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Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Blair named interim vice provost for research

By Susan Trulove

James Blair, associate provost for research and interdisciplinary programs, has been named interim vice provost for research. Provost Mark McNamee made the announcement Tuesday.

The appointment is effective April 1, the day Leonard K. Peters, the university's vice provost for research, begins a new position as Battelle senior vice president and director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Blair came to Virginia Tech in August, 2001 from Oklahoma State University, where he was head of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department.

"Dr. Blair has a wealth of administrative experience and a successful track record as a grant writer and researcher," McNamee said. "In the short time he has been at Virginia Tech, he has broadened the university's research direction and contributed to the depth of our perception regarding what it means to be a research university."

Blair has been responsible for program development to help faculty members fund research, collaboration resources, and the interdisciplinary research centers. He has refocused the SPIRES program to build on university strengths and respond to national initiatives. SPIRES is the matching-fund program that provides seed funds for research and equipment in response to proposals to faculty members. Blair has served on the Battelle Technical Network, as the Oak Ridge Associated Universities Councilor, and as liaison with other universities in Virginia since joining Virginia Tech.

He received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from West Virginia University (WVU) in 1966 and his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Virginia in 1970, where he was a National Science Foundation (NSF) fellow. He was a National Institutes for Health (NIH) postdoctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin's Institute of Enzyme Research. He joined the biochemistry department faculty at WVU in 1972, became associate chairman of the department in 1983, and then department

head at OSU in 1990.

While at WVU, Blair earned the NIH Research Career Development Award, the Outstanding Teacher Award, and the WVU Valuable Friend of Minority Students Award.

His research interests are hormonal regulation of mammalian carbohydrate and lipid metabolism, protein structure and function, metabolism and toxic actions of drugs and environmental contaminants, and fish models for chemical carcinogenesis and tumor promotion.

Blair received research support from the NIH for nearly 18 years. He was principal investigator of the NIH "Opportunities for Minorities in Biomedical Research at Oklahoma State University," program director of the "Oklahoma Partners for Biological Sciences" project and the "Retention of Students in Biological Sciences at OSU," and was biotechnology project leader for the NSF-supported "Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) for the State of Oklahoma."

Warner announces guaranteed pay raise

Governor Mark Warner has announced that he will guarantee the 2.25-percent pay raise for state workers and teachers that the General Assembly had made contingent upon economic conditions.

"We remain in a period of economic uncertainty, but that is no reason to make promises to state workers and school teachers that we may not be able to keep," Warner said. "As a commonwealth, we must show we are grateful for the service and creativity of our employees and our teachers during tough fiscal times. Today, I promised our employees that we will find money to fund this modest pay raise, even if budget reductions in other areas are needed to make it happen."

Warner said he will request a revenue re-forecast in the early fall, if necessary. If that re-forecast shows less revenue than the General Assembly appropriated, Warner said he is prepared to reduce the budget without affecting the salary increase.

Budget amendments that Warner will submit to the General Assembly will remove language making the salary increase contingent on assumptions about future revenue growth.

The employee salary increase is scheduled to take effect November 25, for state employees, December for sheriffs and deputies, and other employee groups, and in January, 2004 for teachers.

President's statement on campus meetings

Recently, the Board of Visitors passed a resolution regarding a new approval process for meetings on campus. The resolution was passed conditional upon a review of the Attorney General's Office to determine its constitutionality. The Attorney General's Office has advised us that the resolution is not constitutional, and as a result there will be no review by the President's Office of invited speakers or meetings on campus. We will proceed with the process that has been in place.

Arguably, free speech may be the most precious of our freedoms. Moreover, the university manifestation of free speech, academic freedom, is the cornerstone of scholarship. As a university, one of our primary functions is to help students develop the capacity to think critically in order to evaluate new ideas and we have the greatest confidence in our students' ability to do so.

Charles Steger, president

Candidate forums scheduled for vice-provost position

By Clara B. Cox

Following an internal search, the final two candidates for vice provost for university outreach and international affairs have been selected, and the campus community will have an opportunity to hear them talk about their vision for outreach and international affairs during open forums next week.

