

# SPECTRUM

Virginia Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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**TODAY'S EDITION**  
See page 2 for information  
on CommonHealth medical  
screenings.

## Kelly named dean of College of Natural Resources

By Clara B. Cox

J. Michael Kelly, chair of the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Department at Iowa State University, will become the second dean of the College of Natural Resources, effective September 1. He will replace Gregory N. Brown, founding dean of the college, who has announced his retirement this summer.

"I am delighted that Dr. Kelly has accepted our offer to become dean of Natural Resources. His background and leadership skills will allow the college to continue the great progress begun under Dr. Brown," said Mark G. McNamee, university provost and vice president for academic affairs, in making the announcement.

"Interest in and pressures on natural resources will continue to intensify as this century progresses. Virginia Tech's College

of Natural Resources is well positioned to take a leadership role in educating the next generation of natural-resource managers as well as providing the research base and Extension programs needed to effectively manage, utilize, and protect the natural resources of Virginia and the nation," Kelly said.

A fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, Kelly joined the Iowa State University Department of Forestry as professor and department chair in 1995, a position he held until 2002. He also served as interim chair of the Department of Horticulture during 2001.

In 2002, he was responsible for developing and implementing a merged Department of Forestry and Department of Animal Ecology to form the Department of Natural Resources Ecology and Management and was named chair of the new department, the position he now



KELLY

(See KELLY on 4)

## VBI, partners receive largest NIH contract

By Susan Bland

The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) and its partners have been awarded a five-year, \$10.3-million contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The purpose of this contract, which is one of the largest NIH contracts in Virginia Tech's history, is to establish a national Bioinformatics Resource Center (BRC) that consists of a multi-organism relational database in support of infectious-disease research, especially as it affects biodefense and emerging infectious diseases.

VBI's BRC will focus on *brucella* (causes brucellosis in cattle, pigs, and humans), caliciviruses (causes many of the viral dysenteries on cruise ships), coronaviruses, hepatitis A, rabiesvirus, *coxiella burnetii/rickettsias* (which cause Q fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and typhus).

VBI will serve as the lead research group with collaborators at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech's Department of Computer Science, Loyola University Medical School, the University of Maryland, and Social and Scientific Systems Inc.

VBI's professor and Director Bruno Sobral will lead the project, and VBI's Joao Setubal, co-principal investigator for the project, will interact with other Virginia Tech faculty members, including Stephen Boyle from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and Deborah Hix and Naren Ramakrishnan from the Department of Computer Science.

"This NIH award highlights the

(See VBI on 4)

## Sanders selected to be new assistant provost

By Clara B. Cox

Karen Eley Sanders has been named assistant provost and director of Academic Support Services at Virginia Tech, effective August 1.



SANDERS

Sanders has served as director of the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence since July, 2001.

In her new position, Sanders will oversee the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence, Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP), Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, university-wide academic support initiatives, and Pipeline programs, which

are designed to create early exposure to college opportunities for potential students at an early age.

"We were extremely pleased to attract Dr. Sanders to her present position, and now the opportunity presents itself to utilize further her professional talents in this broader responsibility of academic support services," said David R. Ford, vice provost for academic affairs, in making the announcement.

"Karen's appointment reflects the university's commitment to the success and mission of MAOP and its role as a university-wide resource," said Patricia B. Hyer, associate provost for academic administration. MAOP had reported to Hyer, but the program will move under Ford with Sanders's appointment.

Before joining the administration at Virginia Tech, Sanders spent nine years at the University of Arkansas, where she directed Minority Education Services from 1997-2001

and the Boyer Advising Center from 1992-1997. She has been a program analyst for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, and has taught at the University of Illinois and Virginia State University, where she also coordinated the Enrichment in the Sciences Program.

She has made presentations at conferences throughout the country and is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, among them the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. University of Arkansas Faculty/Staff Award and the American Association for Higher Education Black Caucus Outstanding Dissertation Award. She was recognized by the Virginia Tech Black Caucus in 2003 for contributions in campus and community outreach and in 2002 for service to students. She is listed in several Who's Who publications, most recently Who's Who in Executives and Professionals 2003-04, and

(See SANDERS on 3)

## Ball to oversee Tech's Department of Mechanical Engineering

By Lynn A. Nystrom

Kenneth S. Ball, professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, will become the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering in Virginia Tech's College of Engineering August 1.

