

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 25 NUMBER 9 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2002

President Charles Steger's budget meeting with faculty and staff members is today from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in Burruss auditorium.

Three departments recognized for exemplary student advising

By Liz Crumbley

Three Virginia Tech departments—biology, animal and poultry science, and mining and minerals engineering—have been deemed “exemplary” for maintaining a high quality of advising at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The university's Office of the Provost established the Exemplary Department Awards Program in 1994 to recognize the work of departments and/or programs that maintain outstanding teaching and learning environments for students and faculty members. Each year, the Awards Committee selects a different focus for the awards. President Charles Steger and Provost Mark McNamee will present the 2002 awards dur-

ing a ceremony on October 30.

“The Provost's Office is pleased that, despite the budget challenges, we are able to meet our commitment to recognize departments and individuals who do outstanding work,” said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate education. “Particularly noteworthy in presenting this year's awards is the fact that mining and minerals engineering and animal and poultry sciences have previously received the Exemplary Department Award for advising. The biology department is committed to student success through an excellent advising program and has developed an extensive advising manual that is exceptional in itself.”

As one biology student noted, her adviser helped her through “a nightmare of a scheduling

problem.” The advisers, staff, faculty, and head of the Department of Biology have created a “superior advising network,” as one student called it, earning the department a monetary award of \$20,000.

Advising was not always one of the many strong points of biology's program. In 1990, then-Department Head Joe Cowles and Professor George Simmons Jr. “forged a vision to improve advising.”

A special summer orientation program helped students make the transition to college life. Each fall, a select group of faculty advisers from several life-science departments met with first-year students to address concerns, show interest in the students as individuals, and reinforce topics discussed in the Freshman Seminar

Course, which helped biology majors “jump start” their academic programs and careers. A new advising workbook helped students chart their course through the curriculum. Special advising offices helped undergraduate and graduate students. An experimental learning community enabled freshmen to interact with advisers, counselors, and other student-life professionals, significantly raising their grade-point averages.

Current department head Bob Jones continues to build a professionally trained advising staff. The net result is a department whose members are revered for their dedication to and interest in students' success. As one student put it, “They are the most in-
(See *THREE* on 2)

VBI researchers receive \$3.8 million to study pathogen

By Neysa Call

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have jointly awarded \$2.3 million to Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) researchers at Virginia Tech.

Combined with \$1.5 million from the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, these funds will enable sequencing of the genomes of two species of *Phytophthora*, a plant pathogen whose name means “plant devourer.” Attacking a vast number of plants including soybean, cacao, potatoes, and forest trees, *Phytophthora* costs agriculture, forestry and nursery industries hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

Phytophthora species and their relatives, called oomycetes or “water molds,” are fungus-like organisms that are close cousins of kelp and diatoms. The joint award will enable VBI's Brett Tyler and his collaborators to sequence the genomes of two *Phytophthora* species. One of the two species to be sequenced, *P. sojae*, causes over a billion dollars of losses to the world-wide soybean crop. *P. sojae* was chosen for this project because researchers have been studying its genetics for many years, and because it has a relatively compact genome.

The other species to be sequenced, *P. ramorum*, is responsible for a disease called Sudden Oak Death Syndrome that is destroying California's coast oak ecosystems. It also threatens redwood and Douglas fir forests on the West coast, and red- and pin-oak forests in the East.

Tyler's research group will provide a genetic map of the *P. sojae* genome that will be used to assemble the raw DNA sequence data to be produced at the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI). The VBI team will then create a web-based bioinformatics-annotation system that will enable *Phytophthora* experts from around the world to log in and
(See *VBI* on 3)

McNamee Distributes Budget-action Letter

Provost Mark McNamee has distributed a letter to the faculty and academic staff in which he outlines proposed action aimed at creating solutions to the current budget-reduction situation. McNamee, President Charles Steger, and Executive Vice President Minnis Ridenour will present comprehensive plans for review by the Board of Visitors at its November 11 meeting. For access to the full text of the letter, go to <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/budgetnews/provost8.html>.