Gregory D. Boardman, professor of civil and environmental engineering, will make his presentation to the on-campus university community from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, while John E. Dooley, associate provost for university outreach, will address the same topic from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2. Both forums will be held in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium

Each candidate will make the same presentation a second time for personnel in Extension and extended campus sites and for on-campus personnel who could not attend the first session. The second presentations have been tentatively scheduled for 9 to 11:15 a.m. on Friday, April 4, with down-link locations to be announced. The final schedule and locations will be available on the provost's web site at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/VPOutreach/candidates.html>.

Between March 24 and April 7, Boardman and Dooley are also meeting with key university officials, unit directors reporting to the vice provost, members of the Outreach and International councils, Search Committee, deans, other vice provosts and vice presidents, and Extension administrators.

Boardman is the former director of the Center for Organizational and Technological

Advancement and currently serves as a COTA fellow. He received a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Maine at Orono and bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of New Hampshire at Durham. He is a professional engineer and a diplomate of environmental engineering.

Active in department, college, and university service, he has been a member of the University Commission on Outreach twice and is a recipient of Virginia Tech's University Outreach Excellence Award and the Engineering Dean's Award for Excellence in Service.

A member of a number of professional organizations, including the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, he has been involved in numerous research projects, (See CANDIDATE on 4)

Hassell, Wheelan to speak at Commencement programs

By Meredith Trotter,

University Relations intern

Virginia Supreme Court Justice Leroy Hassell, Sr. will be the keynote speaker for Virginia Tech's 2003 Spring Commencement ceremony on May 9 at Lane Stadium.

Hassell, 47, is the first African American chief justice to be elected to the court in its 224-year history. Hassell's term began on February 1 when he replaced Harry L. Carrico, who retired after serving 42 years on the court, including 22 years as chief justice. Hassell is the 24th chief justice of the Virginia Supreme Court.

"We are delighted and honored that Chief Justice Hassell will address the

graduating class. Even before his election to this honorable position, he already had accomplished much, and it will be a privilege for our students, their families, and the faculty to hear his message," President Charles Steger said.

First appointed to the court at the age of 34 by Governor Gerald L. Baliles in 1989, Hassell went on to be elected to a second 12-year term by the 2002 General Assembly. Before his appointment, he was a partner at McGuire Woods LLP in Richmond.

Hassell graduated with honors from the University of Virginia in 1977 with a degree in government and foreign affairs. He then received his juris-doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 1980.

By Meredith Trotter,

University Relations intern

Belle S. Wheelan, Virginia's secretary of education, will deliver the address for Virginia Tech's Commencement ceremony in Northern Virginia on Saturday, May 10 in the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria. Nearly 400 graduate students are expected to participate.

Before her appointment as secretary of education, Wheelan served as president of Northern Virginia Community College, the second-largest community college in the nation, from 1998 to 2002.

In 1992, she became president of Central Virginia Community College, making her the

(See COMMENCEMENT on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Saturday, 29

Women's Month Event, 1 p.m., WMG multipurpose room.

Sunday, 30

Gay Awareness Week.

Monday, 31

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Graduate-Student Appreciation Week Begins.

Women's Month Event, 4 p.m., 321 McBryde.

Women's Month Event, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

Horticulture Garden Class, 7 to 9 p.m., Greenhouse complex classroom: Leonard Adkins.

Women's Month Event, 7:30 p.m., 129 McBryde.

Wednesday, 2

YMCA Mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Luther Memorial Church.

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center.

"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

Thursday, 3

Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan General Session Meeting, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., DBHCC room C.

Faculty Women's Club Spring Luncheon, noon, Farmhouse restaurant.

Women's Month Event, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Women's Center conference room.

Friday, 4

Women's Month Keynote, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Ruth Schwartz Cowan, "Innovative Perspectives in History."

SEMINARS

Friday, 28

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Graham Warren, Yale.

Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Andrew Knoll, Harvard.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Steve Dai, Motorola.

Thursday, 3

Landscape Architecture, 3 to 4 p.m., 150 Squires: Seamus Filor, University of Edinburgh.

Friday, 4

Landscape Architecture, 10 to 11 a.m., 150 Squires: Kathy Poole, Poole Design.

Landscape Architecture Panel Discussion, 11 a.m. to noon, 150 Squires: Mary Huges, UVA; Arthur Bartenstein, Hill Studio; and Amy Arnold, Land+Form.

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Susan Krueger, NIST.

Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m. 4069 Derring: Laura Wasylenki.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Manfred Wuttig, University of Maryland—College Park.

BULLETINS

Women's Month events scheduled

Following are Women's Month events, for March 31 through April 4:

March 31

"Mixed Media: Memory and History," 4 p.m., 321 McBryde. New York artist and photographer E.E. Smith discusses the style and content of her works, which often explore memory and history.

"In Our Own Words: Readings by Virginia Tech Women Writers," 4:30 until 6:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium. English faculty members Nikki Giovanni, Lisa Norris, Simone Poirier-Bures, Katherine Soniat, and Gyorgyi Voros read about women's issues from their works.

"Frida Kahlo: Reluctant Surrealist," 7:30 p.m., 129 McBryde Sarah Lowe is the author of a book on Kahlo, and will speak about the artist's connections to the surrealist movement.

April 3

"Women's Month Thank You Reception," 4 to 5:30 p.m., Women's Center conference room. Participants in Women's Month 2003 celebrate the month's events and recognize volunteers who made the events possible.

"From the Hands of Women," time, location TBA. Lea Pellet, professor of anthropology at Christopher Newport University, offers a brief review of her research on small-scale craft production by indigenous women, focusing on fair-trade, sustainability, and the relationship between economically

privileged and indigenous women. A reception will follow.

April 4

"Innovative Perspectives in History," 7 p.m. Conference Keynote Address by Ruth Schwartz Cowan.

For more information, check the Women's Center web site at <http://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/>, or call 1-7806.

Museum to present natural-history activities

Every fourth Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m., the Museum of Natural History at Virginia Tech will present a natural-history story-time activity at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Christiansburg. This month the topic is "Signs of Spring." This event is a mixture of children's literature and natural-history activities. The activities are for children between eight and 12 years old, but other ages are welcome if accompanied by parents. For more information, call the museum at 1-3001

Departments to hold reunions next week

The Department of Biochemistry will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a program on Saturday, April 5 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel auditorium.

From 2-3:30 p.m. speakers include: Dan Lane, former faculty member from Johns Hopkins University, and Virginia Tech alumni Richard Easterday, retired from Pharmacia, and George Emert, former president of Utah State University.

From 3:45-5 p.m., speakers include alumni Katherine Turner, Biogen, Inc., Cambridge, MA, Patti Taranto-Erickson, lecturer at Salisbury College, and T. Conn Mallett, Wake Forest School of Medicine. Contact Sheila Early at smearly@vt.edu for more information. Faculty and staff members and students are welcome to attend.

The Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a program on Saturday, April 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. From 8:30 until 9:30 a.m., a former department-heads panel will speak on "Transitions in the Department"; from 9:30 until 10:10 a.m., Alumni Distinguished Professor Wayne Purcell will speak on "The Changing Role of Agricultural Economics in Rural America"; from 10:40 until 11:20 a.m., Dan Taylor will speak on "Recent Views on Ag Research and Visions for the Future"; from 11:20 a.m. until noon, the Student National Marketing Competition Presentation will be held; lunch will follow from 12:15 until 1:45 p.m. From 2 until 2:40 p.m., David Kohl will speak on "Mega Trends in Agriculture: Implications for Academics"; from 3 until 4 p.m., concurrent sessions by alumni will focus on "Retail, Agricultural Finance, Resource and Environmental Issues."

Contact Shirley Baber at babers@vt.edu for more information. Faculty and staff members and students are welcome to attend.

James Earl Jones to speak on campus

Actor James Earl Jones will speak here on the topic "The Culture Quest: How We Affect Culture and How Culture Affects Us." The event, sponsored by the Virginia Tech Union and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, will be Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

Among his recent roles, Jones was seen in "Cry the Beloved Country," a story of Apartheid in South Africa. Other roles include TNT's "Percy and Thunder" and the title role in "The Vernon Jones Story," the true story of the late civil rights leader. Jones received critical praise for his book, *James Earl Jones: Voices and Silences*, a memoir published by McMillan & Co. in 1997.

Jones holds honorary doctorates from Yale, Princeton, and the University of Michigan. In 1990, the Los Angeles Film Teachers Association presented him with the Jean Renoir Award for his collected works.

