

# SPECTRUM

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Tech  
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**TODAY'S EDITION**  
See page 2 for  
information on  
presentations related  
to mad-cow disease.

## Higher Education Not Slated to Suffer General Fund Reductions

By Ralph Byers,  
director of government relations

The House of Delegates and Senate adopted vastly different state budgets on Thursday, Feb. 26. In either case, as the recommendations now stand, for the first time in four years, higher education will not suffer General Fund reductions. Because of the differences in revenue and in budget methodology between the two chambers, there are significant differences between these proposals for both the University Division and Cooperative Extension. (Editor's note: See chart on page 4 for budget information referenced in this article.)

A critical component of all the budget plans, including Governor Mark Warner's introduced budget, is the amount of tuition flexibility provided to the institutions. Base

adequacy, as defined by the General Assembly, is a combination of General Fund support and tuition revenue. While the Executive Budget provided a modest increase in General Fund support, it included sufficient flexibility in its

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

tuition-and-fees policy to allow the university to increase rates to a level that would address the base operating funding requirements and strengthen academic programs in accordance with the four-year plan. The proposed House budget also provides additional non-General Fund authority and flexibility in its tuition-and-fees policy. However, the House budget

limits tuition-revenue increases for 2004-06 to a level that would fund up to 95 percent of the higher-education base-budget-adequacy guidelines, slowing the pace of full funding of the university to a six-year period. Fortunately, all three budgets included \$8 million for equipment purchases. This returns equipment funding to the previous level of support, following two years of steep cuts.

The Senate budget provides significant base funding through both General Fund and tuition and fees; this approach moderates the amount of tuition and fees increases required and meets the four-year funding plan. To illustrate the differences, for 2004-05 the Senate provides \$12.3 million in General Fund support for Virginia Tech, while the governor recommended \$3.4 million, and the House, \$1.4 million. The

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY on 4)



THOMAS

## ABC correspondent Thomas to address Commencement

By Mark Owczarski

ABC News Justice Department Correspondent Pierre Thomas will address the 2004 graduates of Virginia Tech during the University Commencement exercises Friday, May 14 at Lane Stadium/Worsham Field.

"We are truly honored to have Pierre Thomas speak at our 2004 University Commencement exercises," President Charles W. Steger said. "His remarkable accomplishments in the field of broadcast journalism will certainly inspire our graduates."

A 1984 Virginia Tech graduate, Thomas has covered the U.S. Justice Department and law-enforcement issues for ABC News since 2000, reporting on "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" and contributing to "Good Morning America," "This Week," "Nightline," and other ABC News special events.

He has covered a variety of major news stories including the Robert Hanssen FBI spy scandal, the Oklahoma City Bombing, missing FBI files controversy, and the Chandra Levy case. Thomas was a significant contributor to ABC News' team coverage of the September 11 attacks and their aftermath, coverage that won the network's news division a coveted Peabody Award and a DuPont Award.

Thomas began his journalism career with the *Roanoke Times* and joined the *Washington Post* in 1987. During his 10-year career at the *Post*, Thomas first covered local Virginia politics, police and courts for the Metro section. He then went to work on the Metro investigative staff and the national staff where he covered the Justice Department and law-enforcement issues.

From 1997 to 2000, Thomas was CNN's Justice Department correspondent, reporting breaking news on terrorism, cyber-crime, the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the capture of the railway killer, and the Justice Department's involvement in the Elian Gonzales case.

A member of the National Association of Black Journalists, Thomas has won numerous awards and recognition during his journalism career. In 1991, he was part of a team whose work was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for reporting on illegal gun use in the

(See ABC on 3)

## University, Carilion establish new venture fund, consortium

By Larry Hincker

Carilion Health System and the Virginia Tech Foundation have established a private equity/venture-capital fund and an investment consortium that will make investments in promising companies willing to initiate operations or relocate their business to the Roanoke and New River Valleys. These two important steps will make approximately \$55 million dollars in investment capital available to companies who operate in this region.

Carilion, the Virginia Tech Foundation and Third Security LLC, the Radford-based private investment and advisory firm, have created the Roanoke-New River Valley Investment Fund to deploy a portion of their respective investment portfolios to generate economic growth in southwest Virginia. The fund will be governed by a local board of directors and will be managed by Third Security.