Depauw Sees Opportunities for Excellence in Graduate Studies

By Julie Kane

The university's strong vision, its values, and the strategic plan to accomplish its goals interested Karen DePauw while she considered the opening for dean of the Graduate School. From her 11 years of academic administration at land-grant Washington State University in Pullman, she was able to draw many parallels with graduate studies at Virginia Tech.

At WSU, she served as associate dean of the Graduate School from 1989 to 1997, interim vice provost for academic affairs, and afterward, dean of the Graduate School from 1999 to 2002. DePauw had the distinction of being the first dean of the Graduate School after its separation from research. In the last 10 years, she

completed program reviews for 70 masters and 42 doctoral degrees. At Virginia Tech, DePauw is dean of the Graduate School and vice provost for graduate studies.

“The roles and responsibilities of graduate deans are evolving,” she said. “The graduate dean has a room with a view and can see the various perspectives of the universities,” she said. “With the collaboration of university faculty members, graduate students, and the Graduate School staff, I am re-envisioning the role and responsibilities of the Graduate School. The changes we implement will result in greater visibility and viability of graduate programs at Virginia Tech and an increased number of gradu-
(See *DEPAUW* on 4)

Springs may indicate future water resources

By Susan Trulove

Throughout the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina are springs that bubble and trickle a few gallons per minute. Where does the water come from? Is it susceptible to groundwater pollution? Can it sustain a home, a farm pond, or a community?

In January 2000, Geological Sciences Professor Thomas Burbey challenged new master's degree candidate Miles Gentry with these questions. There is equipment for determining the source of springs that pump several million gallons per day—such as Crystal Springs, which is one source of water for the City of Roanoke. But there was no such equipment for low-

volume springs—until Gentry invented it.

The equipment plus a rain gauge has been in the field for 18 months, measuring spring output at sites in Grayson County and Floyd County. Gentry will present some of his first findings at the Geological Society of America's 114th annual meeting in Denver October 27 through 30.

“When it rains, if we see a giant increase in flow, it means that the spring's source is connected to the surface, such as through a fracture or fault,” Gentry said. At this Floyd County site, the equipment readout shows a shallow then a steep line, indicating two sources of water.
(See *SPRINGS* on 3)

Roundtable tackles deadlock on biotech food

By Stewart MacInnis

Academics, diplomats, government officials, food-industry representatives, and others will gather in Alexandria on November 4 for a roundtable to search for ways to overcome U.S.-European deadlock of foods manufactured with modern biotechnology.

Hosted by Virginia Tech's Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, the roundtable will examine such issues as consumer attitudes toward food safety, regulation of biotechnology in the United States and in Europe, precedents for breaking deadlocks in food regulation, and strategies for breaking the deadlock over foods made by using modern biotechnology.

The daylong roundtable will be held at the Hilton in Old Town Alexandria beginning at 8 a.m. Information concerning registration is available by calling (703) 535-8230, or through the Internet at www.ceresnet.org/outreach.cfm.

“Differing attitudes about foods made by using modern biotechnology and radically different food-safety mechanisms have brought Europeans and Americans to loggerheads,” said Maureen Storey, interim director of the Center for Food and Nutrition Policy.

“The supply of food to the people of the world is an issue that we must address,” Storey said. “Biotechnology offers us the ability to enhance the nutrient value of our foods, it helps us reduce wastage while reducing the amount of pesticides we use, and it can enhance productivity per acre.”

Preventing the importation of foods
(See *ROUND TABLE* on 2)

**Bonds on the Ballot
November 5
Vote Your Choice**

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 25

International Club Program, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cranwell Center.

TA Program, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Laramie Project.

Saturday, 26

Football, 1 p.m., Lane Stadium: Temple.

TA Program, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Laramie Project.

Sunday, 27

Native American Heritage Month Begins.

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA parking lot.

TA Program, 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Laramie Project.

Music Program, 7:30 p.m., Blacksburg Presbyterian Church: Faculty Recital.

Monday, 28

On-campus Bloodmobile (through 10-30).

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.

Music Program, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: The New Virginians.

Tuesday, 29

Art Exhibit, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday; Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Armory Gallery (through 11-15).

Faculty Development Workshop, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3310 Torgersen.

TA Program, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Laramie Project (through 11-2).

Wednesday, 30

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3310 Torgersen.

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

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center.

