

# SPECTRUM

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Tech  
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## CALS IT group unveils on-line reporting system

By Stewart MacInnis

A Virginia Tech-developed prototype of a web-based version of the USDA's Food and Agriculture Education Information System, or FAEIS, will be presented this weekend when the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges meets in Chicago.

AHNR (Agriculture Human Natural Resources) Information Technology developed the prototype after being awarded a \$733,778 cooperative agreement by the USDA this summer.

FAEIS is a tool used by the USDA's Higher Education Programs to develop and disseminate essential national baseline data on higher-education matters related to agriculture, forestry, natural resources, human resources, veterinary medicine, and other allied fields. The information is used in analyzing the higher-education system and for assessing the availability of and demand for scientific and professional expertise by

field. Data are collected from departments nation-wide involved in two-year, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in those fields.

"This is a remarkably complex project," said Tim Mack, assistant dean for information technology in CALS. "It speaks highly of this college that we were entrusted with this project by USDA. There are very few land-grant institutions with the agricultural, human and natural-resource information-technology unit that is large enough to address this project."

AHNR-IT was tapped for the project July 1. USDA required a working prototype be ready at the NASULGC meeting November 9 and 10, that the system be ready for more than 100 institutions nation-wide to begin entering data into the system in December, and that a fully functional final version be ready during the coming spring semester. AHNR-IT will manage the system through October 2004, when the cooperative agreement can be renewed.

Texas A&M University conducted the FAEIS project for 10 years using a paper-based

system. Mack said a challenge the Virginia Tech team is addressing is not only creating a system to collect current data nation-wide, but to also have information from previous years accessible through the system. That is a complicated matter, Mack said, because the data were collected in several formats and the design of forms used to make reports evolved over the years.

"AHNR-IT can complete this project because we have economies of scale developed from combining smaller IT units in Extension and teaching into a larger unit," Mack said. "We already have several spin-off benefits for agricultural research and cooperative Extension because the project is based here."

The goal is to make the system easy to use, Mack said. It will include a web-based survey form for data entry, it will self-check the data, it will allow custom searches for information, and it will produce output reports in a variety of standardized formats. If some users find the

(See CALS on 2)

## Minorities in higher ed conference here

By Juliet Crichton

In light of the rapidly changing policies that govern efforts to achieve diversity in higher-education environments, the Office of Multicultural Affairs will sponsor a day-long conference for Tech administrators, faculty members and local educators to discuss the legal issues surrounding minority-inclusive programs. The conference, "Minorities in Higher Education: Legal and Programmatic Strategies for Inclusion," will be held November 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Conference Center.

Expert panelists and speakers in the areas of equity and diversity programming and services will lead sessions on scholarships, fellowships, financial aid, student-support programs, admissions, and faculty hiring, and will discuss relevant legal issues of implementation, as well as effective programs of inclusion that do not incur legal difficulties.

According to Benjamin Dixon, vice-president for multicultural affairs, the conference "will provide an opportunity to address minority programming in a proactive manner, placing the university in a stronger position to maintain its commitment to diversity."

(See MINORITIES on 2)

## Hokie fans show appreciation from Kandahar

By Sherri Box

Anyone who kept their eyes on the Jumbotron or watched the game on ESPN2 Saturday night saw some very enthusiastic Virginia Tech fans sporting Hokie apparel. Those excited folks in camouflage uniforms waving the maroon and orange weren't in Lane Stadium; they are currently stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Through correspondence initiated by Captain David Lee, University Relations officials at Virginia Tech learned that there were approximately 50 Virginia Tech fans stationed in Kandahar.

Lee, an alumnus of the Virginia Tech Corp of Cadets, is an Army engineer officer with the Army Materiel Command Logistic Support Element supporting the 82nd Airborne. Thanks to broadcasts by the American Forces Network (AFN), soldiers sta-

(See HOKIE on 3)



Approximately 50 U.S. soldiers stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan are also Tech fans. Some of them now have Hokie apparel to wear when they watch Tech games on the Armed Forces Network.