Carilion and the foundation will each transfer \$5 million of existing private-equity investment capital into the Roanoke—New River Valley Investment Fund. Third Security and its affiliates will invest \$2 million in the fund. It is expected that qualified private

investors will invest up to an additional \$8 million, creating a fund pool of \$20 million. Third Security will commit another \$10 million to the new investment consortium.

"We always attempt to make wise investments with the foundation's endowment fund, and this strategy meets that obligation and has the potential to help not only the university but our entire region," said President Charles Steger. "It is our objective that this fund will assist in the further development of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center and our technology-transfer program. Today we know that ideas and innovation, the primary products of the American research university, are the fuels of the 21st-century economy. Thus, economic development and job creation are an important part of our mission."

"Both Carilion and the Virginia Tech Foundation invest in private equity funds that provide returns for our long-term needs," said Edward G. Murphy, Carilion president and CEO. "By creating a fund that will invest in companies operating in our region, we will stimulate additional economic activity and job creation. With Third Security participating in and managing the investment fund, we have

great confidence in the success of this venture."

Additionally, the Roanoke—New River Investment Fund has joined several other venture firms to form a consortium that can jointly analyze investment opportunities. Through this arrangement, the consortium can make investments currently envisioned in excess of \$50 million available to the region. Currently, members of the consortium are Canaan Partners, Rowayton, CT; CMS Companies, Philadelphia, PA; Greer Capital Advisors, LLC, Birmingham, AL; Harbert Venture Partners, Richmond; Third Security, LLC, Radford; and Winston Partners Group, L.L.C., Arlington.

Each consortium member will make a portion of its investment fund available for consortium projects. By intentionally selecting groups who cover a full range of investment strategies (from start-up and early-stage investments to financing more mature companies to outright mature company buy-outs), the consortium will meet the needs of most any company, regardless of its stage of development. It will also provide a broad range of opportunities for the region.

## Cuba and Russia trips enhance Tech geography courses

By Lynn Davis

Geography Professor Joseph L. Scarpaci, just back on campus after leading the largest faculty-led study-abroad course in the history of Virginia Tech last month, is already planning another class tour. He took a record-breaking 112 students to Cuba for his urban-design-and-planning class (Geography 4984) and will offer the class again from May 23 to June 7.

Some of the students included

professionals and adults from such places as the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and the American Geographic Society. Scarpaci said the group, which traveled around Cuba in four large tour buses, visited Trinidad, Cuba's best example of colonial architecture left intact; Santiago, the island's second-largest city; Baracoa, the site of Columbus' landing; and of course, Havana, the capital city.

Eighteen lectures and six field trips later, students had more than a passing knowledge of

Cuba's unique urban, historical, architectural, and cultural landscape. "This was a good time in history to visit Cuba," Scarpaci said. "The country is at an interesting crossroads, politically and economically. Last spring 70 dissidents were arrested and incarcerated. Any of my students will say, 'You are never the same after you have visited this struggling nation.'"

"Travel abroad not only enhances urban

(See CUBA on 3)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Saturday, 6

**Spring Break Begins.**  
**Horticulture Garden Winter Seminar Series**, 10 a.m. to noon, Greenhouse complex classroom.

### Wednesday, 10

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

### Saturday, 13

**Horticulture Garden Winter Seminar Series**, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Greenhouse complex classroom.

### Sunday, 14

**Spring Break Ends.**

### Monday, 15

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

### Tuesday, 16

**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.**  
**Faculty Senate**, 7 to 9 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

### Wednesday, 17

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

### Thursday, 18

**Staff Senate**, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

### Friday, 19

**Last Day to Resign.**

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 5

**Geosciences**, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Lisa Kennedy.

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Kevin J. Hemker, Johns Hopkins University.

### Thursday, 18

**Statistics**, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Jeff Birch.

## BULLETINS

### Journalist, presidential adviser Gergen to speak

Journalist, author, professor, and former presidential adviser David Gergen will give a talk Thursday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Burruss auditorium. Gergen is the featured speaker for the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture, sponsored by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Rice Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business. His talk, "Eyewitness to Power: Leadership in America," is open to the public at no charge.