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

Thursday, 31

Family, Work/Life Resources Program, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.

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

Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.

Friday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

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

International Club Program, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cranwell Center.

Music Program, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium: New River

Valley Symphony Fall Concert.

SEMINARS

Friday, 25

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: David Litchfield, University of Western Ontario.

ENE, 1 to 4 p.m., 2150 Torgersen: Curt Suplee.

Landscape Architecture, 4 p.m., 400 Turner Street: Lihuan Zhuo and Dawei Xu, Harbin Forestry University.

STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane Hall: John Ryan.

Monday, 28

Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Sam Baechtel, FBI.

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Laurie Fox.

Tuesday, 29

Geological Sciences, noon, 4052 Derring: Jerry Harris, Stanford University.

Thursday, 31

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Dan Spitzner.

Friday, 1

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Brian P. Helmke, UVa.

Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Edward Stolper, Cal Tech.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Zak Fathi, Lambda Technologies.

STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane Hall: Lee Zwanziger.

BULLETINS

Free storage available

Members of the campus community who have extra files may send them to an air-conditioned facility in the University Records Center. The storage is free.

Additionally, Records Management Services has storage boxes (12x10x15) for sale at \$1.50 each or boxes (16x6x10)

for \$1. The boxes may be picked up at the University Storage Facility any day between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Kathy Cantrell at 1-6188, or e-mail kantrell@vt.edu to place orders.

Works sought for *Brush Mountain Review*

The English Students' Society is now accepting submis-

sions of poetry, prose, and essays to be published in the Spring 2003 edition of its magazine, *The Brush Mountain Review*. Students, faculty and staff members of all majors, levels, and departments are welcome to submit their works.

The deadline is November 15. Submit works by e-mail to subess@vt.edu.

Chemistry department's STEM seminar series begins November 1

By Courtney Ware,
University Relations Intern

The Virginia Tech STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education seminar series will kick off its fall schedule on Friday, Nov. 1, with a seminar by Ketan Trivedi of the Department of Chemistry.

The seminar, sponsored by the Department of Chemistry, will begin at 11:15 a.m. in 3 Davidson Hall. Trivedi's seminar is entitled "Instructional Material via Interactive Multimedia Technology on CD and DVD ROM's".

This series is a part of the Virginia Tech K-

12 Outreach Initiative, an umbrella organization for science, technology, engineering, math education, and outreach efforts. The seminars are aimed at increasing faculty members' awareness about issues in undergraduate and graduate education, and are open to all faculty members.

Two future seminars have been scheduled for fall semester. John Suppe, professor of geosciences at Princeton University, will present a seminar on November 15, and Joel Hagen, professor of biology at Radford University, is scheduled for December 5.

THREE

Continued from 1

formed and helpful people I have encountered in my four years at Virginia Tech."

This is the second exemplary department award for superior advising the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences has earned. It last received the award in 1997. This year, the department will receive a monetary award of \$10,000.

Graduate and undergraduate students alike benefit from the personal attention they are given by the department's advisers. Much of the success of the advising program hinges on the satellite-advising model that is used in the department. Students quickly learn to use the Central Advising Office to meet an array of challenges in their college experience.

Not only were the faculty members recognized for doing outstanding work, but the secretarial staff has garnered attention as well by providing faculty members and students with superior support and guidance.

According to a letter of support from graduate students, "Faculty members go beyond their role of advisers to become mentors, colleagues, and most importantly, friends." It's this sort of

individual attention that elevates the department's advising program to the highest level of excellence.

Jennifer Smartschan, a department alumna, said the dedication of the department's advising staff is instrumental to the success of students. "I was surprised and thrilled to learn that each professor recognized me and was aware of my personal schedule and hopes for the future," she said. "And each of these individuals was willing to assist me in meeting those goals in any way that they were able. It is the support that these professors give to each student that helps us plan our undergraduate careers and attain our future goals."

The Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering (MinE) also received an exemplary award for advising in 1997, and will receive a monetary prize of \$10,000 for the 2002 award.

With more than 100 undergraduates and 25 to 35 B.S. degrees awarded annually, MinE is the largest mining-engineering program in the nation. The department practices "proactive advising," Assistant Department Head Greg Adel said. A faculty member is assigned to each of the three undergraduate levels and each ad-

viser keeps a spreadsheet checklist on each advisee. "In this way, advisers are able to catch problems early while they are still correctable," Adel said.

