Chartered University Meeting Scheduled for September 1

For more than a decade, the Commonwealth of Virginia has struggled to secure consistent and adequate funding to meet the needs of a public higher-education system that has had more demands placed upon it in recent years. In some cases, larger class sizes, fewer teachers, salary inequities, and fewer course offerings have resulted, placing the quality of our state’s colleges and universities in jeopardy.

However, The College of William & Mary, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech have developed a plan to address these budgetary challenges and improve Virginia higher education. Under proposed legislation, the three institutions would become “Commonwealth Chartered Universities.” This would make state-affiliated schools fully accountable to the government and citizens with appropriate oversight and audit controls.

First introduced in the 2004 General Assembly, the Chartered University proposal would, in short, provide more local authority to each of the school’s boards of visitors. The universities are seeking increased management flexibility, greater efficiencies, a more stable funding environment and improved performance of the academic enterprise.

CHARTERED UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE

It is expected that employees at the three universities would benefit from this legislation, which would allow the university to realize new financial resources to hire additional faculty and staff members to address longstanding salary and benefit inequities and deficient operating budgets.

The Virginia Tech community is encouraged to review the Chartered University web site found on the Virginia Tech home page (www.vt.edu) which contains more detailed information concerning this legislation, presentation on the implications of the legislation, FAQ’s, and links to information compiled by the University of Virginia and the College of William & Mary, Virginia Tech’s partners.

Throughout this year, university leaders will meet with the university community in both small and large group settings to answer questions and keep people informed of ongoing developments. To begin, a “town hall” meeting with President Charles Steger has been scheduled from 3:30 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 1 in Burruss auditorium.

Over the next few months, the university will hold several more informational sessions to further explain the concept. Throughout the fall semester, the Office of Personnel Services will conduct small group meetings.

(See CHARTERED on 3)

Student Affairs VP Cross to retire in 2005

By Clara B. Cox

Landrum L. Cross, vice president for Student Affairs for the past nine years, will retire from the university, effective June 30, 2005.

Lanny’s commitment to the university, and particularly to the Division of Student Affairs, will be missed,” said Mark McNamee, vice president for academic affairs and university provost, in making the announcement. “Under his leadership, the division has instituted a number of initiatives that will benefit our students—and the university—for years to come. I know this was a difficult decision for him to make and wish him the best when he begins this next phase of his life.”

Cross, 65, said “the division has established several highly regarded programs and services, is functionally stable, and is well-positioned for exciting new opportunities ahead. The timing is right for the university to consider new divisional leadership to pursue these opportunities.”

In addition to timing, he said he has personal reasons for stepping down: “I would like to have a slower-paced lifestyle. This position takes a lot of time and energy, and I would like to give more attention to my family.”

A 1977 Virginia Tech alumnus with a doctorate of education in counseling and student personnel, Cross returned to his alma mater in 1983 as assistant vice president for student affairs under the university’s first woman vice president, Sandra Sullivan, who then headed the division. He was promoted to associate vice president in 1989 and vice president in 1995. Before working...

(See CROSS on 4)
Funding, grant-writing workshops offered

Workshops on successful grant writing and finding funding are being offered this fall as part of the Faculty Development Institute (FDI) and again in separate programs sponsored by the research division.

The FDI grant writing program is offered in two parts, with part two going into detail on the review process and offering review panel reactions to proposal abstracts. Part one of the FDI program as well as the later research-division program on grant writing cover why proposals succeed and a 12-step program on avoiding common proposal pitfalls.

The FDI programs will be offered in 3060 Torgersen. Writing Successful Grants Part One will be Tuesday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to noon, and Monday, Sept. 20, 3 to 5 p.m. Writing Successful Grants Part Two will be Tuesday, Sept. 28, and Monday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to noon. Register on line at www.fdi.vt.edu, “Fall Short Courses.”

The research division Writing Successful Grants program will be in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium on Friday, Oct. 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. Contact Debbie Nester at debbie@vt.edu or 1-5410 to register.

The Finding Funding workshops cover locating suitable sponsors, using on-line databases, and learning how to receive your own funding alerts. The FDI program is Tuesday, Sept. 21 and Monday, Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon in 3060 Torgersen. The research-division program is Friday, Oct. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. Either register on line at www.fdi.vt.edu, “Fall Short Courses,” or contact Debbie Nester at debbie@vt.edu or 1-5410 to register for the research-division course.

For more information, contact Research Program Development Manager Bob Porter at 1-6747 or reporter@vt.edu.

Open audition set for fall production

The Department of Theatre Arts will hold open auditions for Jane Martin’s “Anton In Show Business” Friday, Aug. 27, from 5 to 9 p.m. in room 104 of the Performing Arts Building.

