

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://www.spectrum.vt.edu>

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 34 FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2003

Big East universities file suit against Miami, BC, ACC

UPDATE: At press time, the latest development in the issue was a letter sent by the presidents of the five Big East schools involved in the lawsuit to President James F. Barker of Clemson University. Barker is the chair of the Council of Presidents of the Atlantic Coast Conference. The letter requests the opportunity for "face-to-face conversations" with ACC presidents. The purpose of the meeting would be to enable the Big East presidents to learn more about the "plans and likely consequences" of the ACC expansion plans. "We are now requesting that you work with us to arrange such a discussion," the letter states. At press time, no meeting had been announced.

By Larry Hincker

Five football playing schools of the Big East Conference filed suit Friday, June 6, in Connecticut State Court to protect the interests of Big East schools that would be left behind following the departure of three schools to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

The Big East universities filed their suit as a last resort to protect the programs that would be placed in jeopardy if the University of Miami and Boston College leave the Big East for the ACC. The suit asserts that Miami and Boston College, secretly and in collusion with the ACC and its member schools, violated their legal obligations and fiduciary duties to their partners, the universities of the Big East. Moreover, the suit alleges that Miami and Boston College—while repeatedly reassuring the public that they were firmly committed to the Big East—were at the same time actively and secretly planning their move to the ACC. The suit seeks hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and to prevent Miami and Boston College from moving to the ACC.

The presidents of the five Big East universities—the University of Connecticut, the University of Pittsburgh, Rutgers University, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University—issued the

following statement: "Our universities have brought this lawsuit with great regret and only as a last resort. Unfortunately the actions of Miami and Boston College—in concert with the ACC—simply left us no choice but to act."

"The question raised by the lawsuit is whether two universities—working in secret collaboration with the ACC—will succeed in making closed-door deals and breaking longstanding promises solely because they are seeking even more money from college athletics," said Jeffrey Mishkin of the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP, lead counsel for the plaintiff universities. "The conduct of Miami, Boston College and the ACC... will cause untold damage to the academic and athletic programs of the remaining members of the Big East. That is why the Big East universities had no alternative but to bring this lawsuit."

The key points of the lawsuit include:

The lawsuit accuses the ACC, Miami and Boston College of breach of fiduciary duty, civil conspiracy, unjust enrichment, unfair competition, and breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

The lawsuit complaint details "a con-
(See *BIG EAST* on 2)

Teacher-education programs restructured

By Annette Calhoun

Proposed changes are under way in Virginia Tech's teacher-education programs.

"Restructuring teacher-preparation programs at Virginia Tech is part of a university-wide process of programmatic reshaping," said Jerry Niles, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. "The major change is that all programs will be focused at the graduate level. Programs will continue to prepare pre-service teachers, provide advanced-degree programs for teacher administrators and counselors, and work collaboratively with K-12 schools in partnerships."

Graduate programs that lead to teacher licensure in elementary education, secondary education, and vocational education remain at the core of Virginia Tech's teacher preparation, according to Niles. Graduate secondary-teacher education includes English, science, mathematics, social studies, second languages, and music. The graduate vocational-educational program includes business, marketing, and family and consumer sciences. A reading-specialist program prepares experienced teachers to earn state-wide endorsement.
(See *UNIVERSITY* on 4)

Dean of Students Office renamed

The Dean of Students Office has been renamed the Student Life and Advocacy Office.

The Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) will not be a part of the Student Life and Advocacy Office. The SSD Office has become a separate unit and will be under the leadership of Susan Angle and report to Brian Warren, assistant vice president for student affairs. This office is located in 150 Henderson Hall and the new phone number is 1-3788.

Project S.A.F.E. (Sexual Assault, Facts and Education) has been transferred from the former Dean of Students Office to the Women's Center.

All remaining functions of the former Dean of Students Office will remain intact as program areas of the Student Life and Advocacy Office. This includes; student advocacy and student emergencies for off-campus students, student multicultural programs, orientation and parent programs. Reporting to
(See *DEAN* on 4)

Board of Visitors approves programs

By Jean Elliott

The Board of Visitors has approved a new master-of-natural-resources degree, a program that is unduplicated in the state.

