

SPECTRUM

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Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 2 for
information on funding,
grant-writing workshops.

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," public 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, presentations 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)

Visitors approve requests for more state funding

By Mark Owczarski

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors reviewed budget amendments and requests for the 2005 governor's budget at its quarterly meeting Aug. 22 and Aug. 23.

The board approved requests for additional state funding to the university's overall operating budget totaling \$14.2 million and adjustments to the capital-funding budget totaling \$70.4 million.

The university's capital-funding requests include \$16.4 million for a new \$26.2-million heating-and-cooling plant to service the southwest portion of campus. The university's central steam plant located on Turner and Stanger streets has reached its maximum capacity and distribution limits. The exact location and fuel source of the new plant have yet to be determined. According to Vice President for Business Affairs Kurt J. Krause, "Virginia Tech is currently operating with very slim margins. In order to build new buildings, we must have a new heating-and-cooling source."

The board approved the acquisition of three properties in Blacksburg located at 405 Turner Street, 405 Barger Street, and 407 Barger Street. The three properties were purchased from the Virginia Tech Foundation for \$1.15 million. The board also authorized the Virginia Tech Foundation to negotiate on behalf of the university the purchase of 80 acres in Augusta County, contiguous to the university's Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Steeles Tavern.

The board approved the appointments of A. George Mason, president of Mason Energy Consultants in Richmond, and Marshall S. Miller, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Marshall Miller

(See *VISITORS* 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)



FALL FORMATION Over 270 members of the Virginia Tech cadet class of 2008 were among more than 5,000 new students who have arrived on campus for the new academic year. Here, cadets line up in retreat formation. See related article on page 4.

Full-time Child Development Center for Learning and Research to open

By Jean Elliott

Virginia Tech has a long history of providing quality care and education to young children. The program dates back to the early 1940s when Virginia Tech opened the first child development center. In January, 2005, the program will be transformed into a full-time, full-year program serving Virginia Tech faculty and staff children from 15 months to five years of age.

The Child Development Center for Learning and Research (CDCLR) will replace the former Lab School, a half-day program that

operated nine months a year. The program will still carry its accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as its licensure from the state of Virginia.

The CDCLR, located in Wallace Hall, is a partnership between the Virginia Tech and the Department of Human Development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

"The need for quality day care at Virginia Tech has been one of the most important issues identified through a campus-wide survey, focus

(See *FULL-TIME* on 4)

University launches new name for Northern Virginia facilities

By Barbara Micale

National Capital Region (NCR) has been chosen as the new "umbrella" identifier for all Virginia Tech facilities in Northern Virginia, replacing the name Northern Virginia Operations, announced James Bohland, executive director of the National Capital Region.

The new name was chosen by a council comprised of representatives from programs located in the region and was approved by senior administration at the university.

The National Capital Region includes graduate schools and research centers in Alexandria, Falls Church, Leesburg, Manassas, and Middleburg. "The new name

(See *UNIVERSITY* on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

(Editor's note: For timely and expanded events information, go to the Virginia Tech Events Calendar at <http://www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php>.)

Friday, 27

Theatre Arts Open Auditions, 5 to 9 p.m., 104 Performing Arts Building.

Last Day to Add.

Saturday, 28

Football, 7:45 p.m., FedEx Field: Southern Cal.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

"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

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

SEMINARS

Friday, 27

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

SEPTEMBER

Friday, 10

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

BULLETINS

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 debbiell@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," for the FDI program or call Nester at debbiell@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, therefore specific role choice for the audition is not critical.

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 Puckett (apuckett@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 ballads 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/1015.pdf>.

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

457 plan sessions scheduled

A representative of Great West (457 deferred-compensation plan) will be on campus Thursday, Sept. 23, in Donaldson Brown conference room C. General sessions (no appointment necessary) will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is established by the Code of Virginia and allows state employees to save for retirement in a voluntary, payroll-deducted, tax-deferred savings program. As employees of the University, Virginia Tech employees may contribute the maximum amount for which they are eligible to both the 457

and the 403(b) program.

The 457 program provides a wide range of low-cost investment selections from conservative to moderate or aggressive funds with maximum control and flexibility.

To schedule an individual appointment, send an e-mail to nancy.roth@gwl.com and request a time. For more information, regarding the 457 or 430(b) plans, contact Gloria Smith at gsmith@vt.edu.

