

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Session begins series of 'consultative conversations' on Core Curriculum

By Richard Lovegrove

Virginia Tech's Core Curriculum is now more than 10 years old, and while some think it is functioning well course-by-course and serving its purpose of giving students a well-rounded education, others think the "system" and support for it need fixing.

Those were some of the opinions heard March 28 when about 100 people gathered in Torgersen Hall to start identifying and discussing major areas of concern relating to the Core Curriculum. They heard from President Charles Steger, Provost Mark McNamee, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Ronald Daniel, and Gary Fenstermacher, a former Tech faculty member who is now a philosopher of education at the University of Michigan.

"They (students) actually do know what the core's all about," McNamee said. "I think the individual components of it are already pretty good—better than most." But, he said, there are things that can be done

better.

Steger said when Virginia Tech was founded, it concentrated on certain vocations but also embraced the notion of improving the world. "I think it's important for every student to study something outside his or her own major."

Fenstermacher said a core curriculum is part of the "battle" between liberal arts and the professions. "And it is a battle." A few who attended the session echoed this later when they commented that one or two colleges at Tech still do not seem to "buy into" the Core Curriculum.

Fenstermacher said when the university considers redesign of core studies, it needs to look at five maxims. First, it needs to "backward map" the Core Curriculum by looking at whether students did actually learn what they should have from it. Second, the university needs to attend to the teacher just as much as the student. "Who teaches the course is just as important as the content of the course," he said.

"We often staff them (the core courses) with the person who drew the short straw."

Third, mark the line between goals and ideals and realize that ideals, while critically important, are not the sole goal in teaching. Fourth, the core needs to be as much a matter of community as a matter of courses. And fifth, the Core Curriculum must bridge that divide between liberal and professional studies.

Several faculty members who attended expressed concerns that the Core Curriculum is a mass of separate "things" and doesn't focus enough on integrating all into a cohesive system. For instance, said Lud Eng, head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, the university has any number of molecular biology courses that teach procedure and technique, but the ethical, religious, and moral implications are taught in a separate course. "You could make the argument that it should be a part" of the regular courses, Eng said.

Many who attended thought the system

was broken in terms of staffing. The departments that carry the heaviest Core Curriculum loads don't have enough resources, and the people who teach those courses are so overloaded that they don't have time for research. Bill Snizek, an alumni distinguished professor in sociology, said teaching core courses is not seen as very professional or scientific, and that the material has little relevance for grants or research. The university, Snizek said, must find better ways to reward those who teach the courses.

Fenstermacher told the group that, in his opinion, few large universities "can boast as much consideration of undergraduate studies" as Virginia Tech can. "This is a tough nut, as you well know," he said. "This time what I hope Tech will concentrate on is getting people to salute the flag before you run it up the pole."

Daniel said this session is not the end of the process but "the lead event in a series of consultative conversations."

Graduate-engineering program ranked among top 30

By Liz Crumbley

The graduate program of the College of Engineering is ranked among the top 30 in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Graduate Schools for 2004" survey released today. The university's industrial-engineering program is ranked in the top 10.

The engineering college's graduate program was ranked 26th overall among the 168 programs included in the magazine's survey. The college is tied at that ranking with the engineering schools at Columbia University and the University of Florida.

According to the survey's peer and recruiter assessments, the Tech graduate-engineering program was ranked 19th nationally by both corporate recruiters and engineering-school deans.

In addition, the college's industrial-engineering graduate program was ranked ninth in its field by the survey of engineering deans. Several more of the college's programs are expected to appear in expanded specialty rankings to be released soon.

"Engineers learn to read any measurement, such as these college rankings, with the appropriate error bars and with a sober assessment of what precisely is being measured," said Hassan Aref, dean of the College of Engineering. "The college's programs remain strong, vibrant and attractive, our financial challenges of declining state support notwithstanding."

In last year's survey, the Tech engineering graduate program achieved an overall ranking of 23rd. "This slight drop in rankings for Virginia Tech likely is something we will see more often as state support for higher education in Virginia continues to erode," said Larry Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations.

(See RANKING on 4)

*Founders Day 2003
Annual Convocation Marking 131 years
of Virginia Tech Tradition
Friday, April 25 at 3 p.m.
Burruss Hall Auditorium*

CGS president to speak at spring Graduate Commencement exercises

By Julie Kane

Although we live in times of unrest, Friday May 9 will be a cause for celebration for graduate students completing their master's and Ph.D. degrees at Virginia Tech. Spring Graduate Commencement will be held at 3 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum.

