

SPECTRUM

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for
information on research
report to the faculty.

Interviews scheduled for final CNR dean candidates

By Clara B. Cox

Three final candidates have been selected for the position of dean of the College of Natural Resources, and on-campus interviews, including an open forum, have been scheduled for each candidate.

The position will become vacant at the end of June with the retirement of Dean Gregory N. Brown.

The candidates are Robert H. Jones, professor and head of the Department of Biology at Virginia Tech; J. Michael Kelly, chair of the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Department at Iowa State University; and Thomas G. Coon, associate dean in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and professor of fisheries and wildlife at Michigan State University.

Each candidate will address the topic "The Role of the College of Natural Resources

in a Major Land-Grant Research University in the 21st Century" during the open forums. The forums, which are open to the university community, will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology auditorium (room 102).

Jones will be interviewed March 21 through 23 with his open forum scheduled March 22. Kelly's interviews will be held March 30 through April 1 with his open forum on March 31. Coon will visit campus for his interviews April 4 through 6 with his open forum on April 5.

Jones joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1995 and became department head in 2002. In that capacity, he has led his department through a strategic planning process, restructured the department, and spearheaded new interdepartmental initiatives in behavioral biology, plant science, and structural biology. Among his other initiatives and achievements

are expanded alumni activities and events, various campus-wide programs in ecology and molecular biology, a continued upward trend in multicultural representation among faculty members and graduate students, and securing funds to initiate an endowed biology-excellence fund.

As a professor of biology, Jones has taught graduate and undergraduate courses and developed a summer study-abroad course focused on forests and cultures of China. He also has advised graduate students and conducted funded research in below-ground ecology and forest regeneration. He and his collaborators have supported their research via grants totaling \$1.49 million, and he has 51 peer-reviewed publications.

Jones received his B.S. in forest management and M.S. in forestry from
(See INTERVIEWS on 4)



SEN

Sen appointed Pamplin College associate dean

By Sookhan Ho

Tarun K. Sen, professor of accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business, has been appointed associate dean of graduate and international programs and MBA director in the Pamplin College.

Sen joined Virginia Tech in 1985 and has taught in the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, the Northern Virginia MBA program, and the Master's of Information Technology (MIT) program. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses on database-management systems, management-information systems, systems analysis and design, e-business technology and management, and software project management.

Sen has led many management-development programs and workshops and has served on numerous college committees, including the Graduate Program in Information Technology Advisory Committee, MBA Advisory Committee, and

(See SEN on 3)

Provost announces steps to address core-curriculum issues

By Clara B. Cox

The university will develop an action plan to "review, refine, and revitalize" its core curriculum, and University Provost Mark McNamee has announced the first steps in the process. McNamee addressed core-curriculum issues in a recent letter to the faculty, which, he said, must take the lead in the process.

Effective in academic year 2004-05, McNamee will authorize the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching to set aside \$25,000 for Core Revitalization Initiative Rewards as a way to encourage and reward innovative work on core-related projects.

McNamee said he sees great promise in interdisciplinary sequences that address several core areas in integrated and creative ways and has asked core committees to

develop a streamlined process to make the substitutions possible for the 2004-05 academic year. "We need to remove barriers to innovation and to have a mechanism for fast-track approval of promising pilot programs and courses," he said. He will work with department heads, deans, the University Core Curriculum Committee, and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies to adjust existing structures to accommodate new processes.

Another step announced by McNamee is to ensure that modes of evaluating the core as a whole and of assessing individual areas become key components of reviewing, refining, and revitalizing the core. Regarding one of the individual areas—writing and discourse—he said he would provide support at the level of university oversight and identify additional resources for the work that "will be

required to develop, implement, and assess the student competencies for the speaking-visual-writing requirement as it transitions from the core curriculum to the department level."

McNamee also plans to hold a mini-retreat on April 30 to address ways to align the university's core values with the core curriculum, to improve the coherence and integration of the goals of existing core areas, and to establish an agenda for the next academic year that focuses on delineating any changes needed in administrative and governance procedures and determining if Tech should pilot a distinctive, integrated first-year experience for undergraduates.