The College of Natural Resources' programs in forestry, wood science and forest products, and fisheries and wildlife sciences are each ranked among the top-three in the nation. There is also a demand in student interest and from related agencies for professionals with skills in the management
(See *BOARD* on 4)

A Statement Updating the Review of Race-conscious Programs

By Provost Mark McNamee

Following the April 6, 2003 board meeting and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, I issued a renewed call for all departments and senior managers to once again review their programs for race-conscious activities. In this review, we received a full response from all departments in our administrative structure. Responses from individual departments were also coordinated through the responsible Dean, Vice Provost, or Vice President's office to ensure a complete review.

As a result of this second review, 71 programs or activities were identified by departments. Based on our initial review of the specifics of these identified programs, 50 appear to be acceptable and 16 have been modified or discontinued until race-neutral alternatives can be adopted. There are five areas in which we are conducting further review to determine if the activities are or can be sufficiently narrowly tailored or are seeking clarification on the state and federal relationship in regard to sponsored activity. We are also reviewing the feasibility of race-neutral alternatives in these areas. The areas under further review include undergraduate admissions, private scholarships and fellowships, the Minority Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP), sponsored-research requirements of the federal government, and the McNair Scholars program (also federally funded.)

In April, Mr. Ben Davenport of the Board of Visitors, the president, other senior officials and I attended the Race-Neutral Conference sponsored by the federal Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. This conference provided information on the race-neutral alternatives used by some universities to increase minority enrollments.

On May 16, 2003, the Office of the Attorney General requested that we provide an updated and complete set of materials to their office for review. In response, we once again shared a full set of the materials collected in this second review, along with our summary and prioritization of programs. This information was sent to the state solicitor on Tuesday, May 27. We will continue working with the Office of the Attorney General as we review activities and develop recommendations for the identified programs. We will also incorporate any further guidance we receive as a result of the Supreme Court rulings in *Grutter* and *Gratz* expected in late June.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on Sunday, June 1 to discuss the findings of the comprehensive review. I then briefed the committee on the status of the review and recommendations. Dr. David Colburn, provost of the University of Florida shared the experiences of his university with race-neutral admissions practices. Mr. Farook Sait from the USDA and Mr. Charles (Chip) Blankenship and Gerald Parks from General Electric also participated in the meeting.

Dean of students retires from university

By Clara B. Cox

Barbara Pendergrass, who had served as dean of students since 1998, retired June 1 after 24 years service to the university.

"I don't think I have ever worked with anyone who cared more about students and who was more effective in working with them. I'm going to miss her wit, her wisdom, and her extraordinary contribution to the Division of Student Affairs," said Lanny Cross, vice president for student affairs.

"For all of us in the Dean of Students Office, working with—not for—her has been the highlight of our careers. Barbara has a unique leadership style that fosters teamwork unlike anything any of us have experienced. She believes in 'collective wisdom' and always includes all staff viewpoints in decision making for the office. Every voice is both included and heard. All of us are hopeful that her unwavering commitment to all people and consistent treatment for all students will continue to be a guiding force in our work," Tom Brown, associate dean of students said.

As dean of students, Pendergrass endeavored to make a difference in attitudes, bring visibility to the needs of different minority communities on campus and affirm their value and importance to the university. "I wanted them to know that they are welcome at the table," she said. "Anything that was inclusive
(See *DEAN* on 2)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 13

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: G.T. Swing.
SOTA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *What I Did Last Summer*.

Saturday, 14

SOTA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *What I Did Last Summer*.

Monday, 16

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Wednesday, 18

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

Thursday, 19

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

Friday, 20

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge.

Wednesday, 25

SOTA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Proof* (through 6-28).
"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

Monday, 26

Classes End.

Friday, 27

Exams Begin.
Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Electric Woodshed.

Storey advises U.S. delegation to WHO

By Stewart MacInnis

Maureen Storey, research associate professor and acting director of the Virginia Tech Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, was tapped to serve as a private-sector adviser to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson during the recent World Health Assembly.

She attended the 56th World Health Assembly, the annual meeting of the 192 member states of the World Health Organization, or WHO. The meeting was held from May 19 to May 28.

Highlights of this year's assembly included the appointment of a new WHO director-general, and the adoption of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, WHO's first global treaty. Among the key global public-health issues discussed at the assembly were the latest information on SARS, HIV/AIDS, tobacco control, the post-conflict health challenges in Iraq, and violence prevention.