### ELI schedules first course in Roanoke

The English Language Institute (ELI) will offer a non-credit, intermediate- to high-intermediate reading-and-writing class for Roanoke area English-as-a-second-language students who plan to start academic or professional study. This course, the first scheduled by ELI in Roanoke, will be held from March 15 to May 7 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Course goals are to help students achieve increased reading speed and comprehension; improve their ability to write clearly in a variety of academic and professional styles; learn new vocabulary words; and gain a better understanding of American culture.

The non-credit class will meet at the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center on the seventh floor of the Roanoke Higher Education Center, 108 North Jefferson Street. Registration and placement testing will be held on March 15. Tuition, due at registration, is \$360 and includes textbooks. Enrollment is limited to 12 qualified students.

### Perlin to lecture on history of wood

John Perlin, author of "A Forest Journey: The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization," will lecture on "The Role of Wood in World History," March 15 at 3 p.m., in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium.

Internationally known for speaking out about the worldwide forest loss, Perlin will discuss how deforestation accelerates erosion, the greenhouse effect, and the expansion of deserts.

A reception will follow the lecture in Fralin atrium. For more information, contact Robert Bush at 1-8834 or [rbush@vt.edu](mailto:rbush@vt.edu).

### Exemplary 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.

This year, departments and programs will be recognized for effectively linking research and scholarship with teaching, with particular concentration on innovative undergraduate programs. The deadline for submitting nominations for the awards is noon, Friday, April 9. \$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.

The theme of this year's award includes research and scholarship. "And scholarship" has been added to the original exemplary-department theme to better connect the awards program to current university goals and to encourage the participation of more departments in the program.

Nominations are encouraged from undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members, and others who have benefited from the work of the nominated department(s).

Letters of nomination (not to exceed two pages) should describe the achievements of the department(s) in this year's topical area, with particular concentration on innovative undergraduate programs. Send nomination letters as electronic attachments by e-mail to: Exemplary Department Awards Program Committee, c/o Karen W. Strickler, Office of the Provost, [kstrickler@vt.edu](mailto:kstrickler@vt.edu), (1-3341). The deadline for receipt of nomination letters is noon Friday, April 9.

### Documentary on supercomputer to air nationally

A documentary on the background and development of Virginia Tech's supercomputer, the fastest supercomputer at any academic institution in the world, will air on the Research Channel on March 19.

The program, "An Evolution in Supercomputing: System X at Virginia Tech" will air four times: 5 and 11 a.m.; and 5 and 11 p.m.

System X, named by its Virginia Tech developers for its design goal of 10 teraflops or ten-trillion operations per second, ranks third on the "top-500" listing of the world's fastest supercomputers. Jack Dongarra of the University of Tennessee, who also holds an appointment at Oak Ridge National Laboratory,

compiles the listing, available on web site <http://www.netlib.org/benchmark/performance.pdf>.

The Research Channel can be viewed via satellite dish, cable TV or by Webcast. EchoStar's Dish500 Network broadcasts the Research Channel on channel 9400. For the cable TV systems, see list of locations at [http://www.researchchannel.org/general/rtrans\\_loc.asp](http://www.researchchannel.org/general/rtrans_loc.asp) or inquire by e-mail at [info@researchchannel.com](mailto:info@researchchannel.com).

For more information, visit <http://www.researchchannel.org/webcast/>.

### ODK soliciting scholarship applications

Omicron Delta Kappa is soliciting applications for its annual scholarships and awards recognizing leadership on campus. Opportunities are available for faculty and staff members, administrators and students.

Applications for all awards are available on line at <http://filebox.vt.edu/org/odk/scholar.htm> or <http://filebox.vt.edu/org/odk/scholar.htm>. The deadline for applications to be received is March 19. For more information, contact Brandon Bull at [wbull@vt.edu](mailto:wbull@vt.edu) or 230-7485.

### Take Back the Night rally, march scheduled

The fifteenth annual Take Back the Night Rally and March will be held Thursday, March 25. The purpose of the rally and candlelight march is to protest violence against women and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate violence.

Pre-rally music and readings begin at 7 p.m. on the Drillfield. The rally will be held between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (The rain location is the Wesley Foundation, located at the corner of Roanoke and Otey Streets.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield for a closing celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons.

For more information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or 951-2013, or e-mail her at [anderson@math.vt.edu](mailto:anderson@math.vt.edu).