In 1992, he received the National Medal of Arts from President George Bush. He has also received the NAACP Hall of Fame Image Award

(See JAMES on 4)

Gerontology center celebrates 25 years

By Annette Calhoun

The Center for Gerontology was founded 25 years ago in 1977-78, making it one of the oldest university research centers at Virginia Tech. More than 60 faculty affiliates, representing seven colleges and 27 departments and units across campus, participate in gerontological research and scholarship, supervise the studies of students interested in aging, and provide information and programs to communities throughout Virginia and the nation.

The 25th anniversary celebration, planned for April 3, will recognize founding faculty members and other associates of the center and present the 2003 Graduate Certificates in Gerontology.

Virginia Commissioner for the Department of Aging Jay DeBoer will join President Charles Steger and Provost Mark McNamee in celebrating the center's historical achievement. Toni Antonucci, professor of psychology at the University of Michigan and a nationally recognized leader in the field of gerontology, is the keynote speaker for the recognition ceremony, to be held at Fralin auditorium at 7 p.m. The

(See GERONTOLOGY on 3)

Wireless video-network research wins Navy young-investigator grant

By Liz Crumbley

Thomas Hou, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, has won a Young Investigator Award worth \$300,000 from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to support his attempt to bring about the successful marriage of wireless sensors and video networking.

Hou's project was one of only 26 selected nationally out of 220 proposals submitted to the ONR Young Investigator Program for 2003. In announcing the awards, the ONR called the recipients "the best and brightest young academic researchers in this country."

Hou envisions video-based wireless-sensor networks—composed of interconnected, miniature video cameras and low-power wireless transceivers capable of processing, sending and receiving data—that could be deployed quickly to provide accurate, real-time visual data.

"Wireless-video-sensor networks have important applications that could have significant impacts throughout society," Hou said.

Unlike wireless sensors that are designed solely to collect simple scalar data, such as the temperatures and vibrations, a video-capable

wireless-sensor network can provide rich visual details in rapidly changing situations, Hou said. This, in turn, can maximize accuracy and minimize false alarms.

"In addition to conventional surveillance and monitoring applications, wireless-video networks can be used in a number of novel applications that will enhance national security," Hou said. These include reducing the impact of security breaches on the nation's critical infrastructure and improving the government's ability to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from both man-made and natural catastrophic events.

However, video information is demanding of both network resources and power. Hou said his research will tackle three major challenges: "How can we design such networks so that they can grow as needed and not be limited in size? How do we manage the very heavy video traffic so that all the information gets where it needs to at the right time? And how do we maximize the lifetime of such networks using components with limited battery power?"

To resolve these problems, Hou will apply

(See WIRELESS on 3)

CAMPUS UPDATE

Exemplary Department Awards nominations sought

Each year the university recognizes the work of departments and/or programs that maintain exemplary teaching and learning environments for students and faculty members.

The awards program was established as a part of the university's Faculty Rewards Project, a project which seeks to clarify the expectations of faculty members, and define appropriate rewards for accomplishments.

This year, the departments and programs will be recognized for working collaboratively across departmental boundaries to fulfill common or complementary goals. The deadline for submitting nominations for the awards is noon, Friday, April 11. The sum of \$20,000 will be available for awards to the department(s) and/or programs as to be determined by the Selection Committee drawn from the university community.

Nominations are encouraged from undergraduate and graduate students, faculty

members and others who have benefited from the work of the nominated department(s). The award publicly honors the collaborative efforts and successes of a group of dedicated colleagues actively performing work that is essential for sustaining a truly excellent academic environment.

Letters of nomination (not to exceed two pages) should describe the achievements of the department(s) in this year's topical area of working collaboratively across departmental boundaries to fulfill common or complementary goals. Send nomination letters as electronic attachments by e-mail to Exemplary Department Awards Program Committee, c/o Karen Strickler, Office of the Provost, kstrickler@vt.edu, 1-3341.

GERONTOLOGY

Continued from 2

public is invited.

The primary mission of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech has been to conduct and support gerontological research in disease prevention and management. The center also strives to improve health care and care-giving services. Additionally, center researchers attempt to develop suitable housing and consumer products to meet needs of the elderly, and to reduce fraud and elder abuse.