Ball, who held the Temple Foundation Endowed Faculty Fellow in Engineering No. 5 at the University of Texas at Austin, also is the college's nominee for the L.S. Randolph Professorship of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech, said Hassan Aref, dean of the College of Engineering.

"I am pleased we could recruit Dr. Ball to Virginia Tech. He has built a world-class research center at the Texas," Aref said.

"Our mechanical-engineering department is the home of several premier educational and research facilities, and I believe Dr. Ball's vision will complement and enhance our efforts."

Currently, the Department of Mechanical Engineering ranks 22nd in the country, according to the 2004 survey conducted by *U.S. News and World Report*. Most recently, the department played the leading role in the university's partnering with the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center to offer graduate degrees in biomedical engineering and in its successful bid to become a lead university of a consortium selected by NASA to create the National Institute of Aerospace.

(See BALL on 3)

## Taylor to head Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

By Lynn A. Nystrom

G. Don Taylor Jr., director of the Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution at the University of Louisville, will become head of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering this fall.

"I am pleased to announce that we were able to recruit Dr. Taylor to Blacksburg," said Hassan Aref, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. "He held an endowed chair at the University of Louisville where he founded the research center he currently directs."

"At Louisville, Dr. Taylor held the Mary Lee and George F. Duthie Chair in Engineering Logistics. The department's honorifics

committee and I have nominated Dr. Taylor to hold our Charles O. Gordon Professorship," Aref said.

The Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering is highly respected among its peers across the country. In the latest rankings by *U.S. News and World Report*, the department ranks seventh in the quality of its graduate education and fifth for its undergraduate program.

Taylor, who joined the University of Louisville in the spring of 2000, is an expert on the logistical intricacies and potential economies of supply-chain management, from materials flow inside a factory to transportation dispatching and routing. In

(See TAYLOR on 3)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 16

#### Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Torgersen Hall: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

**Summer Arts Festival Concert**, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge.

**Summer Arts Festival Theatre Performance**, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: "Lovers." Through 7-17.

### Monday, 19

#### Last Day to Drop.

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Southgate Center: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Tuesday, 20

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Cheatham Hall:

Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Wednesday, 21

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

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Derring Hall: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Thursday, 22

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Wallace Hall: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Friday, 23

**Summer Arts Festival Concert**, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Barbara Martin and Mac Walters.

### Monday, 26

#### Last Day to Resign.

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Southgate Center: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Tuesday, 27

**CommonHealth Medical Screening**, Vet Med: Go to web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> to register for appointment.

### Wednesday, 28

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

### Friday, 30

#### Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

**Summer Arts Festival Concert**, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Crossties.

## BULLETINS

### CommonHealth medical screenings under way

CommonHealth medical screenings are under way through July 27. (See calendar above for dates and locations.) The \$5 (individual) and (\$7 family) screening fee includes blood-pressure check, blood test (total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, and blood glucose), and a free CommonHealth t-shirt. The screening is for those individuals who were unable to attend the March screenings. All university employees and adult family members living in the home are eligible to attend. More details and the registration flyer can be found on the CommonHealth web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu/benefits/ch/> or by contacting [treed@vt.edu](mailto:treed@vt.edu).

### Statistical Consulting Center changes policy

Effective July 1, due to continued budgetary issues, the Statistical Consulting Center announces that it will now be necessary to charge for all statistical consulting services. The initial visit to the Statistical Consulting Center to determine the nature and scope of the research project will continue to be free of charge, but all subsequent meetings will be subject to a charge.

Consultations for writing grant proposals will be free provided that the anticipated statistical consulting costs are included as direct costs. The Controller's Office has determined that the charges will be \$40/hour for graduate student time and \$84/hour for faculty consulting time. These rates went into effect on July 1. Visit web site [www.stat.vt.edu/development/consulting.html](http://www.stat.vt.edu/development/consulting.html) for future updates.

### VT Research Channel program to debut

The Research Channel will debut "Saving America's Streams and Streamside Lands" in August. The documentary, produced by Fisheries Professor Louis Helfrich and the Department of Visual and Broadcast Communications,

follows efforts to protect and enhance streamside habitat in America.