## Science of mad-cow disease a symposium topic

By Sally L. Harris

An upcoming campus symposium will include a talk on the science behind mad-cow disease.

The symposium itself, "Biological systems and soft materials: Future directions in statistical physics," is on the interface of statistical physics, biology, and chemistry.

The speaker on prions, which are believed to play a key role in mad-cow disease, is Susan W. Liebman of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, who will discuss "Prion-prion interactions in yeast." Liebman speaks from 9:45 until 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 7.

Another speaker of note is Ching-Hwa Kiang of the Department of Physics at Rice University, who works with assemblies of DNA-based nanostructures—gold particles linked with DNA fragments—which may serve as sensors for different kinds of DNA. The talk is at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 7.

One Virginia Tech alumna, Leah Shaw, now in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Physics at Cornell, is an invited speaker. She is working on a genome-wide statistical model for protein synthesis. She will speak at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

The symposium will be held in lecture (See *SCIENCE* on 3)

## Transmissible encephalopathies conference scheduled

The Center for Food and Nutrition Policy will host a Ceres forum titled "Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in Animal and Human Health: The Science and the Policy" on March 8-9 at the Marriott at Metro Center, Washington, D.C. Featured invited speakers include Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's) are a group of fatal neurodegenerative diseases that affect humans and various animals. TSE's took on increased importance in December 2003, when a dairy cow in Washington state was diagnosed with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE/mad-

cow disease).

The forum will bring together scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders to participate in discussion and debate on the issue. Members of the Virginia Tech community are invited to attend.

The Center for Food and Nutrition Policy is an independent research and education center affiliated with Virginia Tech and located in Alexandria.

For more information and registration forms, visit [http://www.ceresnet.org/images/Misc/CFNP\\_TSE\\_Conference.pdf](http://www.ceresnet.org/images/Misc/CFNP_TSE_Conference.pdf) or contact Meghan Steele at [mesteele@vt.edu](mailto:mesteele@vt.edu).

## Slavic Studies conference to be held March 18-20

By Jennifer Whittenberg,  
University Relations intern

More than 100 specialists in the history, language, literature, and culture of the Slavic regions of Russia and Eastern Europe will convene at the Hotel Roanoke March 18 through 20, for the 42nd Annual Southern Conference on Slavic Studies Conference. Librarian of Congress and Russian historian James Billington will be the keynote speaker.

The conference is a forum for specialists from the southern region of the United States to present their current research on the history, literature, economics and political culture of Russia and Eastern Europe. These presentations encourage a productive exchange among scholars about their research and findings.

"The Slavic-speaking world is one of the most important areas of the planet because of its resources and politics. Americans should be interested in gaining an understanding of this region's people, history and culture," said Amy Nelson, associate professor of history in Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Billington is a noted Russian historian. He has been instrumental in establishing mutual scholarly and political relationships with the countries of the former Soviet Union. Billington directed the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars from 1973-1987, where he founded the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

Billington is the author of "Russia Transformed. Breakthrough to Hope, August 1991" (1992) and "The Face of Russia" (1998). At the conference he will discuss his forthcoming book on Russian national identity titled, "Russia In Search of Itself."

Professors from the history and foreign languages and literatures departments are locally organizing the conference. The Office of the University Provost and the University Libraries provided the funding for Billington to speak at the conference. The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the Department of History and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures have provided additional support for the conference.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## H1B Visa Quota challenges off-campus workers

The H1B Visa Quota for non-university sponsored work authorization visas was significantly reduced for Fiscal Year 2004. The quota of 65,000 was effective Oct. 1, 2003 through Oct. 1, 2004.

On March 17, 2004 these numbers were exhausted, and no additional non-university/non-profit allotments are expected until the end of this year.

Faculty and staff members employed by Virginia Tech or any college, university or certain specific non-profit organizations, are not affected at this time by the reduced quota. There is, however, a large number of graduates and current staff members who wish to look to the private sector for employment and the limited quota presents a challenge.

The Cranwell International Center is sponsoring a free seminar on March 19 at 5 p.m. in 341/345 Squires on methods of dealing with work authorization and limited H Visa Quotas. The guest speakers are from a private

immigration law firm and they will be offering the program as a service to the university and community population. This company has no current relationship with Virginia Tech, and is not contracted with the state of Virginia.