## Agriculture professors win national, regional teaching awards

By Stewart MacInnis

Two professors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will receive Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching awards November 10.

Michael J. Ellerbrock, associate professor of agricultural and applied economics, is to receive one of the association's two national teaching awards in a ceremony in Chicago at the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, or NASULGC.

James W. Knight, professor of animal and poultry sciences, will receive one of two regional awards from the association's Southern region. A total of eight regional awards will be presented, with two being awarded in each of four regions.

The program under which both faculty

members were recognized was authorized by Congress in 1990, and seeks to acknowledge the contributions of the best teachers in the country in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, veterinary science, and human sciences. The awards, jointly sponsored by the USDA and the NASULGC, include a \$5,000 stipend for Ellerbrock and a \$2,000 stipend for Knight.

"I'm just humbled by this award," said Ellerbrock. "It's mind-boggling to me that I'm being recognized by my peers at this level for doing something I truly love to do."

Ellerbrock joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1992. In addition to his duty as a professor, he is the director of the Center for Economic Education.

He teaches undergraduate courses in macro-economics as related to the food and fiber system, as well as courses in agricultural/

environmental ethics and a new course he developed entitled "Science and Religion: Friends or Foes?" As director of the Center for Economic Education, he develops and implements a state-wide economic-education program directed toward public school teachers, 4-H youth leaders, and other youth educators.

Ellerbrock has received the University Sporn Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, the only teaching award for which the winner is selected by the entire student body at the university. He has also received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the Southern Agricultural Economics Association.

Knight has been a member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1976, and also served as director of the university's Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from 1993 to 1995.

Knight teaches undergraduate and graduate

(See AGRICULTURE on 3)

## Board of Visitors to Meet

By Larry Hincker

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly board meeting on campus Sunday, Nov. 10, and Monday, Nov. 11.

The full meeting of the board will be held on Monday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. in the Board Room, 2100 Torgersen Hall. A closed session will follow.

Subcommittee meetings on Monday are as follows:

The Academic Affairs Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in conference room F, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC).

The Building and Grounds Committee will meet in open session at 9 a.m. in DBHCC conference room A.

The Finance and Audit Committee will meet in open session at 8:30 a.m. in the DBHCC Executive Conference Room.

The Student Affairs Committee will meet at 9 a.m. in 142-A McComas Hall.

Among topics under consideration will be adjustments to the university budget resulting from state cuts, mid-year tuition adjustment, and new degrees in biomedical engineering. There will be an information session on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in room 2100 Torgersen Hall.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 8

**YMCA Crafts Fair**, noon to 8 p.m., Squires ballrooms (through 11-10).

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

**Music Program**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Ensemble Concert.

### Saturday, 9

#### VT Open House.

**YMCA Crafts Fair**, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Squires ballrooms.

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

**Football**, 3:30 p.m., Syracuse: ESPN.

**Music Program**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chamber Music.

### Sunday, 10

#### Board of Visitors Meets.

#### VT Open House.

**Blue Ridge Public TV**, noon: Technology Today: Nanotechnology.

**YMCA Crafts Fair**, noon to 5 p.m., Squires ballrooms.

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

**Music Program**, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chamber Music.

**Music Program**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Guest Artist Recital.

### Monday, 11

**Veteran's Day Holiday for Staff Members.**  
**Board of Visitors Meets.**

### Wednesday, 13

**Women in Mathematics Career Day**, 9:30 a.m. to 1:40 p.m., Math Emporium.

**YMCA Noon Slide Show**, noon, Cranwell Center: Joseph Wong.

**Faculty Women's Club Fall Luncheon**, noon, Best Western Red Lion Inn.

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

### Thursday, 14

**Women Faculty Research Series**, 4 to 5:30 p.m., DBHCC.

**Theatre Event**, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: "Riddley Walker." (Through 11-17).

### Friday, 15

**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.**

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

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 8

**Geological Sciences**, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Susan Beck, University of Arizona.

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Sumitra Subrahmanyam.