He also said he agrees with the Summer 2002 Working Group, which "saw merit in referring to the core areas by name rather than
(See PROVOST on 4)

Researcher will use nano-particles in environmental cleanups

By Liz Crumbley



VIKESLAND

Engineering, to study the use of nano-particles in removing hazardous solvents from groundwater.

The five-year Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award will enable Vikesland to make advances in research he began as a post-doctoral scholar at Johns Hopkins University before he joined

the Virginia Tech faculty in 2002.

Many chlorinated solvents, such as the dry-cleaning fluid perchloroethylene, have become major groundwater contaminants as a result of their improper disposal, Vikesland said. Although disposal practices have improved greatly, these hazardous chemicals can persist for some time in groundwater and continue to pose a cleanup challenge.

About 10 years ago, researchers at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, discovered that iron filings corrode when exposed to chlorinated solvents, a chemical reaction that renders the solvents non-hazardous. As the filings corrode in groundwater, Vikesland explained, they break down to form the iron oxide magnetite, which takes the form of particles less than 100 nanometers in diameter. These nano-particles have the potential to continue to react with the chlorinated solvents, thus ensuring longer-term remediation.

Vikesland's CAREER project has two goals—to understand the chemistry of iron corrosion and reactivity, and to assess the effects of the formation of nano-particles on long-term reactivity. "A knowledge of the fundamental chemistry of this reactivity could result in improvements for several types of environmental cleanups," Vikesland said.

His research also will add to the body of knowledge concerning magnetite nano-particles. In addition to its potential importance in environmental cleanups, magnetite is used in certain other advanced technologies, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

All CAREER projects have an educational component, and Vikesland plans to revamp an undergraduate course, Introduction to Environmental Engineering. He will add new concepts, such as sustainability and green engineering, and will teach the course using problem-based learning.

Board Of Visitors to Meet March 29

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its spring quarterly board meeting, March 29, 1 p.m. in the Board Room of Torgersen Hall (Rm. 2100).

Committees will meet in the morning at the Donaldson Brown Center.

The Academic Affairs Committee meets at 8:30 A.M., Conference Room F.

The Building and Grounds Committee meets in closed session at 8 a.m. in the Board Room and in open session at 8:45 a.m. in conference room A.

The Finance and Audit Committee will meet in closed session at 7:30 a.m. in the Private Dining Room and at 8:30 a.m.

(See BOARD on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 19

Last Day to Resign.

Monday, 22

Graduate-Student Appreciation Week Begins.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Women's Center.

"State of the Graduate School" address, 3:30 p.m., Fralin auditorium: By Karen De Pauw, vice provost of graduate studies and Graduate School dean.

Horticulture Garden Winter Seminar Series, 6 to 8 p.m., 409 Saunders Hall.

Tuesday, 23

Web Course Request Summer/Fall.

20th Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium and Exposition, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Owen's Banquet Hall.

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Women's Center.

"Past Present and Future of Graduate Education at Virginia Tech," 4 p.m., Torgersen Museum.

Wednesday, 24

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Women's Center at Virginia Tech

Graduate Education Week Keynote Address, 5:30 p.m., Owens Banquet Hall: "Leaders: Born or Bred?" by Belle Whelan. Reception to follow.

Thursday, 25

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Women's Center.

Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Drillfield.

Take Back the Night Rally, 7 p.m. pre-rally music and readings; 7:30 p.m. rally; 8 p.m. through campus and downtown Blacksburg. Assemble on Drillfield in front of Burruss.

Friday, 26,

Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Women's Center.

Graduate Honor System Open Forum, noon to 1 p.m., 219 Squires: Students and faculty members invited.

Sunday, 21

Ensemble Concert, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

Saturday, 27

Big Event: Call 1-8631 for information.

Chamber Music Series, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

Sunday, 28

Gay Awareness Week Begins.

Chamber Music Series, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

Wednesday, 31

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

SEMINARS

Friday, 19

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: G.-Q. Lu.