Karen Roberto, center director, said the center is uniquely positioned to address issues facing an aging population. "The over-age-65 population is growing at unprecedented rates," she said. "In 2011 the first of the baby-boom generation will turn 65, and by 2030 there will be 70 million people aged 65 or older. Our educational programs prepare researchers, educators, and human-service professionals for careers addressing the needs of older adults and improving their quality of life."

In 1978, the former College of Home Economics became the first home for gerontology studies and a certificate program was approved by Virginia Tech in 1985.

President's Award for Excellence nominations solicited by April 28

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2003 President's Award for Excellence. The purpose of this award is to annually recognize up to five selected employees who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act.

All salaried classified staff members at any pay band level, as well as administrative or professional faculty members, with at least two years of university service are eligible for consideration. Specific exclusions for the award are instructional faculty members, academic department heads, deans, assistant and associate deans, vice presidents, Extension agents, and wage employees. Previous award recipients are not eligible until five years after receiving the award. For more information regarding the eligibility of any employee, contact Person-

nel Services at 1-7784.

Award recipients will receive a certificate and a \$2,000 award. The award will be publicized internally and externally.

Nominations can be made by any employee; however, self-nominations are not acceptable. All nominations must be submitted on an Award for Excellence nomination form that is available through deans, directors, or department heads, or may be downloaded from the Personnel Services web page, <http://www.ps.vt.edu/>. Evaluation criteria and nomination guidelines are included with the nomination form.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Monday, April 28, to the President's Award for Excellence Committee, c/o Personnel Services, Southgate Center 0318. Call 1-7784 for more information or additional forms.

Deferred-compensation representative on campus

The Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is established by the Code of Virginia and allows State employees to save for retirement in a voluntary, payroll-deducted, tax-deferred savings program.

As employees of the university, Virginia Tech employees may contribute the maximum amount for which they are eligible to both the 457 plan and the 403(b) program. The 457 program provides a wide range of low-cost investment selections from conservative to moderate or aggressive funds with maximum control and flexibility.

A representative of Great West will be on campus Thursday, April 3, for general-information sessions and individual appointments. General sessions (no appointment necessary) will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, conference room C. General sessions are scheduled at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

To schedule an individual appointment on April 3, send an e-mail note to Nancy.Roth@gwl.com and request a time.

For more information regarding the 457 or 403(b) plans, contact university representative Gloria Smith at gsmith@vt.edu.

WIRELESS

Continued from 2

new techniques and algorithms he is developing for wireless-video-sensor networks. "Developing good solutions for these networking problems is the key to unlocking the full potential of a large-scale wireless-video-sensor network," he said.

Hou's research attracted ONR attention because wireless-video-sensor networks could be used by the Navy in a number of ways, including on-land and at-sea surveillance,

video-assisted navigation and ship management, and remote monitoring of naval training exercises.

After graduating *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree from the City College of New York in 1991, Hou earned his M.S. from Columbia University in 1993 and his Ph.D. from Polytechnic University in Brooklyn in 1998, all in electrical engineering. From 1997 to 2002, he was a research scientist and project leader at Fujitsu Laboratories of America. He joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 2002.

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

Accountant, 004522F, PB 4, Controller's Office.
Administrative/Financial Services Associate, 007981Y, PB 4, IRED.
Associate Director of Culinary Services, 002947H, PB 5, RDP.
Business Manager, 004560B, PB 4, VAL/ME.
Electrician, 001691F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Electrician Supervisor, 002038F, PB 4, FES.
Housekeeper, 007476G, PB 1, DBHCC.
Lab Specialist, 000799B, PB 3, Biology.
Laboratory Specialist, 007974M, PB 3, CVM.

Laboratory Specialist, 008074M, PB 4, CVM.
Laboratory Specialist Senior, 008054M, PB 4, PPWS.
Laboratory Specialist Senior, 002610M, PB 4, CVM.
Laboratory Technician, 002999M, PB 3, VTH.
Marketing Associate, 008072S, PB 4, University Development.
Medical Technologist, 002666M, PB 4, VTH.
Medical Technologist, 006771M, PB 4, VTH.
Powerline Assistant, 006523F, PB 3, FES.
Sous Chef, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.
Study Abroad Coordinator, 007607J, PB 3, International Programs.
Unit Manager, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.
Assistant Health Care Coordinator, W023261J, PB 3, Adult Day Services.
Barn Manager/Assistant, W023021M, PB 3, APS.
Customer Service Specialist, W022853F, PB 3, Bursar's Office.
Two food-service positions available.
ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.
Laboratory Specialist, W023529M, PB 3, Dairy Science.
Manager Green Garden Cafe, W023352J, PB 3, HTM.
Project Manager, W023533A, PB 6, CNS.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238M, PB 3, Schiffert Center.
Small Animal Veterinary Technician, W020101M, PB 4, VTH.
Starter Marshall/Shop Attendant, W022113J, PB 1, Golf Clubhouse.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Database Administrator, U007433S, PB 6, IS&C.