Advisers also have an open-door policy, so students can see them without appointments. "At a huge university where many students feel like a Social Security number, the MinE faculty goes above and beyond, time after time, to develop a personalized environment for my peers and myself," said third-year student Emily Sarver.

All MinE faculty members are active in helping seniors find jobs, and for more than a decade 100 percent of the department's graduates have been placed in professional positions or graduate schools. "The professors have strong ties with industry leaders and are wonderful at helping us find great jobs in positions that interest us most," said MinE student Eric Gavin, president of the Burkhart Mining Society. MinE's success with student placement was cited on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal* in 1995.

"The faculty's work outside the classroom has made this department one of the best mining engineering programs in the nation," Gavin said.

ROUNDTABLE

Continued from 1

developed through biotechnology has created barriers that inhibit free trade in biotech foods well beyond the European continent. The issue of world trade in biotech foods is rich in complexities stemming from scientific, economic, and political factors. Adding to the complexity are the intellectual property rights of the multi-national corporations.

"Clearly, there is a need to shed light on the issues in this debate and develop strategies to address the deadlock," Storey said. "We hope that one of the outcomes of this roundtable will be a white paper that will more clearly layout the roadblocks and offer strategies for overcoming them."

Scheduled to make presentations are David Aaron, former U.S. ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Arpad Somogyi, director of consumer protection of the European Union; and John Lupien, former director of the Food and Nutrition Division of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization.

The roundtable is one of the Ceres@ forums sponsored by the Center for Food and Nutrition Policy. The center is affiliated with Virginia Tech, and it is dedicated to advancing rational, science-based food-and-nutrition policy.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Women and Minority Artists, Scholars Lecture Series award recipients announced

The Office of the Provost has announced the recipients of the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series Grants for 2002-2003. The fund, as in past years, provides up to \$500 to supplement departmental or college funds in support of guest lecturers and performances from women and minorities.

The purpose of the program is to increase the diversity of perspectives and creative expression available on campus and to increase the number of women and minority role models for our students.

Following are the recipients, speakers, topics and times for 2002-2003:

Brian Britt, director, Religious Studies Program, CIS and Jessie Meltsner, Women's Center; Susan Martina Kahn, senior research director, Brandeis University, "Reproducing Jews: The intersection of gender, technology and religion," Feb. 3, 2003.

Alnoor Ebrahim, assistant professor, urban

affairs; Leah Wise, coordinator of Southeast Regional Economic Justice Network, "Globalization and racism: building international networks among African-American and Latino communities in the US South to counter racial and ethnic tension and violence," October 30.

Nyusya Milman, foreign languages; Veronica Dolina, poet, Concert/performance: "Letters to myself: don't trust, don't beg, fate of woman artist in contemporary Russia," November 11.

Heather Switzer, Center for Service Learning; Lea Pellett, "Women's issues in East Africa, Central America, global girls education, NGO formation, international public health," March 2003.

Bailey Van Hook, art and art history; Sarah Lowe, independent scholar, "Frida Kahlo, Mexican artist," April 2003.

Bailey Van Hook, E.E. Smith, artist,

"Manipulated prints," April 2003.

Tom Ewing, history; Christine Ruane, "Consumer culture, gender, politics of women's fashions in imperial Russia," March/April 2003. Laura Perini, philosophy; Jenefer Robinson, professor, University of Cincinnati, "Emotion theory and the arts," Jan. 31, 2003.

Nikol Alexander-Floyd, assistant professor for black studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Ingrid Reneau, assistant professor of English, women's studies, USC, "Choreographing gender in the new world," April 7, 2003.

Carol Burger, associate professor, Center of Interdisciplinary Studies; Sue Rosser, "Using the lenses of feminist theory to focus on women and technology," March 20-22, 2003.

E.J. Smith, associate professor, animal and poultry sciences; Rick Kittles, "Race and the new genetics: implications for the origins of African Americans," February, 2003.