Storey attended the meeting to keep abreast of discussion on the WHO's strategy to address world-wide issues of diet, nutrition, and chronic diseases. A global strategy is scheduled to be presented at the assembly next year as the capstone to a three-year effort to dampen a world-wide increase in obesity rates.

In a critique last year of the first draft of a WHO report addressing those issues, Storey and other health-and-nutrition experts urged the international organization to re-write the report to include physical activity and fitness as factors in preventing obesity. They also urged the body to reconsider proposed policy recommendations that imposed food taxes as a means of discouraging consumption of foods the report's authors deemed unacceptable. Finally, the group called for a revised report to be reviewed by a panel of experts in nutrition, physical activity, and various aspects of food production.

"This is an important issue because the strategies will result in national and global policies," Storey said. "To be effective, those policies must be built on a reliable scientific foundation, especially when governmental financial resources are stretched as much as they are today."

The Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, an organization looked to by national policy makers, is located in Northern Virginia. In 1999, the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization named it a center of excellence.

The mission of the center is to advance rational, science-based food-and-nutrition policy. The mechanisms for accomplishing the mission include research, outreach, public service, teaching and communications.

University featured on Science Coalition's web site

By Susan Trulove

Research at Virginia Tech will be featured the week of June 23 in the "On-Campus" section of the Science Coalition web site, a comprehensive resource for information on federally funded science research.

Each week, the coalition highlights scientific advances and on-going research at member universities. As a premiere research institution, Virginia Tech has been noted for scientific achievement and education in such areas as biotechnology, business, environment, education, the humanities, information technology, and materials. The Science Coalition web

site featuring Virginia Tech (www.research.vt.edu/resmag/sc2003) will present research by faculty members and students on fuel-cell materials and systems, sensors for harsh environments—such as oil wells and transformers, why the elderly fall, preparing for and preventing biological disaster, biomaterials for use in the human body, the economic and health promise offered by non-timber forest products, and Nikki Giovanni's NAACP Image Award-winning book, *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*, which puts the black American experience of the "Middle Passage" into the context of space travel.

Visitors to the Science Coalition web site (www.sciencecoalition.org) can find the latest legislative news, chat with science enthusiasts in the "Science Café," browse through the "On-Campus" archives, or read science-and-technology documents in the web site's library.

The Science Coalition comprises major public and private research universities nationwide, together with more than 350 businesses, voluntary health organizations, medical groups, healthcare providers, and scientific societies, dedicated to sustaining the federal government's historic commitment to federally funded university science research.

BIG EAST

Continued from 1

spiracy in which two members of the Big East Conference," Miami and Boston College, "have abandoned their contractual and fiduciary obligations to their partner schools in the Big East...based on their desire to make more money irrespective of the cost to their partners."

The lawsuit alleges that Miami "made repeated public and private statements and commitments to the other members of the Big East that it intended to remain a member of the Big East and that it had no intention of leaving to join any other conference" even though Miami and Boston College had "been engaged in secret negotiations to leave the Big East to join the ACC."

The lawsuit alleges that the actions of the defendants will cause the plaintiffs "to lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues, as well as the value of tens of millions of additional dollars spent to improve the facilities and teams in the conference."

The lawsuit also addresses the ACC's conduct: "By raiding the Big East, the ACC

plans not only to add Miami, Boston College and Syracuse to its roster, but also to try to destroy the Big East as a viable competitor in major college football" by placing it "at risk of losing its guaranteed berth in one of the four BCS Bowls, which will result in the loss of tens of millions of dollars, plus hundreds of millions more in lost television and radio broadcast contract rights and other harm."

The lawsuit complaint details statements made by defendants' representatives that they had no intention of defecting from the Big East, including:

On March 6, 2002 during a Big East Conference CEO meeting, Miami President Donna Shalala reiterated Miami's commitment "in the strongest terms possible, emphatically stat[ing] that the University of Miami is in the Big East Conference and has no interest in leaving it for any other conference."

On Nov. 2, 1999 former Miami President Edward Foote said "We have no plans to change conferences.... We are proud to be partners with the fine institutions that comprise the Big East Conference."

According to the lawsuit complaint, the plaintiffs and other members of the Big East

relied on these representations that the defendants were committed to the Big East and as a result invested "tens of millions of dollars" in their respective football programs, including:

Virginia Tech invested approximately \$37 million in the second phase expansion of its football stadium.

