16) April 17; Good Friday, April 18; Yom haShoah, (Holocaust Day) April 29.

## Moore hired as management programs director

By Sookhan Ho

Barry N. Moore has been appointed director of Management and Professional Development Programs with the Pamplin College of Business. He will oversee the college's initiatives in meeting the continuing-education needs of business, industry, and government organizations through faculty-led courses, seminars, and workshops.

Moore was formerly an executive vice president and chief of staff at a manufacturing company. He has been an executive-level management consultant in strategic planning, public relations and marketing, executive-leader-

(See MOORE on 4)

## EMPLOYMENT

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

**Six full-time food-service positions available.**

**Analytical Chemist**, 008009J, PB 4, SEMI.  
**Budget Analyst**, 006927F, PB 4, BFP.

**Business Practices Specialist**, 007952F, PB 5, Controller's Office.

**Development Associate**, 007871S, PB 3, University Development.

**Division Head, Construction Services**, 007597F, PB 6, CDC.

**Electronics Technician Supervisor**, 008011J, PB 4, VTTI.

**Employee Relations Program Coordinator**, 001073D, PB 5, Personnel Services.

**Engineering Coordinator**, 007133A, PB 5, VBS.

**Housekeeping Leader Senior**, 000575H, PB 1, RDP.

**Housekeeping Leader Senior**, 000552H, PB 1, RDP.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 007776C, PB 1, DBHCC.

**Hvac Installation/Repair Senior Technician**, 000700F, PB 4, Facilities-Mechanical Utilities.

**Hvac Technician**, 008001H, PB 3, RDP.

**Office Specialist**, 007463H, PB 2, RDP.

**Pastry Sous Chef**, 002712H, PB 3, RDP.

**Scientific Glassblower**, 001267B, PB 5, Chemistry.

**Senior Programmer Analyst**, 007992S, PB 5, University Development.

#### PART TIME

**Animal Care Technician Large Animal**, W020066M, PB 2, VTH.

**Distance Learning Support Technician**, 001467A, PB 4, VBS.

**ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal**, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.

**Office Services Assistant**, W022911F, PB 2, Power Plant.

**Office Services Specialist**, 007242J, PB 2, MNH.

**Office Services Specialist**, 001506B, PB 2, Philosophy.

**Pmm Support Technician**, W022979M, PB 2, VTH.

**Research Specialist**, 008012M, PB 4, Entomology.

**Security Guard**, W020470C, PB 1, Police.

#### OFF CAMPUS

**4-H Efnep Program Assistant**, 005845M, PB 2, VCE—Newport News.

**4-H Efnep Program Assistant**, 006379M, PB 2, VCE—City of Virginia Beach.

**4-H Efnep Program Assitant**, 005890M, PB 2, VCE—Hampton.

**4-H Scnep Program Assistant**, 007366J, PB 2, Albemarle County.

**4-H Scnep Program Assistant**, 007530M, PB 2, Henrico County.

**4-H Scnep Program Assistant**, 007464J, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.

**4-H Scnep Program Assistant**, 007816J, PB 2, VCE—Suffolk City.

**Administrative Program Support**, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering/NVC.

**Adult Scnep Program Assistant**, 008007M, PB 2, VCE—Dickenson County.

**Adult Scnep Program Assistant**, 006820M, PB 2, VCE—Norfolk City.

**Biologist**, 007999J, PB 4, CMI.

**Controller**, CCCCCC, PB 0, Virginia Tech Found-

dation Inc..

**Court Specialist**, 007984J, PB 4, CPAP.

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

**Efnep Adult Program Assistant**, 007642M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.

**Efnep Adult Program Assistant**, 006101M, PB 2, VCE—Arlington County.

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

**Efnep Adult/Youth Program Assistant**, 008008M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax.

**General Counsel**, CCCCCC, PB 0, Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc..

**Nursing Supervisor**, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.

**Research Specialist Senior**, 007997J, PB 4, VTTI.

**Scnep Adult Program Assistant**, 006800M, PB 2, Albemarle County.

**Scnep Program Assistant**, 007368M, PB 2, VCE—York County.

**Scnep Program Assistant**, 006620M, PB 2, VCE—Northampton County.

**Senior Program Administrator**, 006436Y, PB 4, DCE.

### FACULTY POSITION

#### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**VCE. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, Culpeper County.** Contact: Robert Meadows, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.

**Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville. Director of Finance and Administration:** Contact: Jane Swan, 145 Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

**Director of Marketing and Conference Services:** Contact: Ted Settle, 1080 South Main Street, Blacksburg, 24061.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Internet2 links educators and students from Seattle to Blacksburg

By Beth Bottom

The Institute for Connecting Science Research to the Classroom (ICSRC) successfully used Internet2 technology to link 500 educational leaders and high-school students at the ThinkQuest conference at the University of Washington in Seattle with the Virginia Tech Cave Automatic Virtual Environment (CAVE) in Blacksburg.

The CAVE at Virginia Tech, a project coordinated by Associate Professor of Engineering Ron Kriz, is a multi-person, room-sized, high-resolution, 3-D video and audio environment which, when viewed through stereo glasses, appears to extend infinitely. The ICSRC has collaborated with Kriz in using the CAVE to create K-12 learning applications where students can view such virtual subject matter as DNA strands and insects up close.

Thanks to Internet2 technology, Kriz and ICSRC Associate Director John Wenrich, linked ThinkQuest conference participants to the Virginia Tech CAVE where they interacted with teachers on the east and west coast in a live virtual-classroom environment. Carmel Vaccare, professor of instructional technology at Radford University, and Michael Moore, graduate student in instructional technology at Virginia Tech, helped coordinate the live CAVE interaction during the conference. After experiencing the virtual lesson, ThinkQuest participants provided insight into future possibilities for using the CAVE environment and Internet2 capabilities for K-12 audiences.

"Focus groups got together on day two of the conference to discuss the future of learning 10 years from now and methods we can take today to achieve this vision," Wenrich said.

Exploring the Future of Learning, the theme of the ThinkQuest conference, is a hands-on participatory exploration of today's most-promising emerging technologies, educational ideas and applications. During in-depth discussions, participants debated critical issues in the future of learning, analyzed tools and applications, and defined implications for research, policy and practice.

ThinkQuest has been selected as an Internet2 K-20 Initiative representative project. This initiative brings together Internet2 member institutions, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, libraries, and museums to get new technologies such as advanced networking tools, into the hands of innovators across all educational sectors in the country.

The ThinkQuest program was created in 1995 by Advanced Network & Services, Inc. with the underlying philosophy of student-centered, Internet-enhanced project-based learning. ThinkQuest programs involve more than 100,000 students and educators in 100 countries, who have created a library of more than 5,000 educational web sites used by more than 2.5 million people monthly.

Advanced Network & Services, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to advancing education by accelerating the use of computer and networking technology.

The bandwidth available over Internet2 is 10 times greater than the "everyday" Internet people currently use. *Net.Work.Virginia* is an advanced, broadband network that connects Virginia's colleges and universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, research facilities and state agencies.

Internet2 is a consortium being led by more than 180 universities working in partnership with industry and government to dramatically advance the speed and quality of the Internet's infrastructure and thus the ability to evolve new applications and capabilities. For more information, see [www.icsrc.org/12K20](http://www.icsrc.org/12K20) or contact Beth Bottom <[bbottom@vt.edu](mailto:bbottom@vt.edu)> at 1-9191.

### EDA

Continued from 1

The total project cost is \$5.8 million. The remainder of the financing will be provided by the Virginia Tech Foundation through its VT Knowledge Works project. The major focus of the small-business incubator will be the launch of locally owned technology-based companies that will generate commercial market products from university-driven research. The incubator will provide detailed technical assistance, business-management advice, and a broad range of targeted strategic help to the entrepreneurs who are its tenants.

Construction of the 45,450-square-foot building is expected to take 18 months.

### BOV

Continued from 1

to graduate people. We want them wearing a mortar board when they leave here."

"We're enthusiastic about moving forward with the original expansion plans," said President Charles Steger, who also said proceeding with the project in the current low-interest environment is a smart decision for the university.

If fund raising is on target, construction will begin at the close of the 2002-2003 football season, and be ready for the 2005 season.

In other business, the board also approved the university's budget-amendment request for the 2003 General Assembly session. The university will ask for \$9.5 million of state funds

for operations at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and \$6 million for operations and maintenance support of new buildings expected to come on line during FY 2003-04.

The board also formally authorized creation of the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Science.