### Monday, 11

**Biochemistry**, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Yuping Deng, Eastern Virginia Medical School.

**Horticulture**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Lynn Adler.

### Wednesday, 13

**Biomedical Sciences**, noon to 1 p.m., VMRCVM graduate conference room: Jon Sprague, Ohio Northern University.

**CASS**, 4 to 5 p.m., 303 Davidson: Alphonsus Pocius, 3M.

**STS**, 4 p.m., 132 Lane Hall: Gary Edmond, Australian National University, and David Mercer, University of Wollongong.

### Friday, 15

**Geological Sciences**, 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: John Suppe, Princeton.

**MCBB**, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Bernard Schwetz, FDA.

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: William M. Mullins, US Army Research Office.

## BULLETINS

### Service-learning course registration under way

Those who plan to use service-learning in a course, research project, or outreach activity during the Spring 2003 Semester should plan to register now by downloading a course-registration form at <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/sl/faculty.html>.

The Service-Learning Center is in the process of identifying site placements and developing resources for spring semester activities.

For more information, contact Michele James-Deramo at [deramo@vt.edu](mailto:deramo@vt.edu) or 1-6947.

### Women Faculty Research Series event set

The November Women Faculty Research Series event "How Should We Teach Science?" will be Thursday, Nov. 14, at 4 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Executive Conference Room.

Muriel Lederman, associate professor of molecular and cellular biology, will present material connected to her book *The Gender and Science Reader*. The program is sponsored by the Women's Center and the Organization of Women Faculty.

For more information, contact Rachel Christensen at 1-7806 or [rachrist@vt.edu](mailto:rachrist@vt.edu).

### Information-technology executive forum planned

An Executive Forum in Information Technology is being planned for December 11 at the Williamsburg Community Building, Williamsburg.

"The Last Mile to Virtual Communities—Telecommunications Issues and Answers" is the fifth seminar in a series outlining issues and potential solutions for going the "last mile" in providing high bandwidth access to localities. In addition to describing in plain language particular broadband-network options—wired and wireless—available in Virginia communities today, local community leaders will showcase network-based projects under way where they live and work. The forum will also address issues related to the security of community networks, giving participants an opportunity to ask experts about their security concerns.

Jointly sponsored by the Virginia Institute for Government, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Innovation Groups, and Virginia Tech, this forum event also provides an opportunity for people to meet and exchange views with leaders in the information-technology sector.

For more information, visit the seminar series web site at

<http://www.mps.vt.edu/ITForum/> or contact Tedd Povar at [tep3e@virginia.edu](mailto:tep3e@virginia.edu)/804-371-0202 or Judy Alford at [jualford@vt.edu](mailto:jualford@vt.edu)/540-231-2309. The program fee is \$95, which includes all materials, breaks, and a luncheon. For information regarding registration procedures, contact the conference registrar at 1-5182.

### Marching Virginians sponsor canned-food drive

The Marching Virginians will sponsor a canned-food drive in conjunction with the WVU football game on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The goal of the sixth-annual Hokies for the Hungry drive is to collect 65,115 cans of food.

Drop-off points for cans will be established at all four corners of Lane Stadium and at the Marching Virginians' practice field at the corner of Southgate Drive and Spring Road (across from Lane Stadium), and various locations near the stadium where tailgate pep bands will be performing before the 7 p.m. kick-off.

All contributions will be distributed through the Montgomery County Christmas Store. For more information, contact Eileen Oviatt at the Marching Virginians. ([eoviatt@vt.edu](mailto:eoviatt@vt.edu), 357-0493).

## Annual Women in Mathematics: Career Day activities scheduled for Wednesday

Virginia Tech faculty members, students, and alumnae will join approximately 250 young women Wednesday, Nov. 13, for an intergenerational, multi-media, mathematical celebration.

Sixth-graders from 20 area schools have been invited to participate.