"Pittsburgh negotiated for a long-term lease to play its games at newly constructed Heinz Field, a \$250 million facility...., constructed an approximately \$100-million events center in which it plays Big East basketball...and negotiated for a long-term lease for the use of a multi-million-dollar practice and training facility."

Connecticut "has just finished construction of a \$90-million-dollar football stadium as part of its demonstrated commitment to college football."

Virginia Tech's entry into the Big East was "accelerated by a full year" in reliance on Miami's assurance.

The lawsuit seeks damages to compensate the Big East universities for their losses as well as punitive damages to punish defendants for their behavior. The lawsuit also seeks an injunction to prevent defendants from reaping the benefits of their unlawful conduct.

DEAN

Continued from 1

was very meaningful to me as well as seeing students grow, seeing students take action to accomplish something."

Her legacy includes a number of initiatives that originated in her office; Safe Zones which are areas on campus where the gay community can feel safe and connected to the university; Comfort Zones which are areas where any member of the campus community can feel accepted; the annual Diversity Summit; the Diversity Roundtable; and Multicultural Fellows, a program that provides faculty and

staff members with an opportunity to help the university focus on the value of diversity by bringing people together who wouldn't ordinarily have a chance to interact and providing them the opportunity to share ideas.

The initiative that seemed to give Pendergrass the most pride is Student Voices, a think-tank of students from diverse backgrounds that meets every other week. The 15 students who comprise this group helped redraft the religious holiday policy as it relates to class attendance, they have looked at the policy affecting campus climate and have defined what constitutes sexual harassment and university

commissions have turned to them for feedback on particular issues.

Pendergrass came to Blacksburg in 1979 to work as a counselor for minority students and as a staff counselor at Virginia Tech while attending school part-time. She earned a doctorate in counselor education at Tech in 1987.

Two years later she was named assistant to the vice president for student affairs. She moved to the dean of students' office in 1995 as associate dean of students and worked in that position until 1998, when she was named dean of students.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Spring 2003 Graduate Commencement records 'firsts'

By Julie Kane

Graduate Commencement exercises on May 9 saw 968 master's candidates, 221 Ph.D. students, and four individuals earning certificates. The graduating party included students from 47 states and 42 nations.

For the first time in recent memory, the Graduate School chose a speaker from outside the university, Debra Stewart, the fifth president of the Council of Graduate Schools. Before her current role, Stewart was vice chancellor and dean of the Graduate School at North Carolina University. During her presentation, Stewart discussed the road map of life confronting graduates. "This road map only reveals the coordinates," she said. "Each student has gained powers to define these coordinates based on their experiences at Virginia Tech. Graduates are effective communicators, creative, persistent, planners, professionals, and committed to their fields of study."

This year, the Graduate School and the Alumni Association established a new award called the Graduate Alumni Achievement Award. This award recognizes Virginia Tech Alumni who have achieved the highest goals in their fields. The award is given at graduation, so that the individual selected will be recognized by the entire university.

During Commencement, Karen DePauw, vice provost of graduate studies and dean of the Graduate School, and Tom Tillar, vice president of Alumni Relations, presented the award to Robert C. Richardson, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics. Currently, he is vice provost for research and the F.R. Newman Professor at Cornell University. He earned both a bachelors in physics in 1958 and a masters in physics in 1960 from Virginia Tech. He received his doctoral degree in 1966 from Duke University.

The 2002-03 student Commencement speaker was Sandra Dika, a Ph.D. student in educational research and evaluation. Dika will

(See SPRING 2003 on 4)

Neal to receive 2003-2004 National Science Foundation Fellowship

By Karen Gilbert

While some graduate students scrounge for scholarship opportunities, others like David A. Neal III receive multiple offers.

Neal's academic credentials started early in his career. As an undergraduate and a master's student at Virginia Tech, Neal became interested in designing futuristic aerospace vehicles that efficiently adapt to diverse, multi-variable conditions during flight. For example, morphing

aircraft are planes that have wings that can change shape like a bird's wings, instead of rigid flaps.

Neal spent a summer as an undergraduate intern with Virginia Tech's Center for Intelligent Material Systems and Structures (CIMSS). Subsequently, the center and Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio sponsored Neal's senior-design-team project. Neal was selected as presenter for the team, placing him in front of an audience

full of high-ranking Air Force scientific officers, all very educated in morphing. Neal was ultimately awarded a graduate research assistantship combined with support from the GE Scholars Fund to study morphing at CIMMS. His resulting master's degree work included the development of a complete simulation model for looking at morphing analysis.