The keynote speaker for the Graduate School ceremony is Debra Stewart, president of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in Washington, DC. CGS represents its member institutions (including Virginia Tech) nationally and internationally on issues that affect graduate education and research. It sets standards for graduate education, initiates reforms, and shapes policy. Currently, CGS is involved in topics such as taking action on visa delays for international students, calling on Congress to eliminate income tax on graduate fellowships and stipends, and urging the Supreme Court to act on the University of Michigan case.

Before her current role, Stewart was vice chancellor and dean of the Graduate School at North Carolina State University. During her

tenure, she led the effort to adopt a "New Framework for Graduate Education" that resulted in an \$11-million graduate-student-support plan to provide tuition and health insurance for more than 2,000 teaching assistants, research assistants, and fellowship recipients. At NCSU, she enhanced the broad professional preparation of graduate students by developing new interdisciplinary degree programs, establishing professional-development programs, and spearheading a successful research-ethics initiative.

Throughout her administrative career, she has maintained a high research profile in political science, particularly in the area of administrative ethics. She is co-author of *Organizational Behavior and Public Management*, now in its third edition. In addition to her work with CGS, Stewart has chaired and served on many committees concerned with graduate education and research.

A graduate of Marquette University, Stewart received her MA in government from the University of Maryland and her doctorate in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 4

International Week Begins (Through 4-12). Call 1-4488 for details on International Week events.

Candidate Forum for Vice-provost Position, 9 to 11:15 a.m., DBHCC auditorium.

International Week Parade, 5 to 6 p.m., location TBA.

International Week Event, 7 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

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

Saturday, 5

International Week Street Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Draper Road and College Ave. (rain date 4-6, Squires Commonwealth Ballroom).

Department of Biochemistry 50th Anniversary program, 2 to 5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

International Week Event, 6 p.m., Burruss.

Sunday, 6

International Week Event, 2 p.m., Breakzone.

TA Event, 8 p.m., PAB: "Steel Magnolias" (through 4-9).

Monday, 7

University Council, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

International Week Event, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall.

Tuesday, 8

Art Gallery Exhibit Opening, Armory Art Gallery (through 4-25).

International Week Event, 4 to 7 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

International Week Event, 8:30 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall.

Wednesday, 9

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

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center.

International Week Event, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall.

"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF: "Exploring Fear and Irony," with Thomas Ollendick.

Music Event, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Ensemble concert.

Thursday, 10

International Week Event, 7 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

TA Event, 8 p.m. (4-10 through 12, 15 through 19, 22 through 26), 2 p.m. (4-20), Squires Studio Theatre: "Human Rites."

Friday, 11

International Week Event, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Duck Pond field.

SEMINARS

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; 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.

Tuesday, 8

Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Arthur Weglein, University of Houston.

Friday, 11

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Peter Greenberg, University of Iowa.

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Marc Nyden, NIST.

STS, 4 p.m., 2150 Torgersen: Sheila Jasanoff, Harvard.

BULLETINS

Annual Mullins Lecture scheduled

The Program in Science and Technology Studies (STS) presents the 2003 Mullins Lecture, "Civic Epistemology: Public Knowledge in Democratic Societies" Friday, April 11, 4 p.m., in 2150 Torgersen Hall by Sheila Jasanoff.

Jasanoff is the Pforzheimer professor of science and technology studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. A reception will be held after the talk.

Jasanoff's research interests center on the interactions of law, science, and politics in democratic societies. Specific areas of work include science and the law, comparative politics of environmental regulation and risk management, and the political implications of scientific and technological change.

She has written more than 80 articles and book chapters on these topics and has written the books *Controlling Chemicals: The Politics of Regulation in Europe and the United States*, *Risk Management and Political Culture*, and *The Fifth Branch: Science Advisers as Policymakers*.

Since 1989, STS has held an annual lecture in honor of the late Virginia Tech Professor Nicholas C. Mullins.

For more information, call 1-8472 or e-mail dbreslau@vt.edu.

Math Awareness Month talk set

Helaman and Claire Ferguson will present "Mathematics in Stone and Bronze" Thursday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium.

This presentation is sponsored by the Department of Mathematics in celebration of Math Awareness Month.