The eighth annual Women in Mathematics: Career Day at Virginia Tech will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome session at the Math Emporium on University City Boulevard in Blacksburg, featuring Bevelee Watford, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Engineering, and John Rossi, head of the Department of Mathematics. From 10 a.m. to

11:30 a.m., students will participate in two 40-minute sessions. From noon to 12:40 p.m., students will interact with the Career Day panel. From 12:45 p.m. to 1:25 p.m., students will participate in the final session.

Career Day activities are sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and the National Security Agency. Co-sponsors include the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, Montgomery County NOW, the Math Club, and Womanspace.

For more information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041, e-mail [anderson@math.vt.edu](mailto:anderson@math.vt.edu), or by mail at c/o Mathematics Department, 0123.

## CALS

*Continued from 1*

system hard to use, Mack said, AHNR-IT will also staff a help desk for the system.

The project is being managed by Tom McAnge, and involves the participation of a number of programmers with specific kinds of expertise, Mack said. He said Andy Swiger, dean of agriculture, deserves much of the credit for the cooperative agreement being awarded to the Virginia Tech.

"Dean Swiger really was the force behind creating AHNR-IT," Mack said. "It was his vision that it would be a unit that crosses four colleges at the university, Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and Virginia State University. It also crosses the three missions of teaching, Extension, and research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. To accomplish that requires significant capabilities and expertise, and similar capabilities and expertise are required for the FAEIS project."

## MINORTIES

*Continued from 1*

In recent years, programs designed to increase minority representation at colleges and universities have come under much scrutiny. Challenges to targeted programs and hiring policies have created considerable uncertainty about the allowable strategies for creating an inclusive institution. This first-of-a-kind dialogue, Dixon said, "is for the primary benefit of informing, sharing multiple perspectives, and developing a community consensus for individual and collective practices on the opportunities and challenges of a public higher-education institution attempting to insure equitable access for all, in a nondiscriminatory and inclusive manner."

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 1-1820.

## To The Campus Community

### Cook Center Administrator Notes Success of Depression Screening

Over 2,700 individuals in the Virginia Tech community participated in National Depression Screening Day on October 10. Hundreds of individuals took advantage of the on-line screening offered on the Cook Counseling Center web site and substantial numbers came by McComas Hall for personal screening for depression and anxiety. It was heartening to see that in many instances

individuals came to the screening center with a friend or were personally referred by a supportive member of the faculty, staff or student body.

National survey data indicates that one in 10 college students suffers from clinical depression serious enough to interfere with daily functioning. Suicide remains the third leading cause of death among individuals ages 15 to 24. Depression is a disease that responds well to

treatment yet it is through each of us increasing our awareness about the signs and symptoms of depression that the most effective prevention can occur.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center web site ([www.ucc.vt.edu](http://www.ucc.vt.edu)) for more information on how to identify and refer a distressed student. Students or concerned individuals can contact Cook

Counseling Center at 1-6557 for more information and to schedule appointments. The on-line depression and anxiety-screening instrument will remain available on our web site and all members of the university community are invited to use the service.

*Robert Miller, director, Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center*

## HOKIE

*Continued from 1*

tioned in Kandahar are able to watch some of the Tech football games, which they said gives them a sense of familiarity in a time of chaos.

"Being able to watch your favorite team play makes you forget you are in Kandahar for at least a couple of hours," Lee said. "For me, seeing Lane Stadium reminds me of how wonderful and beautiful Blacksburg is, and that is definitely a morale booster."

Lee said he didn't like the fact that other schools had a visible presence among his comrades and Tech didn't. He decided to e-mail a request for Hokie gear to the university. Upon receiving the request, the Tech Bookstore donated 50 VT hats, t-shirts, and a Virginia Tech flag. These were sent to Kandahar to be distributed.

In return, each individual receiving the Hokie gear signed a small "Go Hokies" banner, which will be framed and placed on display on campus. The fans in Kandahar were filmed on location and it is that video that was shown on Saturday night.

Lee and the other Hokie fans, as well as hundreds of other men and women in the military, will still be stationed in Kandahar over the holidays. Anyone interested in sending care packages with items such as games, music CDs, DVD movies, VHS movies, snacks of any kind, general office supplies, personal-hygiene items or any and all Virginia Tech items, to the troops can do so via the American Red Cross.