Faculty Women's Club to host reception

The Virginia Tech Faculty Women's Club will host a Welcome Reception Thursday, Sept. 2, from noon until 1:30 p.m. at The Grove.

A shuttle bus will provide transportation from the parking lot behind Wallace Hall on campus. Balloons will identify the shuttle-bus area. Handicapped parking and accessibility is available at The Grove.

VTFWC membership is open to women and wives of administrative, instructional, research and Extension faculty and staff members. Retirees, or wives or widows of retirees, and mothers and mothers-in-law of faculty and staff members are welcome to join.

The purpose of the VTFWC is to provide social and intellectual activities to its members, to promote Virginia Tech, and to offer scholarship opportunities to deserving students. Members participate in interest groups, day trips, and luncheons featuring diverse speakers.

Child care will not be provided for this event.

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 Inman, the George R. Goodson professor of mechanical 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 debbiell@vt.edu or call 1-5410. For more information, e-mail reporter@vt.edu or call 1-6747.

CAMPUSUPDATE

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; agricultural 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 International.

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."

CHARTERED

Continued from 1

to hear your thoughts and explain the impact of this proposal on university employees.

The Chartered University legislation proposed by Virginia Tech and its sister schools will bolster Virginia's already strong higher-education system. Feedback from members of the university community is important, and questions can be raised at future meetings or submitted on the web site.

Continuous updates regarding the progress of Chartered University legislation will be provided in *Spectrum* and on the university's Chartered University Legislation

VISITORS

Continued from 1

and Associates headquartered in Bluefield, Va., to the Virginia Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Committee. The board also approved the appointment of Kurt J. Krause to the Virginia Tech/Montgomery Regional Airport Authority.

Mitchell O. Carr of Staunton, and T. Rodman Layman of Pulaski, two Board of Visitors members whose terms expired June 30, 2004, were officially honored by the board with a formal resolution. The two were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to the board and to the university.

The board also approved the naming of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Garden and the garden house therein to the Peggy Lee Hahn Horticulture Garden and the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion. The new name honors the wife of Virginia Tech's 11th president T. Marshall Hahn for her service as first lady of Virginia Tech (1962 to 1974), her lifelong interest in gardening and horticulture education, and in appreciation of her dedicated support of the university.

In addition, 10 university professors were honored with emeritus status, and five university professors were given the prestigious designation of an endowed university professorship.

The next meeting of the full Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will be Nov. 7-8. Meeting dates for 2005 also were announced: March 13-14, June 12-13, Aug. 28-29, and Nov. 6-7.

ACC-Challenge supports Tech's academic programs

By Sally Harris

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 alums 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.

Hopkins reappointed to FOI advisory council term

By Jean Elliott

Del. William J. Howell, R-Fredericksburg, the speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, has re-appointed W. Wat Hopkins, associate professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, to another four-year term on Virginia's Freedom of Information (FOI) Advisory Council.

Hopkins specializes in free-speech issues. He recently published an article on libel law in the *Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal*, and an article on the cross-burning case *Virginia v. Black* is due to be published this summer by *Hastings Communication and Entertainment Law Journal*. His fourth book, "Uninhibited, Robust and Wide Open Debate"—*The Marketplace of Ideas and Freedom of Expression*, is due to be published next year. The book examines the history and effectiveness of the marketplace of ideas theory as a model for protecting expression.

(See HOPKINS on 4)

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 GIS users world-wide and was the only academic institution to receive an award.

Virginia Tech structured its unique contract for the three-year-old state-wide program in such a way that pulls all partners together to allow 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)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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EMPLOYMENT

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

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.

Electrical Engineering. Post-doctoral Associate.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Pathogen Information Curator/Developer.

Chemistry Department. Post-doctoral Candidate.

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

AHS. Jr. Agricultural Research/Extension Center (AREC). Viticulture Extension. Research Assistant. Winchester.

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

Charles Gordon, former BOV rector

Charles Gordon, Virginia Tech alumnus 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.

University welcomes Class of 2008 this week

By Susan Dickerson

The university has begun its 132nd academic year, with nearly 5,000 freshmen and 689 transfer students arriving on campus this week. The incoming class comes from 43 states and 28 countries, and has an average high-school grade-point average of 3.68 and an average SAT score of 1,198—the highest averages in the history of the university. More than 17,780 students applied for admission to Virginia Tech last spring.