Helaman Ferguson's sculptures in stone and bronze celebrate ancient and modern mathematical discoveries, melding the universal languages of sculpture and mathematics. Using slides and video, Helaman and Claire Ferguson trace his creations from initial conception through mathematical design and computer graphics to their final form. The Fergusons will discuss the innovative computer technology used to create tori and double tori, trefoil knots, wild and tame spheres, Moebius strips, and Klein bottles.

Helaman and Claire Ferguson received the 2002 Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM) Communications Award, established in 1988 to reward and encourage journalists and

other communicators who, on a sustained basis, bring accurate mathematical information to non-mathematical audiences. The presentation is free and is geared for people of high-school age on up who have an interest in math and science.

For more information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or anderson@math.vt.edu.

Two departments holding reunions

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.

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.

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

Future of World Trade Center site to be topic of visiting NYC speaker

By Sarah Newbill

The public is invited to attend a free lecture featuring Alexander Garvin, vice president for planning, design and development for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

The event will be held in the Shaftman Performance Hall of the Jefferson Center in Roanoke on Saturday April 5, at 7:30 p.m. Garvin has been coordinating the formulation of comprehensive development plans for the World Trade Center site and the surrounding areas of Lower Manhattan, seeking input from the various individuals and organizations that have an interest in the process. The event is sponsored partly Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies and Department of Architecture

Garvin will discuss the process under way to rebuild the former World Trade Center site. Following the lecture, he will answer questions from the audience. Attendees are invited to stay

for a reception in Fralin atrium.

Garvin has combined a career in urban planning and real estate with teaching, architecture and public service. He is currently and will remain a commissioner on the New York City Planning Commission. He is an Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning and Management at Yale University, where during his three-decade tenure he has taught many courses on urban planning and development, housing, real estate, architecture, and parks. He has published numerous articles and books on urban planning issues, including *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*, winner of the 1996 American Institute of Architects book award in urbanism. In 2001, the American Planning Association released his latest book, *Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: A 21st Century Agenda*.

For more information, contact Gregg Lewis at 529-3893, or e-mail jennifer@smithlewis.net.

Auschwitz survivor to speak during Holocaust Awareness Week

By Clara Cox

Edith Eva Eger, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II, will be the keynote speaker for the 2003 Holocaust Awareness Week, which will be observed April 4 through 9. Eger will give her talk on April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. The event is open to the public and is free.

Eger, who has lectured throughout the world, uses her past as an analogy to inspire people to tap into their full potential and to shape positive and productive destinies. Her message is one of healing and growth, of freedom from self-imposed limitations. She speaks of transforming adversity into advantage, of finding meaning and purpose in life.

The keynote address is sponsored by the Holocaust Awareness Week Steering Committee. For information, contact Kimberly Philpott at 1-3787.

The week of observance will begin on Friday, April 4, with the showing of the movie *Schindler's List*, which highlights the life of a man who saved thousands of Jewish people from genocide. The movie will be shown 5:30 until 9 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center in 126 Squires. It will be repeated at the same time on Saturday, April 5. The movie is free. For information, contact Nathan Mitchell at 2-1288.

Other Holocaust Awareness Week observances include a "Reading of the Names" ceremony on the Drillfield from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Monday, April 7. The names of those who died in the Nazi camps during the Holocaust will be read and acknowledged publicly. For information, contact Jason Rubin at 449-3082.

At noon on April 7 there will be a "Presentation/Discussion: Buddhist Perspective on Overcoming Hate." The presentation will focus on different Buddhist teachings that address the importance of compassion for every (See *AUSCHWITZ* on 3)

CAMPUS UPDATE

CMI develops national database for CWD

By Sarah Kayser, University Relations intern

The issue is chronic wasting disease (CWD) and the question is what to do about it. CWD, a fatal brain disease of white-tailed deer and elk, threatens wildlife management throughout the U.S.

One of many partners working to control the disease, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded Virginia Tech's Conservation Management Institute (CMI) a research contract to help organize the data into one system. This database will allow scientists and managers to share information on the disease and improve their ability to address the problem nationally.

While different agencies have different interests, from encouraging hunting to protecting wildlife and human health, scientists all over the country have a compelling need to research and learn more about the disease. Currently, over 50 different agencies across the country are collecting samples—creating a massive need for data management even though only nine states have actually documented CWD. With the completion of CMI's work, the data from these samples can be entered into one database system and used nation-wide.

CWD is an untreatable, fatal neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in deer and elk in certain geographical locations in North America. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), which attack the brain and neural tissue of infected deer and elk. While CWD is similar to mad-cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, there is no known relationship between CWD and any other disease of animals or people.