**Captain David Lee, a Tech graduate stationed in Kandahar, with a Virginia Tech flag. Lee has earned three degrees from the university.**



## AGRICULTURE

*Continued from 1*

courses in the physiology of reproduction and a University Honors Colloquium on "Controversial Issues in Science and Society."

He is known among colleagues as a gifted instructor who can communicate difficult principles and skillfully address sensitive issues such as animal welfare, ethics, and research. He encourages students to recognize the connection between what they study in the classroom and what they encounter in their daily lives.

Knight received the university's first Digg's Teaching Scholar Award in 1992, and the W.E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1987. He also received the Certificate of Teaching Excellence in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1983, and has been inducted into both the university's Academy of Faculty Service and Academy of Teaching Excellence.

Ellerbrock is the first Virginia Tech faculty member to receive the national award. Previous Virginia Tech winners of the Southern regional award were L. Janette Taper, Department of Human Nutrition, in 1992, and John R. Seiler, Department of Forestry, in 2001.

## 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.**

**Aquaculture Laboratory Technician**, 008035M, PB 2, Food Science.

**Aquaculturist**, 008034M, PB 2, Food Science.

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

**Financial Analyst**, 006676Y, PB 4, OPS.

**Fiscal Technician**, 001778B, PB 3, Economics.

**Housekeeping Worker**, P002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

**In-vehicle Experimenter**, 007787J, PB 4, VTTI.

**Power Plant Operator Shift Supervisor**, 000329F, PB 3, Power Plant.

**Pre-prep Supervisor**, 000394H, PB 2, RDP.

**Research Specialist**, 007788J, PB 3, VTTI.

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

**Unit Manager**, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.

#### PART TIME

**Animal Care Technician**, W022914M, PB 2, CVM.

**Animal Care Technician**, W020556M, PB 2, CVM.

**Animal Care Technician**, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.

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

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

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

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W022172M, PB 2, VTH.

**Large Animal Husbandry**, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.

**Pharmacy Assistant**, W020839M, PB 2, VTH.

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

**Research Specialist**, 008012M, PB 3, Entomology.

**Secretary**, 002751G, PB 2, Physical Plant.

#### OFF CAMPUS

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

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

**Public Relations Administrative Assistant**, 007734J, PB 3, VTTI.

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

### FACULTY POSITIONS

#### INSTRUCTIONAL

**112606 College of Arts & Science. Department of Computer Science. Full Professor.** Contact: Bioinformatics Faculty Search, Dept. of Computer Science, 660 McBryde Hall, 0106.

**F3214 Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering Program. Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Professor/Associate Director.** Contact: Antonio Trani, Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 200 Patton Hall.

#### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**FA556 Agriculture and Natural Resources. Restricted Animal Science or Crop & Soil Science, Nottoway and Lunenburg Counties. Extension Agent.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall.

**112604, 112605 Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Research Division. Senior Research Associate.** Contact: Cindy Wilkinson, VTTI, 3500 Transportation Research Plaza, Blacksburg.

**F1050 Assistant Professor. Department of Geological Sciences. College of Arts and Sciences.** Contact: Carolyn Williams, Department of Geological Sciences.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
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## Alumni group creates \$10,000 incentive for College of Engineering

By Lynn A. Nystrom

A group of Virginia Tech alumni, in conjunction with the College of Engineering, has awarded its first \$10,000 prize to Virginia Tech's Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) for improving its Ph.D. program during the past year.

The alumni, members of the college's Committee of 100, created the award as one of several efforts to assist engineering in its attempt to improve its national ranking from its typical position in the mid 20s to the top 10. Currently the number of Ph.D. students per engineering faculty member is at 1.3. The goal is to increase this number within five years to 2.5. The top 10 schools now average 3.5.