Directed by Theatre Arts faculty member Susanna Rinehart, the show is described as a “savvy, savage backstage comedy played out through the adventures of a Hollywood soap star, a jaded New Yorker, and an enthusiastic ingénue who come together in Texas to star in a production of Chekhov’s Three Sisters.”

The play runs Oct. 6-17 with evening rehearsals beginning immediately after casting.

There are roles available for seven women. Those auditioning are asked to prepare (memorize and rehearse) any monologue from the play, either an entire monologue, a part of one, or one “cut-and-paste” together from a scene. Approximate length of the audition piece should be about two minutes. Anyone who auditions will be considered for all the roles available.

Wednesday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members. “With Good Reason,” 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

Thursday, 2

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Madeline Schreiber.

Friday, 3

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Susan W. Kieffer, University of Illinois-Urbana.

Wednesday, 8

Celebration of Diversity, 7 p.m., Burruss auditorium. “With Good Reason,” 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

Saturday, 4

Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chamber Orchestra of Southwest Virginia.

Sunday, 5

Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chamber Orchestra of Southwest Virginia.

Monday, 6

Labor Day Holiday for Staff Members. (Classes meet)

Wednesday, 8

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An audition sign-up sheet is posted on the second-floor bulletin board in the Performing Arts Building on the Virginia Tech campus. A limited number of scripts also are available for 24-hour check out in the Theatre Arts department. For more information, call 1-5335.

Free Appalachian film series offered

The Appalachian Studies Program, a program within the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, is hosting a free film series this fall open to the campus at large. All films are on Wednesday night beginning at 7 p.m. in 3100 Torgersen. An Appalachian Studies faculty member will introduce the film and respond to questions at the end. Most of these films are general-public, Hollywood-produced productions suitable for general audiences and a number of educational purposes.

Bookmarks of the film schedule are available by contacting Anita Pucket (apucket@vt.edu) or 1-9526. The schedule is as follows:

Sept. 1: “Education of Little Tree” (Cherokee orphan seeks a place in the 1930s North Carolina backcountry);

Sept. 8: “Patriot” (Revolutionary War film starring Mel Gibson);

Sept. 15: “Journey of August King” (Antebellum story about a white landowner learning about the “humanity” of a slave woman at great peril);

Sept. 22: “Songcatcher” (good for its music; film about a woman ethnomusicologist collecting balls in rural western North Carolina in the 1920s);

Sept. 29: “Strangers and Kin” (documentary on the Local Color movement and the stereotypes it created);

Oct. 6: “Matewan” (stars Chris Cooper and James Earl Jones; about West Virginia Mine Wars of the 1920s);

Oct. 13: “Stranger with a Camera” (probing documentary about the murder of a Canadian photographer in Letcher County, Kentucky in the 1960s);

Oct. 20: “October Sky” (about Virginia Tech graduate Homer Hickham’s childhood and winning of national science fair);

Oct. 27: “Mountain Top Removal” (documentary on this devastating method of coal mining);

Nov. 3: “People Like Us” (documentary on class in America with several references to rural Appalachians).

Each semester, Event Planning notifies university departments of updates, changes or additions to current policy, procedure, guidelines and timelines. Following are changes now in effect:

Event Planning Office Hours are now 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. (previously 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.).

Rental Rates (per day) for equipment with no previous charge (genie lift, pianos, rope for rope standards, scaffolding, etc.) will be implemented, effective immediately pending approval from the University Controller’s Office.

There are projected increases in equipment rental and service rates effective for the 2005-2006 school year; pending approval.

The University Alcohol Policy has been updated. See http://www.policies.vt.edu/0105.pdf.

For more information, call 1-5005, e-mail eventplanning@vt.edu, or visit the Event Planning Office in 221 Squires.

4Help asks use of web form

For better service when reporting computer problems, 4Help encourages users to contact them via their web form instead of using e-mail. Use of the web form provides more information about users’ computers, operating systems, and problems, making it the most-effective method for addressing questions.

The web form is available at http://computing.vt.edu/csc.

Using e-mail to contact 4Help will now be a two-step process. When the e-mail is received, an auto-reply will be sent asking users to confirm submission of their problem report. Users will need to reply to that e-mail for their questions to reach a 4Help consultant. Additional information may be requested at that time.

4Help will also continue to accept calls at 1-4357 when necessary and for users’ convenience.

Center director shares secrets

Dan Innan, the George R. Goodson professor of chemical engineering and director of the Center for Intelligent Material Systems and Structures, will speak on “The Secrets of My Big Fat Research Career” during the New Faculty Workshop offered by the research division.

“Your Research Career at Virginia Tech—Getting Started,” is offered Friday, Sept. 24, from 3 until 5 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium.

The workshop will cover sponsored research at Virginia Tech, funding opportunities for young investigators, developing and submitting a proposal, and managing a research career.