The documentary debuts August 7 at 8:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 8:30 pm, and will be shown periodically over the following two months. The Research Channel is carried on Virginia Tech cable channel 47, and is available on the Dish Network.

### Updated campus maps available

The *Virginia Tech Campus Guide*, which includes a map of campus and information of interest to visitors, has been updated and is now available from the Publications and Outreach Communications unit of University Relations.

The unit will provide 25 copies of the map per year free to departments or organizations. Those departments and organizations wanting additional copies will be charged 30 cents for each copy above 25.

To secure copies of the campus guide, contact Phyllis Olinger at 1-6867 (before noon Monday-Friday) or [phylo@vt.edu](mailto:phylo@vt.edu).

### The Lighthouse newsletter available

The first issue of *The Lighthouse*, the official newsletter of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research is now available.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view *The Lighthouse*. It can be downloaded at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. Those who do not wish to continue receiving *The Lighthouse* should send an e-mail to [thelighthouse@ialr.org](mailto:thelighthouse@ialr.org) and write unsubscribe in the subject heading.

### Employees request leave donations

Employees in Development and Student Programs have requested leave donations.

Salaried classified employees or a 12-month regular faculty members may participate by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours. There is no maximum donation limitation per year, nor is there a minimum balance that must be maintained. Donation forms can be downloaded from the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/forms/>. Click on Alphabetical List, then open up the Leave Donor Form P6A.

Leave donations received after the employee's eligibility status changes (such as, return to work, disability retirement, retirement, etc.) will be returned to the donor in accordance with established Personnel procedures. However, leave must be donated to either a specific individual or area.

For more information, call Lynett Cruise at 1-5304.

### Restrictions noted on employment of minors

Virginia Tech does not allow teenagers to flag traffic, operate forklifts, or operate woodworking or metalworking machinery, among other restricted activities.

For individuals under the age of 18 years, federal and state child-labor regulations establish restrictions in any employment occupation determined by the Department of Labor to be particularly hazardous for the employment of minors or detrimental to their health or well-being.

Hiring departments are responsible for establishing the age and retaining the required documentation for all student and non-student hourly employees. Documents that are acceptable proof of age include: birth certificate or transcript thereof issued by a registrar of vital statistics, baptismal record, passport, school record, driver's license, or other documentation if secured by presenting one of the previously mentioned documents.

Departments with teenage employees that have questions regarding their employment should contact their human-resources staffing specialist or call 1-9331.

## JOUSTER project aimed at readying unmanned vehicles for military

By Liz Crumbley

Using a \$2.2-million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, university researchers will begin developing an experimentation site at the Virginia International Raceway near Danville, as an initial step in the Joint Unmanned Systems Testing, Experimentation, and Research (JOUSTER) program.

The new program could receive as much as \$12.2 million in defense grants over the next three years for research advancing the technology of unmanned military air and ground vehicles, said Charles Reinholtz, alumni distinguished professor of mechanical engineering, and Al Wicks, associate professor of mechanical engineering, both in the College of Engineering, are the lead researchers for the JOUSTER project.

Unmanned and autonomous vehicles are

increasingly important in military and search-and-rescue activities. Advancing the technology through programs like JOUSTER will make it possible for unmanned machines to do more of the dangerous work, such as finding land mines and conducting close-range air surveillance in military conflicts.

"Virginia Tech has played an important role in defense research over the years, and this grant for unmanned-vehicle development will help Virginia Tech and Southside continue in that strong tradition," said Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), who announced congressional appropriation of JOUSTER funding during a ceremony in March at the speedway. Virginia Tech received the grant in June.

"We're conducting two sets of unmanned air-ground vehicle experiments in 2004," said Reinholtz, who, along with Wicks, has directed

research and student projects on unmanned and autonomous vehicles for a number of years at Virginia Tech. "To our knowledge, this will be the first experimentation site devoted to both unmanned air and unmanned ground vehicles."

An initial set of experiments featured test vehicles supplied by Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, including a remotely piloted Yamaha RMAX helicopter and a Matilda ground vehicle. A second series of tests will be conducted this fall, linking an Athena Golden Eye ducted-fan aerial vehicle with an iRobot ground vehicle. "We're approaching the tests as a learning opportunity, but we also intend to collect a significant amount of performance data, develop performance benchmarks and supply all on-site support services," Reinholtz said. "We hope this work will demonstrate the

importance of JOUSTER in the long-range plans of the Department of Defense's Joint Robotics Program."