"The CEE Department is very appreciative of the financial support being provided by members of the College's Advisory Board. We continue to place strong emphasis on the recruitment of high-quality Ph.D. students to our programs. We intend to use the \$10,000

provided by the board to fund special partial fellowships to aid in the recruitment of new Ph.D. students for next fall," said William Knocke, department head.

The alumni who contributed to the award are members of the College's Advisory Board and a Marketing Committee formed by former Dean F. William Stephenson. This committee formed a subcommittee to investigate how to improve the number of doctoral students in the college. Electrical engineering alumnus Hyde Tucker, retired CEO and president of Bell Atlantic International, chaired the Marketing Committee and Larry Marshall, senior research fellow at E.I. DuPont, headed the Ph.D. Subcommittee.

Tucker spearheaded the efforts to raise the \$10,000. In addition, he and Malcolm McPherson, interim dean of the college, and John Casali, the John Grado professor of industrial and systems engineering, decided on the award criteria. Ed Henneke, associate dean of research and graduate studies, gathered data

from the departments and made a recommendation on behalf of the college. Marshall also made a recommendation.

"The Advisory Board of the College of Engineering does far more than just give advice. The members are active participants in advancing the progress of the college and providing for its needs. In creating this award, they recognized the severe competition among engineering schools for high-quality graduate students and the importance of increasing our number of Ph.D. enrollees. The college is most grateful to our board and, particularly, to Hyde Tucker and Larry Marshall who led the effort. We are, indeed, fortunate to have an Advisory Board that shows such dedication and loyalty. The motto *Ut Prosim* is well illustrated by their work," McPherson said.

An Award Committee composed of four alumni, Mary Berry, Jerry Ballengee, Marshall and Tucker reviewed the available information. They also contributed to the award along with John DeBell, Jim George, and John Rocovich.

The committee determined the CEE department was one of only three in the college that increased the number of Ph.D. students per tenured-track faculty member when compared to numbers in 1997 and also to 2000. The award committee gave favorable consideration to CEE's several innovative measures. One measure was finding sufficient funding for multi-year financial support for Ph.D. students.

The CEE department also emphasized the recruitment of female and minority candidates, held recruiting sessions at the research seminars of other institutions, and provided a fully mentored teaching experience for Ph.D. students who teach an entire undergraduate course. CEE also provided the best rising CEE seniors an opportunity to have a funded research experience with a faculty advisor, aggressively pursued new part time Ph.D. students in Northern Virginia, and provided opportunities for direct Ph.D. admission.

## New development director joins Engineering

By Liz Crumbley

Lori A. Lewis has joined Virginia Tech as director of development for the College of Engineering. Since 1999 Lewis has been assistant dean of Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology, where she was in charge of strategic advancement planning, donor relations and major gifts.

"Lori is an accomplished fund raiser," said Tim Corvin, associate vice-president for development at Virginia Tech. "She received the highest percentage of revenue goal among all Ohio University development officers for three consecutive years."

Lewis received her bachelor's and master's degrees in special education at Ohio University. She has worked as a special education teacher and supervisor and as an early childhood director for the Athens, Ohio, public schools. She also taught at Ohio University for four years as a part-time instructor of educational technology and media.

From 1997 to 1999, Lewis was assistant dean of development and alumni affairs for Ohio University's College of Health and Human Services, where her fund raising exceeded the revenue goal by 235 percent.

During her three years with the Russ College, Lewis raised 65 percent of the college's \$30-million campaign goal; assisted in securing the \$5.8-million endowment for the Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ Prize, one of the top engineering prizes world-wide; and secured endowments for five new professorships and eight new scholarships.

## Geology student mapping West Virginia's wealth

By Susan Trulove

In the Mississippian Age, 335 million years ago, West Virginia was south of the equator and had a climate that resembled today's Persian Gulf—arid and at the edge of an ocean. Now there are riches layered beneath the valleys and mountains of the "Almost Heaven" state.