OFF CAMPUS

Chesapeake 2000 Coordinator, 008073J, PB 5, FWS.
Nursing Shift Supervisor, 002996M, PB 2, EMC.
Wildlife Worker, 006644B, PB 2, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology, Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise Department. Assistant or Associate Professor. Contact: Jay Williams, 1-8298.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Cooperative Extension. VCE State Master Gardener. Contact: Richard P. Marini, (0327).
Judicial Affairs, Office of Judicial Affairs. Assistant Director of Judicial Affairs. Contact: Jennifer Calhoun (0277).
Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OFSA). Associate Director for Systems. Contact: Lisa Shires, (0222).

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Watershed-management program offered

By Susan Trulove

A new interdisciplinary undergraduate watershed-management minor, based in Urban Affairs and Planning, aims to establish a university-wide concentration and certificate program in watershed management.

The program integrates existing programs and courses from five colleges and 12 departments to provide a substantive understanding of watershed science, policy, and decision-making. The program is expected to prepare graduates for critical future tasks and will be a strong incentive for others who consider enrollment at the university.

According to Tamim Younos, interim director of the Water Resources Research Center, who facilitated launching the program, "Management of water resources is a critical issue facing governmental agencies as well as the private/industrial sector and citizens, and we at the university have a major responsibility to prepare future water and land managers to meet these challenges. Future water managers and decision makers need integrated knowledge and training in natural science, technical assessment, economics, planning, and policy."

The program was developed by a group of faculty members from several departments. A committee comprised of faculty members from those departments and the water-center director will provide oversight. Each participating department will report their students' completion to the Registrar's Office. The water center will issue a certificate upon each student's completion of the course work and the concentration would be noted on their transcript. A similar program for graduate students is being developed and is currently under review by university committees.

COMMENCEMENT

Continued from 1

first African American female to serve as president of a two- or four-year public institution of higher education in Virginia.

Wheelan received her undergraduate degree in psychology and sociology from Trinity University and was the first African American from Trinity to be named in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. Wheelan then received her master-of-arts degree in developmental/educational psychology from Louisiana State University and later obtained her doctoral degree in 1984 from the University of Texas.

Throughout her career, Wheelan has served in such positions as director of academic services at San Antonio College, dean of student services at Thomas Nelson Community College and provost of the Portsmouth campus of Tidewater Community College.

Wheelan is a member of several state and national organizations including the Presidents' Round Table of the National Council on Black American Affairs, the Jobs for Virginia Graduates Board and the Government Affairs Committee of the American Council of Education.

Virginia Tech at Northern Virginia offers more than 45 graduate degree and certificate programs at its facilities in Falls Church and Alexandria. Most courses are designed for working professionals and are offered in the evenings and on weekends. More than 50 Virginia Tech full-time resident faculty members teach in the Northern Virginia locations.

English faculty members read for Women's Month

By Sally Harris

Five English department faculty members who are award-winning writers will share their words with the public Monday, March 31, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC) auditorium.

Their readings, a part of Women's Month celebration, are open to the public at no charge. Nikki Giovanni, Lisa Norris, Simone Poirier-Bures, Katherine Soniat, and Gyorgyi Voros will present a variety of poetry, fiction, and essays, followed by a question-and-answer period and a time to autograph books or just meet the authors.

Giovanni has been called "a national treasure." The poems in her most recent book, *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, range from an

exaltation of "the might and grace of women to a commemoration of Africa and Giovanni's family legacy," according to publisher William Morrow.

Norris also "lays out a clear, compelling version of the way we live right here and now," wrote Al Young, the judge who awarded Norris's book, *Toy Guns*, the 1999 Willa Cather Fiction Prize.