To register, e-mail Debbie Nester at debbie@vt.edu or call 1-5410. For more information, e-mail reporter@vt.edu or call 1-6747.
Programs hold ground in U.S. News & World Report national rankings survey

Virginia Tech’s undergraduate programs are again ranked among the top 100 in the nation in a U.S. News & World Report survey of “America’s Best Colleges 2005,” released recently. The university’s College of Engineering is once again nationally ranked among the top 20 by the magazine’s annual survey.

The College of Engineering undergraduate program is ranked 19th in the nation among all accredited engineering schools that offer doctorates and 10th among engineering schools at public universities. The college shares the 19th spot with Rice University and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

‘Virginia Tech is pleased to be listed among the top 100 universities in the country,’ said Larry Hincker,...

The college’s individual undergraduate programs also fared well with seven ranked in the top 25 among peer programs nationally. Virginia Tech’s industrial-engineering program is ranked seventh among engineering programs; chemical engineering, 11th; civil engineering, 11th; mechanical engineering, 17th; aerospace engineering, 19th; environmental engineering, 19th; and electrical engineering, 24th. The engineering college and individual program rankings are based on the magazine’s survey of engineering deans and senior faculty members at peer institutions throughout the United States.

The Pamplin College of Business ranked 38th among the nation’s undergraduate business programs and 23rd among public institutions.

Pamplin’s overall ranking puts it in the top 10 percent of the approximately 400 U.S. undergraduate programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The university maintained its rank of 32nd among national public universities, sharing the ranking of 32nd with Clemson University, the State University of New York (SUNY)-Binghamton, the University of California-Santa Cruz, and the University of Colorado-Boulder. Among national universities, including private institutions such as Harvard and Yale, Virginia Tech is ranked 74th—down one from last year’s rank of 73rd.

The top criterion in the U.S. News & World Report survey is peer assessment, which, the magazine said, “gives greatest weight to the opinions of those in a position to judge a school’s academic excellence.”

“Virginia Tech is pleased to be listed among the top 100 universities in the country,” said Larry Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations. “We’ve worked hard to maintain a high level of educational programs for our undergraduates, and our steady record in this survey is evidence that we’re succeeding.”

ACC-Challenge supports Tech’s academic programs

Young alumni of Virginia Tech have a chance to show their Hokie sports pride by supporting academic programs.

The ACC-Challenge is a collaborative effort among ACC universities in which they compete to see whose young alumni give the most to their university. In this rivalry, Virginia Tech is lagging behind.

Any gift or payment, not including pledges, from young alumni counts toward the total. For this competition, young alumni are those who have graduated in the past 10 years (1995-2005). To help Virginia Tech win the challenge, gifts must arrive before June 30, 2005.

For more information about the challenge or giving to academics in the spirit of athletic competition, visit the ACC-Challenge web site at http://www.givingto.vt.edu/accchallenge.html or call 1-2804.

Geospatial Center receives national award for special achievement in GIS

By Lynn Davis

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, Calif., has given a “Special Achievement in GIS Award” to Virginia Tech at its 24th annual International User Conference, which occurred Aug. 12, in San Diego to recognize the university’s successful integrated state program that benefits business and government in a partnership with education.

The award names Katherine Williams, software-applications analyst in the Information Technology Acquisition Department; John McGee, specialist in the Virginia Geospatial Extension Program; and Randy Dymond, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and director of the Center for Geospatial Information Technology. Virginia Tech was selected from more than 100,000 ESRI users worldwide and was the only academic institution to receive an award.

Virginia Tech structured its unique contract for the three-year-old statewide program in such a way that pulls all partners together and allows for large cost savings, widespread availability of the full spectrum of ESRI software, and building synergistically on the expertise across Virginia so that the state and businesses can take advantage of the many uses of spatial data from flood control to making 911 operations seamless. Virginia Tech’s program has brought a complete circle of benefits to the state, from the low-cost purchase of ESRI software to positioning the Virginia for the new economy and shoring up the future workforce.

ESRI is a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) software vendor that supplies software to users of the technology. A GIS is a computer-based information system that enables users to superimpose different map layers on top of each other. Users can then conduct spatial analysis from these combinations of layers to support decision making for a myriad of application needs associated with natural-resources management, economic development, transportation planning, forest management, local and regional planning, and public safety.

Virginia Tech took the lead in forming and continuing to coordinate a coalition of Virginia public universities to provide a statewide ESRI site license. Last year, Virginia’s community colleges were added to the agreement at minimal additional cost. The state’s public colleges and universities benefit (See GEOSPATIAL on 4).

Employment

Virginia Tech offers attractive salaries, competitive benefits, a challenging yet collegial work environment, and a unique location in the Blue Ridge Mountains: http://www.jobs.vt.edu.