In addition, approximately 2,100 master's, Ph.D., and veterinary-degree students are

expected to enroll at Virginia Tech this fall. As in past years, the Virginia Tech student body will be comprised of approximately 4,500 graduate and professional students and 22,000 undergraduate students.

Returning students will see plenty of changes on campus this school year. This spring and summer alone, Virginia Tech has opened a new livestock teaching arena, a dairy complex, a new bioinformatics building, and a 21,000-square-foot Career Services building as well as completed a \$6.5-million

renovation to its Dietrick dining hall.

Dietrick opened for its first meal on Aug. 23 and will be referred to as "D2" instead of "The Depot at Dietrick." College officials expect D2 to be an extremely popular venue as it has a bistro-feel to it and will still have an all-you-can-eat dining option.

For the first time, students will be able to obtain a master of fine arts degree in creative writing through the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and offered through the Department of English.

FULL-TIME

Continued from 1

groups, and interviews as part of the university's Advance project to promote women in science and engineering," said Pat Hyer, associate provost. "I have reports in my office dating back more than 20 years about the need for day care on campus, and I am just delighted that we are going to be able to take this important first step to address such a critical need. It will make a big difference in our efforts to recruit and retain young faculty members—both women and men."

"The new center will help us to continue to provide high-quality, field-based educational opportunities for our students and sponsored research in early education and child development," said Jerry Niles, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. "It will also be a key component of an interdisciplinary developmental science initiative between the departments of human development and psychology."

The CDCLR will operate three classrooms,

one for 10 toddlers (15 to 36 months), another for 15 young preschoolers (three-to-four years) and 15 older preschoolers (four-to-five years). The center will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will operate year-round, except for a one-week summer break, one week for winter/holiday break, Memorial Day, Independence Day, two days for Thanksgiving break, and professional development. The cost per child will be \$700 per month for a one-year contract.

"We will offer a developmentally appropriate environment in which children are given opportunities to make choices, pursue their own questions and concerns, connect what is known and unknown, and be successful as they explore and discover through play, informal learning activities, and projects," said Victoria Fu, director of the center and a professor in the department of human development.

"We also believe the parent-child relationship is the most important context for

learning and development, so we strive to maintain close connections between home and school, and value the cultural and individual perspectives that families bring to the program," Fu said.

The center will support three full-time appointments, including Curriculum Director Kate Mosher Milne, and Assistant Director Christine McCartney. A research scientist, Isabel Bradburn, also will join the center this fall.

The center's priority is to serve families of Virginia Tech faculty and staff members. With few exceptions, enrollments are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents can put their child's name on a waiting list by filling out an application form during pregnancy or any time thereafter.

For more information, visit <http://www.humandevlopment.vt.edu/cdclr.html>, contact Christine McCartney at cmccartn@vt.edu, or call 1-6148.

GEOSPATIAL

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.

HOPKINS

Continued from 3

Hopkins 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.

CROSS

Continued from 1

on his doctorate, he was a counselor for student services and programs and coordinator for residence management at the university. He also has been assistant dean of students and head resident at Guilford College, dean of students at Belmont Abbey College, and associate director and director of residence life at North Carolina State University.

Under his leadership, Tech's Division of Student Affairs, which now includes seven departments with 600 employees and a budget of \$54 million, developed the Residential Leadership Community, a residential theme community for first- and second-year students designed to develop socially responsible student leaders; began documenting the effect of participation in the division's programs on student academic achievement; was the first division in the university to develop a diversity plan; established a program review process that became a model for the academic-department program-review process; garnered national awards for student dining services; and moved on line both administrative and program functions, some of which have been recognized nationally.

Before Cross leaves the university, McNamee will appoint a transition team to study options and issues and to make recommendations for the future of the division.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

was created to give all of these locations a unified identity in this region," Bohland said. "It is a way of branding who we are in a very positive way."

The decision to find a new name was the result of some confusion as to what Northern Virginia really meant, Bohland said. "Many people thought of us only as our

Northern Virginia Graduate Center in Falls Church. There was also some misunderstanding with abbreviating NoVA for Northern Virginia, which we often tended to do, since that is the commonly used acronym for Northern Virginia Community College."

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 constituted 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."

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