F.M. Anne McNabb, professor biology department; Tyrone Hayes, associate professor, University of California Berkeley, "Disruption of hormone systems and metamorphosis in amphibians by chemical pollutants," Feb. 6, 2003.

Lynn Adler, assistant professor, biology; Rebecca Irwin, assistant professor, University of Georgia, "Confronting asymmetry in the study of exploitation," and "Discussion of mentoring students and protocols for advancing one's career," November 7 and 8.

Donald Drapeau, head of theatre arts; Michelle Krusiec, performer, One-woman performance of "MADE IN TAIWAN," December 5, 6, 7.

Marcia Feurstein, architecture; Yasmeen Lar, "KaravanKarachi cultural and social initiatives," or, "Slums are not a lost cause," Oct. 5, and 6, 2003.

SPRINGS

Continued from 1

Water flows slowly through soil and rocks and quickly through faults.

A second Grayson County site shows no response to rain, which indicates that the spring is not connected directly to surface water. "Chemical analysis also shows it is clear of contaminants that would be washed in from the surface," Gentry said. "It would be an ideal site to drill a well."

Both sites have the same geology—hard crystalline rocks with fractures.

Gentry's goal is to find out how much water is available for wells, which is becoming a pressing problem in Virginia because of an ongoing drought, and also because rapid growth, particularly as the Washington, D.C.—Northern Virginia growth spreads west, towards the Blue Ridge. "Municipalities need to know whether homes can have wells or if water will have to be provided. Our aim is to develop a method that makes quantifying available water easier," Gentry said.

At the meeting, Gentry will report that the method works for a six-gallon-per-minute spring. An unanticipated finding is that not all Blue Ridge springs are a result of saturated soil and shallow groundwater systems.

"Blue Ridge geology and hydrogeology is complex and there are multiple ways for water to appear at the surface, which is consistent with previous findings by Virginia Tech Ph.D. graduate Bill Seaton," Gentry reported. Gentry's findings so far have not revealed evidence of water traveling a great distance—from rain at another site, for instance, or from water being pushed up when forced out of a reservoir by new water. "The small springs have responded to rain within 20 or 30 minutes, or not at all," he said.

Gentry will use his equipment to solidify what is known about aquifers, to determine how much water is available and the properties of the soil and rocks.

VBI

Continued from 1

interpret the DNA sequence. The annotation system will enable the sequence from *P. ramorum* to be compared directly to the *P. sojae* sequence. The *P. sojae* roadmap will be essential to interpreting the *P. ramorum* sequence, since this forest pathogen has only recently emerged and its genetics are presently a mystery.

Phytophthora pathogens are especially difficult to control because they come from an entirely different kingdom of life from most other pathogens and are impervious to most pesticides. Another *Phytophthora* species, *P. infestans*, caused the Irish potato famine in the nineteenth century. This project will help researchers understand how *Phytophthora* operates and how best to inhibit it from infecting crops and forests.

According to Tyler, "*Phytophthora* pathogens are literally destroyers from a distant kingdom. The genome sequences of these two species will for the first time enable us to identify and target their vulnerabilities to control them."

Sequences of *Phytophthora* will further aid scientists in decoding the genomes of diatoms, important marine species. The research activities will also train post-doctoral fellows and undergraduate students in a multidisciplinary, team-oriented environment.

Bruno Sobral from the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and Jeffrey Boore from the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI) will collaborate with Tyler on this project. USDA and NSF funding was provided by those agencies' collaborative Microbial Genome Sequencing Program. DOE funds are from its Office of Biological and Environmental Research.

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.

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

FULL TIME

Three full-time food-service positions available.

Biochemist/Molecular Biologist, 008028K, PB 4, VBI.

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

Css/Surgery Technician, 000496M, PB 2, VTH.

Financial Analyst, 006676Y, PB 4, OPS.

Housekeeping Worker, 001076H, PB 1,

RDP.

Police Officer, 008027G, PB 3, Police.

Proteomics Laboratory Technician, 008026K, PB 4, VBI.

Scientific Glassblower, 001267B, PB 5, Chemistry.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.

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

Assistant Computer Systems Administrator, W023369F, PB 4, Office of Transportation.

Distance Learning Support Technician, W023494A, PB 4, VBS.

Icu Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.