(See NEAL on 4)

University vending machines being removed, replaced

As the entity responsible for maintaining vending services on campus, Virginia Tech Services, Inc. has announced that the snack-food vending agreement has been awarded to ARAMARK Refreshment Services.

Beginning June 2 through today, vending machines at locations on and off campus are being removed. ARAMARK will begin installing its machines on Monday, June 16. ARAMARK has ordered new Hokie Passport card readers and will begin installing them on appropriate machines during the third week of July. Due to the magnitude of the operation, each building will be without vending service for a brief period during the transition.

Anyone experiencing any problems or having concerns regarding the change in service should call Don Williams at 1-5991.

FORUM

Former Dean Notes Achievements of Retiring Staff Members

By Andy Swiger, dean emeritus,
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

When I recently retired from Virginia Tech, I received, among other things, a very nice retirement dinner and an article in *Spectrum*. For all these I am deeply grateful. I've noticed similar recognitions for other administrators and senior faculty members. Certainly these other retirements and departures constitute a significant loss for the university.

But little note has been made of some others who are leaving the university community and whose loss will be felt by many. This month, we will be saying goodbye to three such unsung heroes: Betty Greene, Pat Ballard, and Suella Wolfe. Combined, these invaluable staff members have served the College of Agriculture

and Life Sciences and the university for 106 years.

I know that my tenure as dean of the college would not have been nearly as productive or as enjoyable without their professionalism, dedication, loyalty and friendship. What made them even more special was that they treated everyone they came in contact with the same as they treated the dean. It didn't matter if it was a staff person, faculty member, administrator or an outside donor or dignitary, they were kind, respectful and helpful. They were always willing to go the extra mile, to add the extra touch.

At a recent retirement luncheon for them, more than 180 people from many different units on campus and from all corners of the state

(See FORUM on 4)

EMPLOYMENT

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

FULL TIME

Accountant, 004522F, PB 4, Controller's Office.
Accountant Senior, 002552S, PB 4, University Controller.
Accounting Manager, 008115S, PB 5, SFA.
Administrative/Financial Services Associate, 007981Y, PB 4, IRED.
Administrative Assistant to Dean, 001560B, PB 3, College of Science.
Animal Care Technician, 002974J, PB 2, VAR.
Assistant Manager Senior, 000514H, PB 3, RDP.
Associate Director of Culinary Services, 002947H, PB 5, RDP.
Building Code Engineer, 008085F, PB 5, CDC.
Compensation Analyst, 008110S, PB 4, Personnel Services.
Computer Operations Technician, 008117J, PB 3, CAUS.
Computer Systems Support Technician, 007288A, PB 4, VBS.

Director of Construction Services, 008082F, PB 6, CDC.
Dna Laboratory Specialist, 007682K, PB 4, VBI.
Executive Assistant, 002800S, PB 3, University Development.
Fire Protection Technician, 000192F, PB 4, Physical Plant.
GIS Programmer/Web Developer, 008116J, PB 4, Forestry.
Grounds Worker Senior, 002010G, PB 1, PPG.
Housekeeping Worker, 001022H, PB 1, Student Programs.
Laboratory Specialist, 002606J, PB 3, VMES.
Media Support Technician, 008109S, PB 3, Multicultural Affairs.
Nucleic Acid Laboratory Specialist, 007946K, PB 4, VBI.
Office Specialist, 000048H, PB 2, Student Programs.
Powerline Worker, 006524F, PB 3, Facilities.
Pre-prep Supervisor, 000394H, PB 2, Student Programs.
Program Support Technician, 008114J, PB 3, Geological Sciences.
Programming/Resource Staff Director, 008081F, PB 6, University Architect.
Public Relations Specialist, 008108B, PB 4, Computer Science.
Sous Chef, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.
Staff Architect, 008079F, PB 5, University Architect.
Unit Manager, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.
Visitor Center Receptionist, 007844S, PB 2, University Relations.
Web/Documentation Specialist, 007664A, PB 3, CNS.
PART TIME
ADA Assistant, W023556S, PB 3, Personnel Services.
Administrative Assistant, W023527K, PB