Friday, 26

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Gary J. Shiflet, UVA.

APRIL

Friday, 2

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: John Delaney, University of Washington

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Carmen I. Huber, National Science Foundation.

BULLETINS

Graduate Education Week March 22-26

The Fourth Annual Graduate Education Week will be held March 22 through 26, with numerous events planned to highlight the importance of graduate students and graduate education at Virginia Tech. A list of events can be found at grads@vt.edu. For more information, call Chris LaPlante at 1-9561.

President's Award nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 President's Award for Excellence. The purpose of this award is to annually recognize up to five selected employees who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act.

All salaried classified staff members at any pay band level, as well as administrative or professional faculty members, with at least two years of university service are eligible for consideration. Specific exclusions for the award are instructional faculty members, academic-department heads, deans, assistant and associate deans, vice presidents, Extension agents, and wage employees. Previous award recipients are not eligible until five years after receiving the award. For more information regarding eligibility of any employee, contact Personnel Services at 1-7784.

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

Nominations can be made by any employee; however, self-nominations are not acceptable. All nominations must be submitted on an Award for Excellence nomination form that is available through deans, directors, and department heads, or

may be downloaded from the Personnel Services web page, <http://www.ps.vt.edu/>. Evaluation criteria and nomination guidelines are included with the nomination form.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 20, to the President's Award for Excellence Committee, c/o Personnel Services, Southgate Center 0318. Call 1-7784 for information or additional forms.

Take Back the Night rally, march scheduled

The fifteenth annual Take Back the Night Rally and March will be held Thursday, March 25.

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.

International banker to speak

International banker David Bieri will give a talk, "Why Central Banks Manage Reserves," on Monday, April 5, 11 a.m. in 1045 Pamplin Hall. His talk is part of the "International Business and Culture" guest-lecture series sponsored by the Pamplin College of Business. The talk is free and open to the public.

Bieri is head of business development at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel, Switzerland, where he is

responsible for new financial products and services, customer business analysis, and investment analytical support.

He was previously an investment analyst at the bank and has also worked as an analyst at Bankers Trust International in London. He has held summer internships at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London.

For more information, contact Stuart Mease at 1-5706, (smease@vt.edu).

Dog walk scheduled for April 10

A "Dog Walk Against Cancer" will be held Saturday, April 10, from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

The event is designed to raise money to support student cancer research and increase public awareness about cancer.

Participants in the dog walk will complete individually paced one-mile laps on a course that will wind through the "VMRCVM Grove" and nearby cross-country trails. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, must be in good health and must be current on immunizations. People participating in the event are asked to only bring dogs that get along well with other dogs and other people in crowded conditions.

Individuals participating in the event must acquire at least \$25 in sponsorship revenue and present those funds to organizers on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required and is available at www.vetmed.vt.edu/CeCO/ or by contacting center personnel at 1-4643.

Participants registering for the event by April 3 will receive a commemorative T-shirt and a bandana for their dog.

Choicepoint president, chief operating officer to speak

By Sookhan Ho

The president and chief operating officer of identification and credential-verification services provider, ChoicePoint, will give a talk Tuesday, March 30, at 3:30 p.m. in 2150 Torgersen Hall.

Doug C. Curling will visit campus as the Pamplin College of Business Wachovia Distinguished Speaker. His talk is entitled, "Creating the Invaluable Manager—You!"

Curling, who earned two degrees in accounting from Virginia Tech (a bachelor's degree in 1976 and a master's degree in 1977), directs ChoicePoint's operations and technology groups. He has helped guide the

company toward double-digit growth in revenue and operating profit.

An officer of ChoicePoint since 1993, Curling previously served as its chief financial officer. He was formerly at Equifax Inc. (the former parent of ChoicePoint), which he served in various capacities: senior vice president, vice president, and assistant corporate controller.

Through the identification, retrieval, storage, analysis, and delivery of data, ChoicePoint provides decision-making information that helps businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals reduce fraud and mitigate risk.