The BOV has encouraged Tech's collaborative partnerships with universities with a medical school to develop research and educational programs consistent with the funding agendas of the National Institutes of Health, thereby assisting the university's efforts to become a top 30-research university.

Elaine Scott, professor of mechanical engineering, is serving as the director during startup. Scott gave a brief overview of the proposed school, indicating the initial focus will be joint biomedical-engineering graduate-degree programs, leading ultimately to joint research and educational programs.

(See 10-19-01 article in the Spectrum archive at <http://www.spectrum.vt.edu>.)

### FARM/FAMILY

Continued from 1

wildlife habitat. Agricultural producers and the general public can watch hay-baling demonstrations, working sheep dogs, and show and work horses, or learn about how to spot birds or protect streams on their property. These are just a few of the numerous events planned for this year's showcase.

Many activities are scheduled for all three days, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see and participate in the wide variety of programs.

The event is sponsored by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Resources and Education, Natural Resources, and the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

For more information and a program schedule, visit web site <http://www.farmandfamily.vt.edu>.

### MOORE

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ship development, and crisis management and human resources for the federal government and such companies as BFGoodrich, Sheraton Hotels, and Fortune Brands.

Before working in business, Moore completed a 20-year active duty career with the U.S. Marine Corps. He served on humanitarian, combat, and training assignments, including those in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean Basin, Europe, and the Horn of Africa.

He has experience as a board director, officer, and member of different organizations, including industry, charitable foundations, professional associations, and local government boards and study groups.

Moore has a Ph.D. in business administration from Kennedy-Western University and a master's in human-resources management from Pepperdine University. He is a graduate of several professional schools in industry and the military in management, leadership development, public relations and marketing, and facilities and civil engineering.

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## Smelly plant said ready to bloom

By Sally Harris

Just in time for the start of fall semester, the *Amorphophallus titanum*, or "corpse plant," is ready to bloom in a campus greenhouse and emit its intensely powerful stench.

A blooming *Amorphophallus titanum*, or *titan arum*, is rare, according to Khidir Hilu of the biology department, which operates the greenhouse hosting the plant. The plant's blooming drew more than 76,000 visitors in 1999 to the Huntington Botanical Garden in California and 5,500 visitors to Fairchild Garden in Florida. At the Botanic Garden of the University of Bonn, Germany, the line to see the flowering *titan arum* extended over two miles.

Located in the greenhouse complex next to the Horticulture Gardens on Washington Street, the smelly plant can't help its malodorous contribution to the atmosphere. The plant invests a lot of energy during blooming to heat up the sulfur-based compound in the flower stalk, so the carrion-like odor will spread several feet away from the plant to attract pollinators—carrion beetles and flesh-flies. The amount of energy needed to bloom causes the plant to do so only every four to 10 years.

The blooms, however, last only two to three days, so visitors will have to be vigilant to see and smell it. A flowering stalk can be seven to 12 feet in height and three to four feet in diameter. After the bloom dies, a leaf stalk resembling a tree sapling will begin to emerge.

The plant was discovered in 1878 in Indonesia, first cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens in England in 1887, and first bloomed in the United States at the New York Botanical Garden in 1937. According to Hilu, the plant has bloomed only about 20 times since its introduction to the United States. The *titan arum* is in the same plant family as familiar house plants such as Dieffenbachia, Philodendrons, and Anthuriums.

The plant is in the fiberglass greenhouse behind the Washington Street glass greenhouse complex. Look for the biology sign.

A web site with information and daily updates on the plant's status, along with photos of its progress, is at <http://www.biol.vt.edu> under the "news" heading.

### MESSAGE

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to certain ideals. I trust that commitment will help us work through these trying times.

Now more than ever, it is extremely important that Virginia Tech protect the integrity of the academic enterprise and preserve educational quality for our students and those yet to come. We spent almost one year evaluating our future and the quest for excellence. The result was a strategic plan that clearly speaks to our ambitions and goals. Funds will be tight, but we will not abandon our efforts to strategically invest in growth areas. We will invest in our future...we will invest in quality...regardless of the state's inability to do so.

I want to assure you that every action we take will be driven by the overall goal of preserving instructional quality, maintaining the research enterprise, and investing in areas identified in our strategic plan. These times are very difficult, but we can achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Steger, president