2, VBI.
Animal Care Tech B, W022914C, PB 2, CVM.
Animal Care Technician, W020556C, PB 2, CVM.
Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications), W023203A, PB 2, CNS.
Office Services Assistant, W023557S, PB 2, Parking Services.
Programmer, W023544Y, PB 4, IRM.
Radiologic Technologist, W022238M, PB 3, Schiffert Center.
Security Guard, W020470G, PB 1, Police.
Starter Marshall/Shop Attendant, W022113J, PB 1, Golf Clubhouse.
OFF CAMPUS
Administrative Assistant, 008111S, PB 3, VPSI.
Controller, CCCCCC, PB 0, VTF.
Nursing Shift Supervisor, 002996M, PB 2, EMC.
Research Specialist Sr, 004119M, PB 4, ESREC.
Wildlife Worker, 006643B, PB 2, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
Assistant Director of Development. Contact: Rhonda K. Arsenault, 0336.
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Assistant Associate Director of Development. Contact: Rhonda K. Arsenault, 0336.
Chemistry. Postdoctoral Associate. Contact: wducker@vt.edu.
Geological Sciences. Postdoctoral Associate. Contact: Donald Rimstidt, jdr02@vt.edu.
Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES) – Research Associate. Contact: Qlex Huang, 0179.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; Jean Elliott, director of news and information.

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Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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IN OTHER NEWS

VTTI fellow appointed to Dulles project panel

By Ennis McCrery

John Collura, a Virginia Tech Transportation Institute fellow, has been selected to serve on a panel to oversee and support the proposed \$2-billion Dulles Rail Project in Northern Virginia. The project involves state transportation agencies in collaboration with industry partners, including Bechtel, Washington Group, and West Group.

The Dulles Rail Project includes an 11-station, 24-mile extension of the Washington METRO Rail from Falls Church to Tysons Corner, Dulles Airport, and Loudon County. The expansion will occur in stages, with a scheduled completion date of 2010. "Like any project in the planning phase, the timeline is subject to uncertainty," Collura said. "But there are plans to build the project incrementally, in part because it is very expensive, and funding for the entire plan cannot be obtained immediately." The original METRO line was also built

in stages.

The project panel will provide guidance on financing and federal reauthorization issues, preliminary engineering matters, and service-area coverage. It will also estimate transportation demands and associated travel-time savings and will negotiate with public-agency participants and industry partners to arrange innovative contracts, such as design-build alternatives.

Collura is a professor of civil engineering and the director of the Civil Infrastructure Engineering and Advanced Transportation Systems Program at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church. He also teaches graduate courses in public transportation planning, design, and operations. "This project illustrates the role that the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and Virginia Tech's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering play in the commonwealth," Collura said.

Lane Stadium expansion to continue

The university is moving forward with the Lane Stadium west-side expansion with strong support from alumni. Several major donors have committed \$1.9 million to enable planning efforts to proceed.

When stadium expansion plans were approved in 2001, the university Board of Visitors asked the university to conduct major-gift feasibility for the west-side project. The original schedule called for another review by the board at its June, 2003 meeting. Since private funding has not been secured, the university will not move forward with construction now.

The action last week on the part of several ardent supporters will however enable design and planning to continue and we will be able to maintain momentum on this important facility.

DEAN

Continued from 1

Dave Ostroth, associate vice president of student affairs, the Student Life and Advocacy Office will be under the leadership of Tom Brown. The office will continue to be located in 152 Henderson Hall with the same phone number, 1-3787.

Student advocacy and emergency work for on-campus students will now be a part of the Residence Life function within the Office of Student Programs (formerly RDP). Gerry Kowalski will give leadership to support for on-campus students and the office is located in 109 E. Eggleston, 1-6204.

STUDENT DEATHS

Christopher Loyd McGowan, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences. Sara J. Wojciechowski, a student in the College of Architecture.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

ment as reading specialists.

The elementary-education program has reconfigured its entry route to open the admission process to all students from across the university who have met the general-studies requirements and acceptance scores for the state-required teacher examinations, Praxis I and II. In the past, one route into the elementary-education program has been the early-childhood major housed in the Department of Human Development. This undergraduate program is closing, having accepted its final graduating class, and will phase out by 2007. Freshmen accepted for fall 2003 will matriculate through their full undergraduate program and will be eligible for the graduate elementary-education program

based on meeting the admission requirements.