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

Non-Instructional

Public/International Affairs, Assistant Professor (three positions).

Pathobiology. College of Veterinary Medicine, Assistant Professor (three positions).

Microbiology. College of Science, Assistant Professor (three positions).

Chemistry Department. Assistant/Associate Professor (three positions).

Pathogen Information Curator/Associate Professor (three positions).

Humanities, Writing/Assistant Professor (three positions).

Agricultural/Career Development, Assistant/Associate Professor (three positions).

Department of Computer Science. Research Associate.

Department of Biochemistry. Research Associate.

Department of Psychology. Assistant Professor (three positions).

Electrical Engineering, Assistant/Associate Professor.


Chemistry Department. Post-doctoral Candidate.

Biomedical Science. Research Associate. Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology. College of Veterinary Medicine.


Southeast District Cooperative Extension. Program Director. Airfield 4-H Educational Center. Wakefield.

For more information on all faculty and classified-staff positions, see www.jobs.vt.edu.

Instructions:

Public/International Affairs. Assistant Professor (three positions).

Non-Instructional. University Development. Assistant Director of Development. College of Business.

University Development. Assistant/Associate Director of Corporate/Foundation Relations. College of Engineering.

Department of Computer Science. Research Associate.

Department of Biochemistry. Research Associate.

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

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2004 SPECTRUM 3
Charles Gordon, former BOV rector

Charles Gordon, Virginia Tech alumus and original planner of the German Club, died Aug. 15.

Gordon graduated from Virginia Tech in industrial engineering in 1942. At the time of his death, he was chairman and CEO of the Byland Corporation and chairman of the Tri-City Beverage Corporation and Peace River Citrus Groves, Inc.

Gordon served terms as rector of the Board of Visitors and president of the Alumni Association. He played a key role in the development and planning of two campus icons, the World War II Memorial and the original German Club and its recent addition. He also funded an endowed professorship in the Department of Industrial and Science Engineering.

In 1985, Virginia Tech awarded Gordon the Ruffner Medal, the highest recognition given by the university. He also received the College of Engineering’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994. “Without question, Charlie Gordon’s charismatic leadership by example was contagious and inspired many other alumni throughout the years,” said Tom Tillar, vice president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association.

Geoffrey M. Campbell, 23

Geoffrey M. Campbell, a master’s-degree student in the Department of Economics in the College of Science, died Tuesday, Aug. 17. He was 23.

Campbell completed his bachelor’s degree in economics.

GEO SPI TIAL

Continued from 3

from the cost savings rather than having individual contracts, from the greater availability of ESRI software to train future GIS professionals, and from the interactions among state institutions.

Outreach and research programs of Virginia Tech use ESRI software to enhance economic development, projects pertaining to the environment, and good governance throughout state agencies and localities. ESRI also benefits from this collaboration through the exposure of its products to higher-education students throughout the state, and from the streamlining of technical and contract support that this unique contract offers.

Virginia Tech’s Geospatial Extension Program, a partnership between the Virginia Space Grant Consortium and Virginia Cooperative Extension, provides workshops and training opportunities across the state to support Extension agents, local and regional governments, state governments, and federal employees working in Virginia, and services workforce demands.

Since January 2004, the program has provided workshops and educational forums for more than 500 Virginians and has allocated numerous geospatial training scholarships to faculty and staff at community colleges. The program also produces a quarterly newsletter that provides an overview of geospatial products and services available to Virginia residents.

HOP K IN S

Continued from 3

Hopskins also is a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, a non-profit state-wide organization dedicated to encouraging open government.

The FOI council was created in 2000 by the General Assembly with nearly unanimous support of the legislature. Hopkins is the only university professor on the council and fills an at-large seat reserved for a citizen of the state.

The council was designed to encourage and facilitate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. It is intended to provide advisory opinions on FOIA issues, to provide training, to publish educational materials, and to report on FOIA issues and concerns to the governor and the General Assembly. The governor, speaker of the house, and the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections may appoint members to the council.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

One of the council’s criteria was to find a name that would imply a metropolitan image. “We believe that NCR achieves that goal. It is also the descriptor widely used by government and in businesses, both important connections for Virginia Tech in this region. The council further agreed that the new name suggests fewer boundaries and appears more far-reaching, another impression we were trying to achieve,” he said.

The new name also should prove helpful when communicating and interacting with faculty members and administrators at universities in other states who were confused as to “what constitutes Northern Virginia.”

“We want to encourage all the centers and graduate schools in the National Capital Region to incorporate the new name as a descriptor in both written and oral communications,” Bohland said. “It should not replace, but add to, the identity and reputation that each college and department or research center has worked so hard to build as an integral part of Virginia Tech in this region.”