Currently, few standards exist for unmanned vehicles used by the military, Wicks said. JOUSTER tests will help determine standards and evaluate whether these vehicles are functioning as required. The experiments also are aimed at finding out how well unmanned vehicles interact with humans who monitor and remotely control vehicle activity.

(See JOUSTER on 3)

**Spectrum publication for Fall Semester are as follows: July 30; August 13, 27; September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 5, 19; December 3, 17.**

## Salbador appointed Pamplin interim associate dean

By Sookhan Ho

Debra A. Salbador, associate professor of accounting and information systems, has been appointed interim associate dean of undergraduate programs at Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business, effective July 1.

A member of the faculty since 1994, Salbador has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in taxation and accounting as well as continuing-education courses. She has served on her department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and continues to serve on a number of department, college, and university committees. She has served on the advisory board of the Organization of Women Faculty and was a member of the Virginia Tech Services Board of Directors, the Audit Committee of which she chaired for six years. She has been an adviser to about 30 students since 1994 and was the faculty advisor to the Beta Alpha Psi honorary fraternity.

Her research interest is tax policy. She has examined the effects of tax policy on a firm's investment, financing, and operating decisions and on the measurement of tax burdens and marginal tax costs; economic and non-economic effects on tax-compliance behavior; the effects of e-business on tax policy; and the effects of tax-accounting methods on income reporting.

Salbador is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Accounting Association, National Tax Association, the American Society of Women Accountants, which she has served in various official capacities, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Salbador received her bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting at the University of New Orleans and a Ph.D. in accounting at the University of South Carolina. She came to Virginia Tech in 1994.

## CORRECTIONS

Information accompanying the page-one photo for the June 8 issue contained an incorrect spelling of the Holtzman Alumni Center. Ray Smoot, chief operating officer and secretary-treasurer of the Virginia Tech Foundation was incorrectly identified as president of the foundation.

In the June 18 issue, a heading should have identified Marilyn Casto, Ronald M. Lewis, William D. Nichols, and Sean F. O'Keefe under the category Tenure at the Currently Held Rank of Associate Professor. *Spectrum* regrets any confusion these errors may have caused.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
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Editor

John Ashby, 1-6961

News Bureau Manager  
Susan Dickerson 1-8508

Production Manager  
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 101 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. *Electronic Spectrum*: <http://www.spectrum.vt.edu>

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## Prichett named new campus energy manager

By Sally Harris

Wilson Prichett, senior engineer and project manager at ASEGI Inc. in Tennessee, has been named to the new position of campus energy manager beginning July 6.

A registered professional engineer, a certified energy manager, a green-lights surveyor ally, and a registered energy professional, Prichett also holds a boiler-operations certificate and has more than 20 years' experience in energy conservation, facilities management, and sustainable-facility design. He also has expertise in renewable-energy technologies and supplemental energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, biomass, biogas, and fuel cells) for

domestic and international projects.

He has been with ASEGI since 1985 and has performed more than 500 facilities energy audits and obtained approximately \$10 million in savings for clients. He has directed hundreds of commercial, industrial, and governmental clients' efforts to design and build energy-efficient/sustainable facilities and conducts workshops in his expertise areas.

As campus energy manager, Prichett will aid Assistant Vice President for Facilities Bill Elvey and will "act as team leader for the development and implementation of a university-wide energy-management plan and initiate actions internal to Virginia Tech operations and programs consistent with a

goal of reducing energy consumption to the maximum extent feasible," according to Elvey. Prichett also "will monitor and use the Efficiency and Operational Performance Contracting Act as a procurement mechanism to accomplish energy conservation measures and projects."

Prichett is a senior member of the Association of Energy Engineers and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National/Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, and the Association for Energy Services Professionals. He received a bachelor's in engineering from Princeton University and a master's in environmental sciences from the University of Virginia.

## Professional-development certificates presented to university employees

Kurt Krause, vice president for business affairs, presented 33 certificates to 21 Virginia Tech employees on Friday, June 18, at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. There are three major professional-development programs, sponsored through University Leadership Development, for which employees can receive a major certificate from Virginia Tech. Those three programs are the Administrative Excellence Certificate Program, Office Software Skills and Supervision and Leadership.