Forest-products-industry short course set

The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management will offer its third-annual short course on advanced sales training in the forest-products industry from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 1, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, April 2 at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

The course's objective is to offer individuals in the forest-products industry ways to develop self-management and communication skills to become more successful salespeople. Topics will include good salesmanship, effective communication to improve sales, asking effective questions to

improve sales, sales negotiations, improving sales through effective time management, trends in the industry, improving sales by improving attitude, and relationship selling for the wood products industry.

The course is open to salespeople in the forest-products industry who care about customer-salesperson relationships and wish to enhance skills in communication, time management, and negotiation.

Registration is available on line at www.conted.vt.edu/astfpi/; for more information or a copy of a brochure, go to rsmith4@vt.edu or ctrfpjmo@vt.edu.

Research Report to the Faculty now on line

By Susan Trulove

What will it take for Virginia Tech to reach the top-30 research university? "Success in becoming a leading comprehensive university requires that we clearly understand what we wish to become," wrote Interim Vice Provost for Research Jim Blair, in the 2003 *Office of the Vice Provost for Research Report to the Faculty*, now available on line. His opening chapter on "Planning for Success" explores six strategies.

How do faculty members interact with the new academic-council system that was created

to focus resources for research growth? Provost Mark McNamee explained in his chapter, "The decision process for identifying focus areas—it begins with the faculty."

To achieve Governor Mark Warner's goal to have "at least 15 additional Virginia research programs ranked in the top five nationally," an initiative was undertaken to identify research programs at Virginia universities that have the potential to be top national programs. The four Virginia Tech programs submitted received high praise from the reviewers, most of whom are members of the National Academy of

(See RESEARCH on 4)

TO THE EDITOR

To the faculty and staff members of Virginia Tech

For the third year, the Virginia Tech Student Government Association will hold the Big Event. This annual event is quickly becoming one of the best opportunities for the students of Virginia Tech to give back to the local communities. This year we are expecting over 1,500 students.

The Big Event this year is March 27. With a strong increase in student volunteers expected once again, it is estimated that 200 service projects can be completed. We are expanding to help more individuals throughout the New River Valley region including areas of Giles County and all of Montgomery County.

Faculty and staff members can assist us in finding service projects in their communities. We believe you may know of great ways in which our volunteers can help. If you know of a neighbor, friend, or relative that can use a helping hand, please let us know what we can do. Additionally, contact us if you personally have specific opportunities to help. For more information about what type of work our volunteers can complete, visit our web site at www.sga.vt.edu/bigevent/. At the web site, you can also download our job request form to submit a service opportunity. We can also be contacted through at thebigevent@vt.edu, and by phone, at 1-8631.

Andy Landers, Big Event director



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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Au Bon Pain® celebrates grand opening

By Lori Greiner

The Office of Student Programs held a grand-opening celebration to officially mark the opening of its newest restaurant, Au Bon Pain[®], on Thursday, March 18.

Au Bon Pain[®] features distinctive bakery items, upscale sandwiches and wraps, salads, and signature soups. A unique feature of Virginia Tech's Au Bon Pain[®] is its kiosk outside the main store. This allows for extended service in the mornings and evenings as well as

additional support throughout the day. The kiosk offers breakfast items in addition to muffins, bagels, salads, and pre-made sandwiches.

Au Bon Pain[®] is located in the Squires Student Center Food Court and is open Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Greiner at 1-8068 or e-mail lgreiner@vt.edu.

Family Financial Management Program maintains registration by CFP® Board

By Jean Elliott

Virginia Tech's Family Financial Management program has maintained its registration with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. (CFP Board) through January, 2009. The undergraduate degree program, which prepares students to enter careers in financial planning, was first accredited in 1997.

"The continuation of our registration reaffirms the quality of our program in meeting the dual objectives of providing a broad-based undergraduate education and meeting the professional standards identified by a national review group," said Ruth Lytton, program director and associate professor in the Department of Apparel, Housing and Resource Management.

The CFP Board, which functions as an independent certifying organization as well as a nonprofit regulatory organization, fosters professional standards in personal financial planning so that the public values, has access to and benefits from competent and ethical financial planning.