It is not known exactly how CWD is spread. It is believed that the disease may be spread both directly (animal to animal contact) and indirectly (soil or other surface to animal). The disease has been diagnosed in elk in game ranches in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Although scientists have found no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans or domestic animals, health officials advise hunters not to consume meat from animals known to be infected with the disease.

Go Team Virginia links NASCAR, universities

By Richard Lovegrove

Governor Mark Warner has unveiled the Hermie Sadler "Go Team Virginia" race car, which will feature the paint scheme of Virginia Tech and three other state universities during the 2003 NASCAR season.

"Needless to say this will be an incredible financial opportunity for each of the schools, but it will also be a chance for great national television exposure during the races," said Locke White, director of licensing and trademark administration for Virginia Tech. "In addition, this is a fine educational opportunity for students who will be involved."

Sadler, who drove the Virginia Lottery car last year, approached Virginia universities with the idea for the Go Team Virginia car several months ago. Each of the four universities involved—Virginia Tech, James Madison University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University—will take turns having its design on the car. Tech is featured at least twice, during the March 23 race at Bristol and the October 19 race at Martinsville. The Tech car could get a third race if enough Hokie fans join the Go Team Virginia club at www.goteamva.com.

The car serves an educational purpose. A team of Tech graduate marketing students worked to attract associate sponsors. The team is also planning a "pit-crew challenge" as a post-race promotional. The students will work on merchandising and licensing of products and will also write a paper on what they've learned.

"This experience has been an incredible one," said Jessica Neal, team leader. "We have all had the chance to apply marketing and what we have learned in the classroom to the real world. And I will admit it is not as easy as the books make it sound. I think this has been very educational for our entire team."

Tech will also earn royalty money from sales of licensed goods and from associate partners on the car.

Giovanni wins third NAACP image award

By Sally Harris

Nikki Giovanni's third NAACP Image Award for literature gave her great satisfaction because of the book that won it: *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*.

The Image Awards are presented to actors, authors, movies, performers, and others for the way they depict African Americans. In her book, subtitled "poems and not quite poems," Giovanni put the black American experience of the "Middle Passage" into the context of space. Although there has been science fiction with blacks in the future, she said, nobody before has put them in space. However, she said, "Black Americans have been the only human beings in a space with no known landmarks."

People from other countries did not go to Africa to get slaves, Giovanni said. "They went to get free people to make them slaves." As long as those captured people could look back and see their homeland, they had a landmark, she said. In the Middle Passage—that point at which they could see neither homeland nor destination—they "couldn't see where they were going nor where they had been, and they had the expectation of the future's being unpleasant. After all, they were chained and branded."

But at that point, Giovanni said, those

enslaved people made a decision: they decided to retain their humanity, and that decision makes them perfect models for space exploration. "When we look at space, the question facing us is 'How will people react once they can no longer see Earth, but cannot see their destination?'" she said.

The biosphere experiment was no real test, she said, because it was still on Earth. "We have to understand what African Americans went through in that same dark space and what they knew that allowed them to make the right decision," Giovanni said. "It's a whole new way of looking at slavery, from the point of view of people who went through it. They brought a humanity to Earth that has to be respected."

The fact that her book took this intellectual look at the people who not only survived the Middle Passage but also retained their humanity is what Giovanni thinks won it the Image Award for outstanding literary work in the fiction category. "I'm excited by it," she said. "We needed this. Imagine if the planter society had won. People made a decision to remember they were human, to fight the battle with a song. And that song changed the world. It was a great decision. These are great people."

(See GIOVANNI on 4)

AUSCHWITZ

Continued from 2

human being. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of Buddhist philosophy in relation to the Holocaust and similar atrocities being committed today. The event will be held at the Multicultural Center in 140 Squires. There is no admission charge. Contact Kai Zuehlke at 230-4760 for information.

On Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., there will be a video-and-music presentation, "Effect of the Holocaust from Terezin to Shanghai," beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Donaldson Brown Hotel auditorium. The program will concentrate

on the artistic expressions of the Jewish prisoners of Camp Terezin, Czechoslovakia. It will include a brief personal video of a German Jew who began a newspaper in Shanghai and will also include stories about 20,000 European Jewish refugees who fled Shanghai from 1938-41. Music will be performed by a group of professional musicians organized by David Ehrlich. The event is free; call Sue Kurtz at 953-2045 for more information.