**Administrative Excellence Certificate.** In partnership with New River Community College, Virginia Tech has offered an Administrative Excellence Certificate to employees completing one of two tracks offered. Both track include the following core courses: Business Law, Business Letter Writing, and the non-credit Ethics and Diversity Capstone Course. The fiscal track must also complete Principles of Accounting I, Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting and Auditing for completion of the certificate. The Human Resource Management Practices track includes the core courses, plus Organizational Behavior, Human Resource Management and the non-credit VT HR Management short course.

Recipients of the Administrative Excellence Certificate in Fiscal Practices are Sabrina Allen, Graduate School; Maxine Lyons, Community Design Assistance Center; Joyce Moser, Macromolecules and Interfaces at Virginia Tech; Christy Snider, President's Office; Terri Tishman, University Leadership Development; Barbara Townley, music; Michelle Vandyke, Environmental Health and Safety Services.

Recipients of the Administrative Excellence Certificate in Human Resource Practices are Brenda Husser, sociology; Tracey Jarvis Keister, materials science engineering; Kellie Morris, Alumni Relations; Dedrea Perkins, COTA.

**Office Software Skills.** Participants in the Office Software Skills program are able to tailor their course selections based on the particular demands of their department and position responsibilities. The requirements for successfully completing the certificate are structured mainly around the Microsoft Office Software skills involving Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word plus courses in HTML, PageMaker and FrontPage. The successful major-certificate holder completes six one-day courses with at least two days of

training in each of two different desktop applications. Participants also have the option of completing up to three of these courses on-line through Tech's Element K program, an asynchronous, self-paced, competency-based program.

Recipients of the Certificate in Office Software Skills are Ted Acord, Power Plant; Darlene Conrad, Student Programs; Tammy Henderson, Career Services; Stephanie Huckestein, horticulture; Linda Joyner, Transportation; Lori Lee, University Libraries; Shirlene Long, Controller's Office; Ariel Lotz, Culinary Services; Mary McMurray, geosciences; Anita Lynn Robinson, English; Jane Stringer, University Development; Jason Van Cleave, University Development.

With the inclusion of this latest class of 12 employees, Virginia Tech has now awarded

(See *PROFESSIONAL* on 4)

## SANDERS

Continued from 1

Who's Who Among African Americans 2001-04.

Sanders earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's degree in clinical psychology at Virginia State University, and a Ph.D. in education at the University of Arkansas. She acquired a Developmental Education Specialist designation from Appalachian State University.

## EMPLOYMENT

For more information on all faculty and classified-staff positions, see [www.jobs.vt.edu](http://www.jobs.vt.edu).

### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Institute of Biomedical/Public Health Sciences. Assistant/Associate/ Full Professor (four positions). Vector Borne Diseases or Molecular Entomology.**

**Institute of Biomedical/Public Health Sciences. Assistant/Associate/ Full Professor (six positions). Viral Pathogenesis.**

**Institute of Biomedical/Public Health Sciences. Assistant/Associate/ Full Professor (eight positions). Host-Bacterial Pathogen Interactions.**

**Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical. Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor in Equine Surgery.**

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Agricultural Research/Extension Center (AREC). Tree Fruits Horticulturist, Winchester.**

## TAYLOR

Continued from 1

1991, he founded his own company, G. Don Taylor Consulting Services.

Before his tenure at Louisville, Taylor directed the University of Arkansas' Logistics Institute, a research center that worked with carriers, shippers and government entities on materials handling and logistics problems. He continues to work with logistics professionals at Oklahoma State and the universities of Oklahoma and Arkansas as they form a new National Science Foundation-funded center that

## BALL

Continued from 1

At the University of Texas at Austin, Ball developed an internationally recognized research program in the areas of heat and mass transfer and turbulence, with applications in combustion, materials processing, manufacturing, and turbulence control.

He is a 1992 recipient of the National Science Foundation's Young Investigator Award. He has obtained externally sponsored research funding in excess of \$3 million from a variety of sources, and has been awarded eight major supercomputer grants.

Ball has graduated eight Ph.D. and 25

"Improving the technology of machine-human interaction is critical," said Wicks. "Unmanned military vehicles will be remotely controlled by troops in battlefield situations."