Office Services Assistant, W020838M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Pmm Support Technician, W022979M, PB 2, VTH.

OFF CAMPUS

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

News Reporter/Anchor, 002323S, PB 4, WVTF, University Relations.

Nursing Supervisor, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.

Senior Program Administrator, 006436Y,

PB 4, DCE.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Electrical/Computer Engineering—Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor. <http://www.ece.vt.edu/recruiting> for information.

Department of Aerospace/Ocean Engineering—Assistant Professor. Chris Hall, 215 Randolph Hall (0203).

Department of Geography—Instructor. Search Committee, Department of Geography, 115 Major Williams Hall.

Department of Geography—Instructor. Search Committee, Department of Geography, 115 Major Williams Hall.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Management—Department Head. Steven E. Markham, Search Committee Chair, 2009 Pamplin Hall, or markhami@vt.edu, Search closes in one week.

Optical Sciences and Engineering Research (OSER) Center, Postdoctoral Associate, Mathematical Modeling—Biological Systems. William B. Spillman Jr., Optical Sciences and Engineering Research (OSER) Center, (0356) or wspillma@vt.edu.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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McMullin returns from sabbatical with research information

By Sarah Kayser, *University Relations intern*

Steve McMullin, associate professor in fisheries and wildlife in the College of Natural Resources, returned from sabbatical research leave with information and experience to share with his students that can only be gained through hands-on experience.

During McMullin's sabbatical leave, he worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as a planning-and-human-dimensions advisor—the social science of fisheries and wildlife management. “Working for a management agency allowed me to return to my professional roots and to further enhance my credibility as an academic who has

substantial non-academic experience,” McMullin said. “Before coming to Virginia Tech, I worked as a fishery manager for another state agency.”

McMullin completed a number of accomplishments during his leave. He conducted personal interviews with all seven fish-and-game commissioners, 12 Idaho state legislators who served on natural resource-related committees, and 14 upper-level agency administrators. This experience helped McMullin gain insight on how politics play into real-world natural-resource-management issues.

McMullin developed interview schedules

for focus-group interviews with hunters, anglers, non-consumptive users, landowners, and commercial interests in each of the state's 77 administrative regions. He personally conducted nine of the 35 focus groups and trained 11 agency members to conduct the rest. Over 400 Idahoans participated in the focus groups, providing input to the strategic-planning process.

“The most rewarding part of my work with Idaho, is that in addition to refreshing my management agency experience, I was also able to collect data from several sources that will provide numerous publishing opportunities,” McMullin said. He will continue to work for the

Idaho Department of Fish and Game on a part-time basis throughout the fiscal year through a sponsored-research project.

In addition to working for the State of Idaho, McMullin worked on several projects of importance to his position at Virginia Tech. He conducted continuing-education courses ranging from one to 10 days for the North Carolina Department of Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Forest Service. He authored a summary report on the highlights of Virginia's survey of fresh-water anglers that was published for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

CVC Winner

Tami Riley, head coach of the Women's Lacrosse Team, has won a rubber-tree plant donated by the Horticulture Department.



RILEY

Riley's name was chosen at random from all who had returned CVC pledge cards. After the first two weeks, the Virginia Tech CVC had received \$65,043.20 in pledges and contributions from 335 employees (5 percent).

The goal is \$230,000 and 20-percent participation. The campaign runs through November.

Landscape-architecture students capture third place in competition

By Sarah Newbill

Three landscape-architecture students, Mike Casey, Rob Kish and Frank Hancock, took third place in the 27th Annual Student Competition in Landscape Architecture sponsored by the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) in conjunction with the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The students proposed converting a former aggregates operation (Holston River Quarry in Dublin) into an outdoor amphitheater, for the enhancement and eventual reclamation of the site. Coming in third place affords the team a cash prize of \$1,000. They will be honored at a luncheon today at 12:30 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Continuing Education Center.

The competition provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration between Virginia

Tech students and a local industry that is important to the economy of the New River Valley. The students worked with quarry officials to understand mining operation. They then developed plans for immediate improvement of the environmental and aesthetic aspects of the quarry, as well as plans for the long-term reclamation of the site once quarrying operations cease.