Permanent-residency opportunities will also be discussed at the seminar. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and printed information and referrals for further immigration guidance will be made available to those attending.

Private interviews to discuss permanent residency and other issues with an attorney are available on March 19. These meetings will be held at the Cranwell Center and are free of charge. Individuals currently on an H1 visa or other work-authorization visa may request an appointment by contacting Stephen Conrad at [sconrad@vt.edu](mailto:sconrad@vt.edu). Any services arranged with these attorneys will be at the expense of the individual and are not reimbursable by Virginia Tech.

## Nominations sought for Governor's Awards

The 2004 Virginia Public Service Week (VPSW) will be observed from May 3 through 9. This year's theme will again be "Proudly Serving Virginians" to emphasize the service aspect of public employment. As in previous years, VPSW provides a platform for both recognizing and rewarding deserving employees and providing the public with an opportunity to learn more about the work state employees do every day on behalf of the state's citizens. The recipients of the Governor's

Awards will be honored at a reception on May 5 at the Executive Mansion in Richmond. Governor Mark Warner is tentatively scheduled to attend and present the awards.

The instructions, criteria, and nomination forms for the Governor's Awards are available on the Personnel Services web site. Nomination packets must be submitted in hard copy or faxed to 1-3830. The deadline for submitting the nominations to Personnel Services (0318) is March 18.

## Massey scholar award available

The P. Howard Massey Food and Nutrition Scholar Award supports graduate students engaged in multi-disciplinary, applied scholarly activities related to the food/nutrition problems of developing countries.

The award supports international and cross-cultural research costs related to food/nutrition problems; travel for research, study and exchange at professional meetings; student tuition and fees.

The award is for \$500. Priority will be given for research-related costs of graduate student projects. Selection criteria include

multidisciplinary applied research related to food/nutrition problems affecting individuals and households in developing countries; other related research applicable to developing countries; potential contribution of proposed activity to research base, professional development, alleviating food problems or other outcomes etc.

Project qualifications include financial need, and international cross-cultural experiences.

Application materials are available from Sherry Saville, HNFE, 338 Wallace Hall (0430); or call 1-5540.

Completed applications are due to Saville on April 7, by 5 p.m. in 338 Wallace Hall.

### ABC

*Continued from 1*

Washington, D.C. area. In 1991, and again in 1992, Thomas won the Mort Mintz Investigative Award, and was a finalist in 1993 for the Livingston Young Journalist Award. In 1994, he received the Pass Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for his article, "Beyond Grief and Fear."

### SCIENCE

*Continued from 2*

hall 130 in the new Chemistry/Physics Building. It is sponsored by the Department of Physics at Virginia Tech and supported by the National Science Foundation, Virginia Tech,

## Staff, faculty fund information on the way

All Tech employees will receive a packet of information on March 22 regarding the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund. The fund gives employees the opportunity to make a donation to Virginia Tech. Refer to the pledge form in the packet for information about gift designations and how to make a gift.

During the past year, the Virginia Tech Staff and Faculty Annual Fund raised more than \$17,000 towards various areas within the university, including its highlighted project, the Employees' Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to the generosity of the Virginia Tech community, 12 scholarships valued at \$500 each were awarded last year.

Gift options include on-line giving at [www.givingto.vt.edu/facultystaff/](http://www.givingto.vt.edu/facultystaff/); giving collectively from employee groups, and payroll deduction.

### CUBA

*Continued from 1*

geography classes for the students, but it also provides me opportunity to actively engage in teaching and research beyond the classroom," Scarpaci said. "And it is a contribution to public service."

Tom Hammett, director of international studies for the College of Natural Resources and associate professor of wood science and forest products, will assist Scarpaci on his May study-abroad course, along with geography Instructor John Boyer. That particular itinerary leaves from and returns to Miami, Florida, and includes visits to Havana, Trinidad, Santa Clara, and Veradero. Daily activities will consist of lectures and field trips to museums, landmarks, and universities.

This trip—the longest-running Cuba study abroad from a U.S. university—is open to any undergraduate or graduate student, professional journalist, or researcher interested in urbanization, planning, social sciences, literature, architecture, or community development in Cuba. For more information, contact Scarpaci at [scarp@vt.edu](mailto:scarp@vt.edu).