Although JOUSTER research will be led by Virginia Tech faculty members, the program's headquarters will be in Danville at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, which was established by Virginia Tech, Danville Community College, Averett University and Southside Virginia organizations to bring technological and economic development to the region.

master's students over the past 10 years, and is currently supervising or co-supervising 10 graduate students.

Ball received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University in 1982, and his master's degree and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Drexel University in 1984 and in 1987, respectively. Following two-years at Brown University as a post-doctoral research associate, he joined the University of Texas at Austin.

Ball will replace Walter O'Brien, the J.B. Jones professor of mechanical engineering, who is stepping down after 11 years as department head.

## IN OTHER NEWS

### Akers named head of Department of Dairy Science

By Charlie Stott

R. Michael Akers is the new head of the Department of Dairy Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, effective July 1.

Akers joined the faculty in 1981. He became a full professor in 1992, and in 1996 he was selected as the Horace E. and Elizabeth F. Alphin professor of dairy science.

"The dairy industry, and thus the dairy-science department, play an important role in the state's and the region's agricultural economy," said Sharron Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Dr. Akers' talents and experiences will be invaluable in making the department and the industry even stronger. We are indeed fortunate

to have someone of Mike's abilities to lead this department."

Akers said of his new appointment: "I believe that with the support of an outstanding group of faculty members and in cooperation with the industry, we can reach new heights. I look forward to this opportunity."

Akers has received four national awards for research excellence, including the Growth and Development Award from the American Society of Animal Science in 2003. He also received Virginia Tech's Alumni Award for Research Excellence in 2000.

His research has emphasized endocrine and growth-factor regulation of mammary development and mammary function. Most recently, he has focused on identification of

local-tissue elements that regulate mammary-cell proliferation.

Although his major responsibility has been research, Akers has taught the college's fundamental anatomy and physiology course to about 70 undergraduate students as well as graduate courses. He has been the major professor for seven master's and five Ph.D. students.

Akers earned his bachelor's in biology and a master's in dairy science from Virginia Tech and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He was a research physiologist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research center in Beltsville, Md., before joining the dairy-science department.

### Jeffrey A. Kaminski, 32

Jeffrey A. Kaminski, a master's-degree student in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in the College of Natural Resources, died Thursday, July 8 at Montgomery Regional Hospital. He was 32.

Kaminski received his bachelor's degree in biology with honors from the University of Southern Mississippi. He enrolled in the fisheries-and-wildlife graduate program in fall 2002.

"This is a sad and tragic event, and our hearts extend to his family and friends," said Donald J. Orth, head of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. "Jeff loved to teach and hoped to make teaching his career. He started as an undergraduate teaching assistant, where he contributed art work to the new laboratory manual and teaching exhibit.

In lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Jeffrey A. Kaminski Memorial Fund at Virginia Tech, College of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, 100 Cheatham Hall, Blacksburg VA 24061. Checks should be made payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation with Kaminski Fund noted at the bottom.

### Tech dean confers master's degrees in education in Malawi

By Jean Elliott

Jerry Niles, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, conferred curriculum-and-instruction degrees master's degrees in education from Virginia Tech upon 24 Malawi residents this week.

Along with various dignitaries, professors, and local teachers, Malawi was represented by its minister of education, secretary of education, and its director for planning in the Ministry of Education. The U.S. ambassador to Malawi and the USAID mission director were also expected to help celebrate the important occasion in Malawi's teacher development program.

Supported by a \$2.2-million grant from USAID, the goal of the international outreach venture by Virginia Tech, in collaboration with Domasi College of Education and the Malawi Institute of Education, was to develop a cadre of Malawians who can prepare primary

teacher educators. These graduates will form the core of the new Department of Primary Education at Domasi College, which will offer a bachelor's of education degree. In addition, next year, six other Malawians will earn their doctorates from Virginia Tech.

"This cascading model was designed to encourage the active participation of Malawi educators in their own education," said Patricia Proudfoot Kelly, professor emerita of Teaching and Learning and former director of the Center for Teacher Education at Virginia Tech. She and Josiah Tlou, professor in Virginia Tech's School of Education, and Niles were principal investigators on this project.

"The programs of study for these graduate students are grounded in their practice and educational issues in Malawi," Niles said. "These students have literally been living their dissertations and projects through their everyday work."