A relatively young profession, financial planning emerged as a unique discipline about 30 years ago. Distinguishing it from other financial professions is its basic philosophy: financial planning is a process, not a product. Simply put, it is the process of determining how an individual can meet life goals through the proper management of his or her financial resources.

In considering a school's application to register a program, CFP Board compares the

program with the financial planning-related topics identified in extensive, periodic job-task analysis studies which survey financial-planning professionals to determine areas students should master to provide competent, ethical financial planning services. These topics include several broad subject areas: general principles of financial planning, insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income-tax planning, retirement planning and estate planning.

(See FAMILY on 4)

SEN

Continued from 1

the International Programs Committee. He helped develop the MIT program and is assisting in promoting the program internationally. He led the successful launching of Pamplin's first executive MBA program in the Washington, D.C., area.

He has been active in funded research and has published in leading journals, including *Management Science*, *INFORMS Journal on Computing*, *Decision Support Systems*, and *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics*.

Sen, who has been serving in this position on an interim basis since last July, has a Ph.D. in management-information systems from the University of Iowa. He has an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management at Bangalore, India, and an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur, India.

EMPLOYMENT

FACULTY POSITIONS

For information on all faculty and staff position listings, go to www.jobs.vt.edu.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology Department, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Anatomic Pathology Faculty Position.

English Department. Instructor(s). RESTRICTED.

English Department. Instructor. Marketing Department. Assistant/Associate/Full Professor.

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (Leesburg). Clinical Instructor—Anesthesia.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
Undergraduate Admissions. Assistant Director of Admissions (three positions).

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Research Associate/Signal Processing Technician.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Research Associate/Information System Developer (five positions).

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Project Manager/Senior Project Associate.

Geosciences. Postdoctoral Associate.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institution. Human Factors Engineer. Research Scientist.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Human Factors Engineer. Research Associate/Senior Research (3 positions).

Department of Biochemistry. Research Scientist—Stem Cell Biology. University Unions and Student Activities. Coordinator of Leadership Development in Student Activities.

Department of Geosciences. COMPRES Postdoctoral Associate.

Department of Biochemistry. Research Scientist, Biochemistry (part-time).

Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Paul Mellon Distinguished Chair of Agriculture.

Northeast District Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Crop/Soil (Northumberland County).

Health. City of Portsmouth. Extension Agent, Food, Nutrition/Health (City of Portsmouth).

Southeast District Cooperative Extension. Area Program Coordinator, EFNEP/SCNEP, Suffolk.



OUT, BUT NOT DOWN A prize of \$1 million was at stake in the DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Grand Challenge, a 250-mile competition between Los Angeles and Las Vegas for autonomous vehicles with no human intervention allowed. The Virginia Tech team of mechanical engineering and geography students, shown here before the event, was one of 15 finalists, but no team was able to complete the course.

GEDI

Continued from 3

other faculty roles including research, outreach and advising.

GEDI students use the new ePortfolio system (VTeP) to investigate how electronic portfolios can be used in the classroom for storing, sharing and commenting on class projects. VTeP is also used as a professional tool for developing teaching portfolios that contain products of teaching and outreach, as well as reflections on teaching agendas and

growth. VTeP, administered by Educational Technologies, is a new open-source ePortfolio system under active development by several universities.

FAMILY

Continued from 3

"CFP Board is pleased to have an educational institution the caliber of Virginia Tech offering its approved financial planning curriculum," said David Diesslin, chair of CFP Board's Board of Governors. For more about CFP Board, visit www.CFP.net.

INTERVIEWS

Continued from 1

Clemson University and a Ph.D. at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Kelly, a fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, joined the Iowa State University Department of Forestry as professor and department chair in 1995, a position he held until 2002. In 2001, he also served as interim chair of the Department of Horticulture. In 2002, he was selected to chair a merged Department of Forestry and Department of Animal Ecology, the position he now holds.