While Scarpaci's students were "being transformed by the Cuba experience," Boyer, who teaches the world-regions geography course to more than 500 students each semester, was helping lead 27 students on an extension of that class to Russia, Estonia, and Finland in northeastern Europe.

and the Institute of Physics's new journal *Physical Science*.

For information about the program, go to <http://www.csit.fsu.edu/~rikvold/VT04/VTworkshop.htm>. Registration is available at the conference March 6.

## EMPLOYMENT

### FACULTY POSITIONS

For information on all faculty listings, go to [www.jobs.vt.edu](http://www.jobs.vt.edu).

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**  
Division of Student Affairs. Chief of Staff/Director of Administration.  
UUSA Cranwell International Center. Coordinator of Support Services.  
Athletic Department. Assistant Volleyball Coach.

**Multicultural Opportunity. Academic**  
Opportunity. Apprentice Scientist(s). five positions.

Computer Science. Post-doctoral Associate in Bioinformatics.  
Office of Distance Learning/Computing. Director of Web Services.  
Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Senior Research Associate.  
Chemistry Department. Post-doctoral Associate.  
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Post-doctoral Associate.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Program Director. Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Educational Center.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent. Food, Nutrition/Health (Stafford County).  
Tidewater Agricultural Research/Extension Center. Peanut Variety/Quality Evaluation Program.  
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent. Crop/Soil Sciences. Augusta.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Continued from 1*

level of tuition increases for next year will be directly related to the amount of General Fund support provided. The Senate budget also provides for faculty and staff salary increases in November 2004, while the House and Executive budgets defer salary increases to November 2005. If no pay increase is approved for 2004-05, state employees will have gone

without pay increases for three out of the last four years.

In Cooperative Extension, both the Executive Budget and the Senate budget provided increased General Fund support for each year of the biennium. The Senate budget includes salary increases in November 2004 and 39 new agent and specialist positions. The Senate also included the funding for food, nutrition and health research recommended by the governor. The House eliminated that increase

and included no other additional funding except for the November 2005 salary increase for all employees.

The House and Senate have appointed a Conference Committee to attempt to resolve differences between the two budgets. The Senate budget is predicated on a revenue package that increases the state's General Fund and transportation revenues by a net of \$2.4 billion for the biennium, while the House plan includes an increase of about \$434

million over the projected revenues. Due to these great differences in available revenues, as well as in assumptions and methodologies in many areas of the budget, reconciling the two proposals will be a daunting task. At this writing the Conference Committee has not met, and most observers assume that the General Assembly will not conclude its deliberations on the budget by the March 13 deadline for adjournment.

PROPOSED HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGETS FROM THE GOVERNOR AND EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
as of February 27, 2004  
Amounts in Thousands of Dollars

OPERATING BUDGET	Governor's Executive Budget		House		Senate	
	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
	GF	NGF	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
<b>Funding Proposals for Virginia Tech - University Division</b>						
Faculty and Staff Salaries	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	\$1,335	\$2,233 (a)
Base Budget Adequacy, Including Funding for New Faculty Positions	\$2,918	\$656	\$979	\$1,316 (b)	10,226	8,898 (b)
Advanced Communications Network	493	0	0	0	493	0
Reduce Public Service Centers	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Operating Budget Actions	476	587	476	604	476	604
<b>Total Proposed Funding for the University Division</b>	<b>\$3,897</b>	<b>\$1,243</b>	<b>\$1,454</b>	<b>\$1,920</b> (c)	<b>\$12,340</b>	<b>\$11,456</b> (c)
<b>Funding Proposals for Virginia Tech - Cooperative Extension/AES Division</b>						
Faculty and Staff Salaries	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	\$698	\$170 (a)
Critical Staffing Initiative	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	2,099	0
Food, Nutrition, and Health Initiative (High Value Crops)	557	0	552	0	557	0
All Other Operating Budget Actions	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Proposed Funding for the CE/AES Division</b>	<b>\$557</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$552</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,274</b>	<b>\$170</b>
<b>Student Financial Assistance</b>	<b>\$512</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$512</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$512</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Equipment Trust Fund (Purchasing Power)</b>	<b>\$8,031</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,031</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,031</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## MAJOR LANGUAGE—PROPOSALS

**Tuition and Fee language.** The language proposed by the Governor's Budget, the House Budget, and the Senate Budget all provide additional flexibility for the Boards of Visitors to set and manage tuition and fees. Both the House and Senate versions bring new emphasis to adherence to the non-General Fund appropriation limits set forth in the Appropriation Act. While neither the House nor the Senate establishes tuition caps, the House suggests tuition rates of 4 to 8 percent for Virginia undergraduates, while the Senate projections are in the 6 to 7 percent range. The House would also require new out-of-state student fees to pay debt service on the Equipment Trust Fund and for the Building System Repair and Replacement Fund with the proceeds from those fees submitted to the state.