Geological sciences doctoral student Thomas Wynn is mapping the layers of rock from the Mississippian age across the entire state. He has two goals. One is to find and map oolites within the carbonate-siliciclastic layer of rocks known as the Greenbrier Group. Oolites often contain natural gas. His second aim is to better understand the transition from greenhouse conditions similar to today's climate to global ice-house conditions—an extreme ice age in Earth's history.

Wynn was scheduled to present his completed map at the Geological Society of America's 114th annual meeting in Denver in October.

As companies have drilled for oil over the years in West Virginia, they collected the chips that the drills brought up, noting each five- or 10-foot interval. The West Virginia Geological Survey has preserved these well cuttings. Wynn is now using well cuttings from 200 wells to create a three-dimensional map of the state's subsurface. In effect, he is connecting the dots between the wells.

"If you were at the beach and observed the ground as you walked in a straight line from the dunes to the ocean's edge, you would have little idea of the complexity of the area. You need to also walk up and down the beach at different distances from the ocean, for instance."

Wynn has located significant oolites. "There are pretty good reservoirs of natural gas in West Virginia—and throughout the United States," he said. But to access the reservoirs, drillers need to understand the rock. "The oolite is not uniform; its locations are controlled by faults and other topographic highs, or high areas."

Previous researchers have located the faults but did not document their influence on the deposition of oolite.

What about that climate change? "The Mississippian Age, from 335 to 327 million years ago, was an important time in world history. There was a major climate change on earth," Wynn said. "Little is known about how carbonate systems or any system reacts to such changes."

Carbonate rocks are those that are formed from carbon-based or biological materials. Clastic rocks are formed by water erosion of older rock. "During the time of deposition of the Greenbrier, as we go from older to younger material, we can see the rock change from carbonate to clastic. So the climate went from dry to wetter. The question is, what was the influence of tectonics—the movement of the plate from 25 degrees south of the equator and subsequent climate change? And what was the influence of the ice age and the forming, melting, and reforming of ice caps with subsequent changes in ocean levels? In addition to the complex influence of tectonics, we are seeing wet to dry shifts with the waxing and waning of glaciers. Hopefully my study will be able to answer some of these questions."

## GSA symposium honors Tech's Bambach

By Susan Trulove

The former students and present colleagues of Professor Emeritus of Paleontology Richard K. Bambach, who retired in 2000 after 30 years at Virginia Tech, honored him with a day-long symposium during the Geological Society of America's 114th annual meeting in Denver in October.

The program, "Seafood Through Time—The Ecologic Context of the History of Life," recognized "the tremendous impact of Bambach's research on our understanding of how marine ecosystems evolved and changed through the history of life," said Michal Kowalewski, a Virginia Tech faculty member. Bambach was a champion of studying evolutionary processes in their ecological context, and whimsically titled one of his papers, "Seafood through Time."

"Richard pioneered many important models for how ecological systems evolved through time and introduced the concept of time-averaging that is now considered the cornerstone of paleo-ecological analysis," Kowalewski said. "Research programs of many prominent scholars can be viewed as a direct outgrowth of his work."

According to Kowalewski, Bambach's contributions to the field of paleontology cover evolution of marine ecosystems, long-term diversity trends, and causes and consequences of extinctions. "Richard has also been a major player in developing global paleogeographic maps and in formulating a more precise system of paleobiogeographic analysis. His research interests go beyond paleontology and include stratigraphy, sedimentology, and structural geology. His work provided important insights into the geological history and stratigraphy of the Paleozoic sedimentary sequence in the Central Appalachians and elsewhere."

The symposium was organized by Andrew M. Bush and Roderic Brame, both of whom were Bambach's students. Bush received his master's degree from Virginia Tech and is now a Ph.D. student at Harvard, where Bambach is an associate of the Harvard Herbaria. Brame received his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and is now a faculty member at Wright State University.

### CVC Winner

Janice Herzog of the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine won last week's Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) drawing. She received a Virginia



HERZOG

Tech Baseball sweatshirt, donated by the Athletic Department. Her name was chosen at random from all who had returned CVC pledge cards by October 29. The CVC goal is \$230,000 and 20-percent participation. The campaign runs through November.