All of the programs are open to the public. Up-to-date information about the events is available on line at <http://www.mcp.vt.edu/calendars/HAW2003.shtml>.

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

One food-assistant position available. Administrative/Financial Services Associate, 007981Y, PB 4, International Research, Education, and Development.
Associate Director of Culinary Services, 002947H, PB 5, RDP.
Development Associate, 008069S, PB 3, University Development.
Electrician, 001691F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Electrician Supervisor, 002038F, PB 4, FES.
Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 008054M, PB 4, PPWS.
Laboratory Specialist Senior, 002610M, PB 4, CVM.
Medical Technologist, 002666M, PB 4, VTH.
Medical Technologist, 006771M, PB 4, VTH.
Postal Assistant/Meter Operator, 000503A, PB 2, UMS.
Powerline Assistant, 006523F, PB 3, FES.
Program Support Technician, CCCCC, PB 0, VTF.
Sous Chef, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.
Systems Administrator, 001988F, PB 4, University Bursar.
Unit Manager, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.

PART TIME

Barn Manager/Assistant, W023021M, PB 3, APS.
ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.
Lab Assistant, W023536M, PB 3, HNEF.
Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.
Managing Editor/Assoc. Managing Editor, W023042B, PB 3, Sociology.
Office Assistant, W023538M, PB 1, VTTI.
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

Service Leader Senior, U007963H, PB 1, RDP.

OFF CAMPUS

Chesapeake 2000 Coordinator, 008073J, PB 5, FWS.
GIS Technician, CCCCC, PB 0, CMI.
Nursing Shift Supervisor, 002996M, PB 2, EMS.
Wildlife Worker, 006643B, PB 2, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Computer Science, Northern Virginia Center (NVC). Visiting Professor. Contact: Program Director, 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church, VA 22043.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Center for Geospatial Information Technology. Senior Research Associate. Contact: Randy Dymond, Center for Geospatial Information Technology, 200 Patton Hall.
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI). Bio-Data Researcher. Contact: Debi Darnell, 1880 Pratt Drive, RB XV, (0477).
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI). Business Analyst/Project Analyst. Contact: Debi Darnell, 1880 Pratt Drive, RB XV, (0477).

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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White named interim director at Equine Medical Center

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Nathaniel White has been named interim director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg. White, who assumed leadership responsibilities for the equine clinical and research center on April 1, succeeds G. Frederick Fregin, the center's founding director.

White joined the center as assistant director in 1985 and was appointed the Theodora Ayer Randolph professor of equine surgery in 1987. He is an internationally recognized expert in equine colic and musculoskeletal disorders.

"Dr. White brings to this job enormous achievement in scholarship, research and clinical care, strong familiarity with the center's heritage and aspirations, and a sincere desire to move the center forward," said Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, which operates the EMC as one of three regional campuses.

"He envisions levels of clinical and research excellence that are very consistent with the goals that Virginia Tech has set for the decade ahead," Eyre said. "We are pleased about his leadership and excited about the future."

White earned his DVM degree from Cornell University in 1971 and completed an internship and residency program in equine surgery at the University of California at Davis. He also earned a MS. degree in pathology from Kansas State University. He is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS) and he has served as chairman of the Board of Regents of the ACVS and president of the ACVS Research and Education Foundation.

White is director of the ACVS Veterinary Symposium, a major international veterinary continuing-education event. He is a past member of the national Board of Directors of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and holds an adjunct faculty appointment at the University of

Maryland at College Park.

White has published 139 publications in refereed academic journals and has authored several textbooks, including *The Acute Equine Abdomen*, *Current Techniques in Equine Surgery and Lameness*, and *the Handbook of Equine Colic*.

As assistant director for clinical services at the center, White has supervised all aspects of clinical care at the advanced equine referral center which treats about 2,400 horses a year with a full-time staff of 60 employees.

G. Frederick Fregin, the Jean Ellen duPont Shehan professor and director of the EMC, will retire June 30.

Fregin has done a terrific job of establishing this center as a world-class equine hospital," said White. "He has brought us to a level where we are poised for major progress, and I'm excited about this opportunity to play a role in that."

Three faculty members selected Diggs Teaching Scholars

Andrew Becker, associate professor of foreign languages and literatures, Elizabeth Bloomer, instructor of English, and Tonya Smith-Jackson, assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering, have been selected as the 2003 Diggs Teaching Scholars.