**Indirect Cost Language.** The Executive budget caps the allocation of 30 percent indirect cost recoveries to the institution's instructional programs at the level established in 2003-04. Future increases in this funding source would be used to support research activities. The House and the Senate leave this language in place. **NOTES:** (a). The Governor's Budget and the House propose a 3-percent salary increase for faculty and staff members, effective December 2005; the cost of this salary action is not disclosed in the Executive Budget. The Senate provided funding for a 3-percent faculty and staff salary increase in December 2004, along with the authority to use tuition revenues to increase the faculty rate up to 4.5 percent (b). The governor included one-time funding for research activities of \$2,004,625 in 2004-05.

## Bernard "Bernie" F. Feldman

*By Jeffrey Douglas*

Bernard "Bernie" F. Feldman, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), was killed in an automobile crash on February 19.

Feldman was an internationally recognized clinical pathologist and hematologist who joined the faculty of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1990. For the past 14 years he has taught and mentored DVM and graduate students, and directed the Veterinary Clinical Diagnostics, Clinical Pathology and Comparative Hemostasis Laboratories in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

"This is an enormous loss, not only for our college, but for the international veterinary community," said Lud Eng, a long-time colleague and head of the DBSP. "Bernie was a tremendous professional and a wonderful colleague. We will all miss him deeply."

Feldman earned his DVM degree from the University of Illinois. He earned his Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California at Davis, where he also served as a National Institutes of health fellow in clinical pathology. Feldman served on faculty at UC-Davis for the next 22 years.

Feldman was a former visiting professor and director of the Hematology-Oncology Clinic at the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands, a former visiting professor of veterinary clinical pathology at the Royal Veterinary College in Frederiksburg, Denmark, and a former Visiting Scholar at the International Laboratory for Research in Animal Diseases in Nairobi, Kenya. He was named honorary dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universities of Buenos Aires and Cordoba in Argentina.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to either the Floyd County Animal Shelter Expansion Program, P.O. Box, 218, Floyd, VA 24091, or the Floyd County Humane Society, P. O. Box 862, Floyd, VA, 24091.

## Herbert D. Stiles

Herbert D. Stiles professor of horticulture died Saturday Feb. 21. He worked at the Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Blackstone.

Stiles began his career at the University of Maryland in 1974. There he collaborated with U.S. Department of Agriculture plant breeders to develop disease resistant strawberry varieties. He also devised techniques to improve "virus-free" strawberry-and-raspberry transplant production.

He came to Virginia Tech in 1978 and served as Extension small-fruits specialist until his retirement in 2002. During his tenure he assisted in the development of new high-

quality raspberry varieties as well as new trellising systems to improve efficiently of both raspberry and blackberry production.

Stiles obtained his bachelor and master-of-science degrees from Rutgers University and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Florida.

Stiles was a member of the American Society of Horticultural Science and several other professional scientific groups.

## Metrorail station ground broken

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) has officially broken ground on a new \$13-million parking structure at the West Falls Church-VT/UVA Metrorail station.

"The Commonwealth of Virginia is pleased to help fund additional parking that will encourage the use of mass transit in one of the region's busiest traffic corridors," said Metro Board Member Dana Kauffman. "Providing additional parking at this Metro station will encourage people to use Metro as an alternative to getting into their cars and will help relieve congestion along the I-66 corridor."

"Additional parking will make Metrorail more user-friendly and will allow even more individuals to take advantage of public transit," Metro Board member Catherine Hudgins said. "After all, we want people to park their cars and use public transit. This new parking facility will allow them to do just that."

## STUDENT DEATHS

Clayton Waterfield, a student in university studies, and William A. Rice, a student in the College of Architecture and urban studies.

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