While he was forestry department head, research grew significantly with external annual support increasing by a factor of five, and his initiatives led the department to prominence in restoration ecology, bio-based materials research, and the pedagogy of undergraduate natural-resource education. He also helped grow the department's endowments by \$2.2 million.

The work of Kelly and his colleagues in theoretical and experimental evaluations of acidic deposition impacts on forest soils and in surface waters was a key component of the National Acidic Precipitation Assessment Program and contributed to the knowledge base on ozone impacts used in recent amendments to the Clean Air Act.

Kelly helped develop and served as chair of the National Acidic Deposition Program/National Trends Network, sits on the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges Executive Committee.

Kelly holds a B.S. in biology from East

Tennessee State University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in plant ecology and forest soils from the University of Tennessee.

Among his responsibilities as associate dean and fisheries and wildlife professor, Coon provides leadership and administrative oversight of international programs, which include 25 different study-abroad programs serving more than 300 students annually; more than 30 graduate programs that serve 700 graduate students; and research programs in international agriculture-and-natural-resources development that generate \$20 million annually in contracts and grants and affect the development of Africa, South and Central America, and Asia. From 1999-2002, he was acting department chair.

Coon has served as co-leader of a state-

Staff members recognized for professional achievement

The university recently recognized nine staff members who participated in the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) and Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) certification programs.

The CPS program provides knowledge and skills to enable office professional to attain the CPS certification through a comprehensive exam administered at Virginia Tech. After obtaining the CPS certification, members can enhance their professional and career goals by obtaining Certified Administrative Professional certification.

Those who were recognized with Certified Professional Secretary Achievement Certificates are Sandy Graham of Blacksburg, program support technician, Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Pamplin College of Business; Mary Preston-Alley, office manager, Virginia

Tech Motor Pool; Doris Shelor, budget manager, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Lynn Robinson, human-resources assistant, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Belinda Pauley, assistant to the director, Cranwell International Center; Sybil Phoenix, enrollment-services specialist, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Those who were recognized with Certified Administrative Professional Achievement Certificates are Kellie Morris, program-support technician, Office of Alumni Affairs; Brenda Husser, office manager, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Mary Whitlock, recently retired from the former College of Human Resources and Education.

For more information, contact Kellie Morris at 1-6287 or morrisk@vt.edu.

RESEARCH

Continued from 3

Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. Program descriptions and reviewers' comments appear in the *Report to the Faculty* chapter on "External reviewers praise Virginia Tech programs."

The Office of Sponsored Research reports that fewer proposals were written during FY 2003 (the year ending June 30, 2003), but awards were up somewhat and expenditures were up 14 percent, with a slight increase in funding from the National Institutes for Health.

Also included in the *Report to the Faculty* is an outline of services available to faculty members from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and a report on research computing.

The National Science Foundation Ranking of colleges and universities based on research expenditures for fiscal year 2002 is not yet available. The university's 49th ranking is from 2001. The OVPR will let the university community know when the latest ranking and analysis has been added to the *Report to the Faculty*.

Find the report at www.research.vt.edu/resmag/2003AR/.

PROVOST

Continued from 1

by numbers and in having the area goals displayed prominently on course syllabi." As an incentive to naming the core areas, the Provost's Office is sponsoring a competition for the person who develops the best acronym for the seven areas.

Bell is working with McNamee and others to prioritize the issues and develop effective strategies to improve the core curriculum.

More information is available on line at www.provost.vt.edu under Core Curriculum Initiatives.

BOARD

Continued from 1

in open session in the Executive Conference Room.

The Student Affairs Committee meets at 9 a.m. in conference room C.

Among topics under consideration are tuition and fees for 2004-05 academic year, compensation for graduate assistants, Lane Stadium financing, veterinary-medicine consulting policy, and various easement grants.

There will be committee meetings on Sunday, March 28. A selection committee will meet in closed session at 11 a.m. to interview student representatives to the board. The Special Committee on Research will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the DBHCC Executive Conference Room. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Narrow-Tailoring Concept will meet in the Torgersen Hall Board Room at 2:45 p.m. The full board will hold an information session Sunday, March 28 at 4 p.m.

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