The Diggs Program was established in 1992 to recognize and foster excellence, imagination, and innovation in linking scholarship and teaching. Each recipient is presented with a plaque, and a cash award goes to both the recipient and their department.

Becker teaches Latin, Greek and Classics courses, including one he has developed for the European Studies Program in Riva San Vitale on ancient and modern poetry. He is also actively involved in outreach to high schools and has been a teacher and director of the Governor's Latin Academy for many years. His students cite his high energy and passion for teaching. He is recognized for his ability to instill an appreciation for classical languages and other cultures.

Bloomer has taught primarily first-year writing courses in the English Department, but also higher-level courses in creative writing. She is known as a powerful teacher who influences her students' lives long after they leave her classroom. She has been a long-time GTA advisor and currently directs the GTA Advising program, where she works with the department's newest teachers.

Smith-Jackson has taught a variety of courses at all different levels in industrial and systems engineering, with an emphasis on human factors. Last year the students awarded her the Best Lecturer and Most Dynamic Professor Award. She is described as an energetic and enthusiastic teacher who is dedicated to improving the learning environment in the classroom. She has also been instrumental in diversifying the ISE curriculum. She has been awarded two Student Success Grants to help students understand how diversity applies to engineering problems and a CEUT Teaching Grant to study cultural ergonomics, which involved travel to the University of Ghana-Legon to study safety and culture among workers in West Africa.

The new Diggs teaching scholars will lead a discussion of topics related to their teaching at the annual Diggs Roundtable, to be held in the fall. Becker will present his teaching framework, which he calls the three R's: reaction, recovery and renovation. Bloomer will talk about motivation and how to bring students back to the joy of learning they knew as children. Smith-Jackson will discuss the use of cultural schemas and the Paideia method in engineering education.

GIOVANNI

Continued from 3

Giovanni has won dozens of awards, including the Langston Hughes Award for distinguished contributions to arts and letters, two previous Image Awards, and the Virginia Governor's Award for the Arts 2000, given for distinction in creative achievements.

RANKING

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U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools" survey, published annually since 1990, uses objective data gathered from the surveyed schools, plus ratings based on reputation. The survey is intended to provide prospective students with information about the nation's top graduate programs.

Tech ranks in top 25 for alumni serving in Peace Corps

By Katie West, *University Relations intern*

Virginia Tech has been ranked in the top 25 nationally on the list of large colleges and universities with alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers. The list is compiled annually and represents the 42 Tech alumni currently working as volunteers with the Peace Corps.

Tech has its own recruiting office, headed by Doug Appler, a graduate student in Urban and Public Affairs, who recently completed a Peace Corps experience in Guatemala. Appler is part of Tech's Masters International Program (MIP), a degree program set up between the Peace Corps and the university to allow students to make a volunteer experience with the Peace Corps part of earning a master's degree. This program is set up in over 40 schools across the country to allow students to link a Peace Corps experience with a degree in an area such as English, natural resources, public health as well as several others.

The program, initiated in 1998, provides an opportunity to work with countries that are in need. Students complete one year of academic

course work, then spend two years completing a Peace Corps experience, followed by one semester for completion of their coursework.

"We are very pleased to have so many volunteers from our university community who have responded to President Bush's January 2002 nation-wide call for Americans to work overseas with the goal of promoting world peace and friendship by helping to train individuals in their host country and educating them about the United States. The program that we offer at Tech serves to encourage this spirit of service and volunteerism," President Charles Steger said.

John Browder, coordinator of the MIP and professor in urban affairs and planning, said, "In my opinion, the MIP is an example of the way we should be approaching all graduate education. The sandwiching of a graduate program around a deep, broad experience with a volunteer organization will make our alumni more mature, productive, and successful." Browder is the head of only one of five urban-planning MIP programs in the country. These programs allow the Peace Corps to place students where their skills will be

used, as well as help students get specific experiences related to their major.

Enrolling in a master's program is not the only way to get involved with the Peace Corps, however. Appler's office handles all potential volunteers in Southwest Virginia. Appler said that although many people seem to think that the right time to join the Peace Corps is right out of college, he has been getting growing interest from an older population. "Getting students right out of college is great, but getting volunteers that are in their 30s and 40s or even older is wonderful also because they have life experience to bring to the program," he said.

Both Browder and Appler emphasized that an experience with the Peace Corps is a transforming experience. "After going to a country where virtually no one speaks your language and amenities are in very short supply and you still feel that you've made a difference, this gives you the confidence to come back to the United States and try to make a difference here also," Appler said.