Poirier-Bures also is "a connoisseur of the richly human," according to George Elliott Clarke, a book critic for the *Halifax Chronicle Herald* and one of Canada's best writers. She is the author of *Candyman*, a novel set in her native Nova Scotia, *That Shining Place*, an award-winning memoir of Crete, and *Nicole*,

short stories and memoir about growing up female and Acadian.

Soniat is "a voice that brings together many skeins of America's heritage, and a poet who, like Whitman, can sing, in her own voice, of a teeming nation of nations," wrote Mary A. McCay in the *New Orleans Times Picayune*.

Voros, a member of the creative writing faculty, is both scholar and poet. She is the author of *Notations of the Wild: Ecology in the Poetry of Wallace Stevens*, a book that poet John Ashberry calls "a dazzling, multi-tiered account of the poetry."

No pre-registration is required to attend. For more information, call 1-6759.

Black Alumni Golden Anniversary Reunion

Following are highlights of the reunion schedule:

Friday, March 28

4 to 10 p.m.
7 to 10 p.m.

Check-in and Registration. Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires. Welcome Reception/Campus and Community Showcase (music by the Southern Colonels). Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires.

9 to 11 p.m.

Recurrent showings of a 30-minute video on the First Black Women at Virginia Tech. Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires.

Saturday, March 29

8 to 11 a.m.
8 to 9 a.m.
8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Check-in and Registration. Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires. Continental Breakfast. Squires Williamsburg Room. Black Alumni Interest Meeting (President Charles Steger and other university administrators will participate in the discussion). Squires Colonial Hall.

11 a.m.

Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall Dedication Ceremony. Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall. Reception and tours to follow. Luncheon "Reflections over the Decades." Schultz Dining Hall.

12:30 to 2 p.m.
Options for 2 to 6 p.m.
2 to 6 p.m.

Reunion Headquarters. Black Cultural Center and Multicultural Center, 126 and 140 Squires.

2 to 4 p.m.
2 to 6 p.m.

Campus Tours. Leave from Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires. Book Sale featuring Virginia Tech authors focusing on the Black Experience. Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires. "Come Share Your Story." Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, Private Dining Room. Video-taping personal experiences.

2 to 6 p.m.

"Help Us Create Our History: Sharing Pictures from Your Years at Tech." Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center room A. Pictures will be scanned for university archives (no appointment needed).

4 to 6 p.m.

Nikki Giovanni's Hush Harbor Alumni Choir rehearsal. Multicultural Center, 140 Squires.

6:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m.

Reception. Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. Golden Anniversary Banquet. Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"Come Share Your Story." Squires Yorktown Room.

Sunday, March 30

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Alumni-Student Networking Breakfast. Commonwealth Dining Room, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

JAMES

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for his contributions to the arts. In 2002, he was among five recipients of the Silver Jubilee Kennedy Center Honors.

Tickets are free for Virginia Tech students and \$5 for the general public, including faculty and staff members. Tickets are required and are available from the UUSA Ticket Office in Squires Student Center.

For more information, visit www.vtu.org or contact Jason Shank at 1-7117 or jshank@vt.edu.

CANDIDATE

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authored or co-authored many articles for refereed journals, presented numerous papers at major national and international meetings, advised a number of graduate and undergraduate students, and provided outreach services to many companies, associations, and agencies.

Dooley has been an assistant dean of the College of Human Resources and Education, associate director of 4-H and family and consumer services for Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), executive director of the Virginia 4-H Foundation, Extension specialist, and director of the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center. He received a Ph.D. in educational administration and a master's in education, both from Virginia Tech, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Alderson-Broaddus College.

Dooley currently chairs the Virginia Tech Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (VT-STEM) K-12 initiative and the Virginia Tech Southside Virginia Economic Transformation Implementation Team. He chaired the Virginia Governor's Conference on Human Genomics, the Family, and the Law and co-chaired the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging. He is currently a member of the President's Award Selection Committee and the Stakeholders Committee for the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families.

He is a member of several professional organizations and has received numerous awards, including the Commonwealth of Virginia Patrick Henry Award, and two Distinguished Service Awards from the Virginia 4-H Board of Trustees.

The vitae and letters of application of both candidates are available on the provost's web site. The site also includes an opportunity for feedback on the candidates that will be reviewed by the Search Committee before it makes its recommendations to the provost.