"What is most exciting about this change," according to Patricia Proudfoot Kelly, director of the Center for Teacher Education, "is that there is now a way to accommodate more students with other majors, who meet the admission standards, to participate in and graduate from our elementary-education teacher program."

Mary Alice Barksdale, elementary-education program area leader and associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, pointed out the problems of 16- and 17-year-old students needing to decide on an elementary-education major while still juniors in high school. "To participate in our undergraduate program, they had to make a commitment to a teaching career before their senior year in high school. Now they can take time to discover their primary

interests and then choose elementary education for their graduate degree."

All undergraduate teacher-education programs are being phased out over the next four years, as the emphasis shifts to graduate education. Health and physical-education programs will graduate their last majors within the next three years. Undergraduate career and technical-education programs and the undergraduate technology-education program will graduate their last majors during the next four years. While career and technical education already has accredited graduate teacher-education programs in place, the technology-education graduate program is under development. It will be submitted in the fall of 2003 for review, with applicants to be accepted for fall 2004.

The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies continues its mission of preparing school principals and superintendents for leadership and administrative duties, and counselors and education-research methodologists for private- and public-sector employment.

Recently, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reviewed Virginia Tech's professional-education and teacher-education programs. NCATE is the accrediting body for colleges and universities that prepare teachers and other professional personnel for work in elementary and secondary schools.

"Virginia Tech has passed every review since its first one in 1972 and remains fully accredited," Kelly said. NCATE is expected to issue its latest assessment in October.

NEAL

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Now that he is planning his doctoral studies, Neal learned recently that he is receiving a 2003-2004 National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship. The NSF graduate fellowship will cover his tuition and fees and provide Neal with a \$27,000 annual stipend for three years while he earns his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech. Neal learned about his NSF fellowship just days after opening an e-mail informing him he had earned a distinguished National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship.

Neal selected the NSF fellowship, designed to promote early career development of scientists and engineers by offering support at critical junctures in their careers. NSF strives to assure a steady stream of diverse, high-ability students through the educational and research training systems by providing such fellowships.

An interest in engineering and aerospace runs in Neal's family. His father, David Neal Jr., was an engineering technician in the Air Force for 20 years, stationed at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. "As soon as I displayed the slightest interest in engineering, my father pushed me to pursue engineering. He kept me on track all along the way," Neal said.

During his undergraduate career, Neal also participated in the Black Engineering Support Team (BEST), providing him with an upper-class mentor. Neal felt strongly about the importance of the BEST program; so he

went on to serve as a BEST mentor for two years. From his experience both participating and leading, Neal believes minority engineering programs are paramount to encouraging more minorities to study engineering.

"Students might come into college thinking things are impossible, but they aren't," Neal said. "The College of Engineering has a great environment, the professors are great people, and the opportunities for undergraduate involvement are tremendous."

Harry Robertshaw, assistant department head for research and graduate studies in mechanical engineering and Daniel Inman, the George R. Goodson professor of mechanical engineering, are Neal's co-advisors.

BOARD

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of natural resources for sustainability in an increasingly complex environment.

Also related, the Board of Visitors approved that the Department of Apparel, Housing and Resource Management, formerly known as the Department of New Environments (NE), rename its B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees to reflect the name change. In addition, the board now recognizes the interior-design program, formerly in NE, as an independent undergraduate degree program.

All of these proposals will be forwarded to the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) for approval.

FORUM

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came to honor and say goodbye to Betty, Pat and Suella. It was a remarkable show of love and respect for three wonderful people and valued co-workers.

It takes many people shouldering differing responsibilities to make an organization successful. These three have given more than their share to the success of the college, university and the broader community, in which we work and live.

To say they will be missed is a huge understatement. They have contributed so much to so many and done so willingly and graciously.

I sincerely thank them for the tremendous work and friendship they have provided me and countless others at Virginia Tech and beyond.

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be employed as a research assistant at Virginia Tech and perform research and evaluation of high school students for the University of Puerto Rico.

DePauw called the audience's attention to some "firsts" at this year's Commencement. "This is the 50th anniversary of the first woman to receive a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech," she noted. "Historically, women graduate students were a small percentage compared to males; today, women are 42 percent of the graduating class."