In a visit to Virginia Tech last week, Simeon Hau, director of Malawi Institute of Education, praised the program. "We are extremely delighted. In Malawi, for the first time, our tutors are becoming real professionals in issues regarding teacher development."

### PROFESSIONAL

Continued from 3

174 major certificates in Office Software Skills.

#### Supervision and Leadership.

Employees who successfully complete both the Principles of Supervision I and II courses (Bus 111 and Bus 112) will be awarded a special certificate from Virginia Tech in Supervision and Leadership. A major certificate in Supervision and Leadership in Career Studies from New River Community College is awarded for successful completion

of all seven courses in the Supervision and Leadership program, totaling 21 college-credit hours. The employees who were awarded the certificate in Supervision and Leadership are Leann Cook, Dining Services; Lynett Cruise, Personnel Services; Sandy Dalton, industrial systems engineering; Velva Groover, horticulture; Scott Lau, Virginia Tech Police; Cynthia LeFebvre, University Libraries; Francis Miano, Virginia Tech Police; Louis Price, Computer Labs Support; Lynn Snyder, Southgate Bakery; Steven Swannell, Student Programs.

### KELLY

Continued from 1

holds. He also conducts research, principally in mechanistic modeling of plant-nutrient uptake, and teaches an undergraduate course in forest biology/ecology and a graduate course in scientific writing.

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.

Before going to Iowa State University, he spent 20 years with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), where he progressed through a series of assignments leading to a position as senior environmental scientist/team leader. He served as the Ozone Non-attainment Program team leader and the Ecosystem Studies process team leader. His personal research from 1976-1995 focused on nutrient cycling and plant response to environmental stress.

At TVA, he conceived, developed, and directed the Cooperative Forest Studies Program, a joint effort between TVA and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and helped develop and conduct several programs for the Electric Power Research Institute.

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.

From 1974-1976, he worked as a research associate in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University, where he participated in terrestrial studies relating to the cycling in forest systems of toxic metals derived from industrial sources.

He also has worked as an associate ecologist for the NUS Corporation in Pittsburgh, a pre-doctoral fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and an assistant professor of biology at Ferrum College and has held adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Tennessee and Purdue University.

Kelly has been active in numerous professional organizations and activities. He helped develop and served as chair of the National Acidic Deposition Program/National Trends Network, has served on the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges Executive Committee, and has been a member of the board of directors of Trees Forever. He has served on technical committees for the National Atmospheric Deposition Program and

the Electric Power Research Institute Integrated Lake and Watershed Study Program; has been a technical representative to the U.S. Department Interior Committee on Acid Precipitation Research; chaired the Effects Subcommittee of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program; and co-chaired the Workshop on Aluminum Toxicity to Trees.

Kelly has authored and co-authored numerous articles for professional journals. He sits on the editorial board for *Forest Ecology and Management* and has served as associate editor for *Forest Science* and the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.

Kelly received his bachelor's degree in biology from East Tennessee State University and a master's degree and Ph.D. in plant ecology and forest soils from the University of Tennessee. He did post-doctoral work in forestry and soil science at Purdue University. He is a certified professional soil scientist.

### VBI

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importance of multiple-university collaborations in the rapidly developing fields of systems biology and bioinformatics," President Charles Steger said. "The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech has established itself as a leading center for advanced research."

The BRC also will involve key scientists at other institutions--Susan Baker, a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) expert from Loyola University; Abdu Azad, an expert in rickettsias from the University of Maryland; and Ingrid Stahlman, a senior conference manager who will handle workshop and meeting logistics from Social and Scientific Systems Inc.

"The BRC will allow researchers throughout the world to access, analyze, and study molecular data for these infectious diseases as interoperable components to support biological synthesis," Sobral said. Currently, the U.S. Department of Defense-funded ToolBus/PathPort (Pathogen Portal) project at VBI directly addresses data and tool interoperation for infectious disease research communities and has already been leveraged on behalf of other contracts, such as the Middle Atlantic Regional Center of Excellence (MARCE). It will now play a crucial enabling role in the BRC's mission.

VBI's BRC will contain high-quality curated data and relevant tools to enable and facilitate researchers' analytical and visualization needs. Researchers will be able to store, view, display, query, annotate, and analyze genomic and related data and bibliographic information.

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