The competition provides an excellent learning experience for the students, according to faculty advisor Patrick Miller. “This is not just a blackboard exercise,” Miller said. “The students must understand the needs of a real client and prepare plans for a real project.” “The competition is a win-win for both the students and the quarry,” said M.J. O'Brien, president of Holston River Quarry.

Faculty Women's Club Fall Luncheon set for November 13

The Virginia Tech Faculty Women's Club (VTFWC) Fall Luncheon will be November 13, at noon at the Best Western Red Lion Inn. The program, “Sinking Creek Reflections” will be presented by Douglas Martin, human-resources manager at Virginia Tech.

VTFWC membership is open to women and wives of administration, instructional, research and Extension faculty and staff members. Retirees, or wives of widows of retirees, and mothers and mothers-in-law of faculty and staff members are welcome.

The purpose of the VTFWC is to provide social and intellectual activities to its members, to promote Virginia Tech, and to offer scholarship opportunities to deserving students. Members participate in interest groups, day trips, and luncheons featuring diverse speakers.

For more information call Carol Sorensen at 951-1247.

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ate students and graduate alumni.”

DePauw's vision for the Graduate School is to develop a rich learning environment that attracts and retains outstanding graduate students to work closely with extraordinary faculty members. “This synergy will advance knowledge and understanding, enabling us to examine the complex issues of today's society and tomorrow's future.”

One of her goals is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of procedures and processes that serve as the foundation of graduate education. DePauw is working closely with the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies to eliminate procedures that are no longer needed and rework those that require revision to be effective. Particular attention is being given to integrating information technology into the application process to increase efficiency and reduce turnaround time.

To DePauw, graduate education should be at the academic core of the university—closely linked with undergraduate education, the faculty, research, scholarship and society. “These partnerships would yield greater strength in recruiting for colleges across campus, enabling them to more aggressively participate in the achievement of the university's goal to become a top-30 research institution by 2010,” she said.

Through its recruiting efforts, the Graduate School intends to attract more graduate students involved in research, so that graduate students will comprise one third of the total enrollment. To accomplish this goal, a competitive package must be in place to attract out-

standing graduate students. “We must offer stipends, health insurance and tuition remissions to be competitive,” she said.

According to DePauw, “The 21st Century is a century for graduate education. The faculty plays an important role in understanding intellectual power and directing graduate students' talents toward discovery and inquiry. Through this process, faculty members can set the stage for new knowledge, new research and new ideas,” she said. The Graduate School will concentrate on preparing the future professoriate/professional, so that students can make a smoother transition from being a student to becoming a professional.

DePauw sees diversity as an essential part of the university. “Diversity is crucial—a

university's diversity is its strength,” she said. “Graduate schools should have a strategic plan for diversity recruitment. For example, at WSU the Graduate School developed and implemented a strategic plan for minority recruitment that provided incentives for departments to engage in recruitment. This resulted in more than doubling minority enrollment in the past 10 years.”

Some of the challenges and opportunities involving the dean and the Graduate School include working toward the strategic goal of the university and fulfilling its land-grant mission, “*Ut Prosim*.”

“Land-grant institutions have an important role to play in serving the state and in particular, preparing the future scientists, scholars, leaders, teachers, engineers and more. They

have a special responsibility for the confluence of teaching, research and service. The university should provide programs for life-long learning,” she said.

The Graduate School will be involved in facilitating the development of interdisciplinary programs where new growth is expected. Working with the Development Division, financial resources will be created to fund graduate teaching assistantships and named scholarships. Providing for academic integrity and quality assurance will also be a priority.

“From the materials I have read and the conversations I have had since my arrival on August 1, it appears that Virginia Tech is at a crossroads. With the university's interest and commitment to academic excellence in graduate education, I see some intriguing possibilities and manageable opportunities that I find stimulating.”

DePauw holds a Ph.D. in kinesiology from Texas Woman's University, a master of science in special education from California State University—Long Beach, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Whittier College.

She has received many awards, lectured in universities across the nation and abroad, and served as an external reviewer at a number of universities. She has authored or co-authored seven books, 23 book chapters, over 40 refereed publications, and delivered 52 scholarly keynote presentations.

DePauw is a tenured full professor in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise. She plans to teach a graduate course in spring 2003.