

SPECTRUM

Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 4 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004

TODAY'S EDITION

See page 3 for changes in offices assisting those with disabilities.

Tech, Wake celebrate partnership

By Lynn A. Nystrom

On Friday, Sept. 24, Virginia Tech and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center will celebrate the establishment of the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering & Sciences (SBES) academic program and the completion of a new interactive video classroom that is helping to make the academic exchange possible.

These video classrooms, which are state-of-the-art facilities, connect the medical training provided by Wake Forest with the engineering education offered at Virginia Tech.

The SBES graduate programs allow the enrolled students to earn either master's or Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering, or a joint M.D./Ph.D. program through the WFU School of Medicine, or a joint DVM/Ph.D. program through the Virginia Maryland Regional School of Veterinary Medicine. Students may take classes on either campus or via distance learning while residing on their home campus in either Blacksburg or Winston-Salem.

Both Virginia Tech and Wake Forest have installed high-tech interactive video classrooms as the primary learning spaces

(See TECH on 4)

The screenshot shows the Virginia Tech News website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Virginia Tech Home', 'VT News Home', 'About Virginia Tech News', and 'Contact Us'. Below that is a search bar and the date '1:08 pm, Wednesday, Sep 22, 2004'. The main content area features a 'Spotlight' section with a large photo of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets marching. Below the photo is a caption: 'Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets march to lay a wreath at the campsite honoring their fallen classmate, U.S. Army Lt. Timothy S. Price. Price was killed by hostile fire in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Sept. 7. (Photo by Shane Wood)'. To the left of the main content is a sidebar with a 'News' menu and 'Quick Links'. To the right is a 'Campus Notices' section with several items, and a 'Today's Events' section listing various activities.

Pictured above is a screen capture from "Virginia Tech News," a daily, multi-media news and information service available online Monday. The service will be the primary source of up-to-the-minute campus information.

NSF award to fund three-year study of IT recruitment, retention

By Sookhan Ho

A research team led by faculty members from the Pamplin College of Business has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of \$617,000 to study the recruitment and retention of African-Americans in information-technology-related graduate studies and jobs.

Wanda Smith, associate professor of management, will direct the three-year study. Project members include France Belanger, associate professor of accounting and information systems and director of the Center for Global E-Commerce, Vernard Harrington of Radford University, George Kasper of Virginia Commonwealth University, industry consultants, and student research assistants.

Smith said the project will study the factors behind an encouraging development in the 1990s—the number of African-Americans enrolling in and graduating from graduate and undergraduate IT programs rose significantly. Citing NSF figures, she said the number of undergraduate computer-science degrees awarded to African-Americans, for example, rose 67 percent from 1,997 to 3,330 between 1991 and

(See NSF on 4)

Daily 'Virginia Tech News' multi-media service begins Monday

By Mark Owczarski

Staying informed of the wide range of Virginia Tech news stories, campus notices and university events has just become much easier.

Beginning Monday, University Relations will introduce "Virginia Tech News," a daily, multi-media news and information service that will keep all members of the university community informed with up-to-the-minute campus news and notices.

The core of this service is the new Virginia Tech News website, located off the Virginia Tech News homepage. Complementing the website will be the "Virginia Tech News Daily"

e-mail, a brief, daily morning information service that highlights each day's major headlines and announcements. Approximately one to three news stories and one to three campus notices will be featured in each daily (Monday through Friday) e-mail that will be sent early each morning to those who subscribe to the service.

"We're very pleased to offer this service to the Virginia Tech community because it will enable us to deliver in-depth information to faculty and staff members, students, and others much quicker than before," said Larry Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations. "The daily e-mail will identify the important

news of the day, and direct the reader to the website where more information will be available."

The Virginia Tech News website will feature news stories, photographs, campus notices and the university calendar in one easy-to-access location. Information will be added to the website daily or as needs warrant. News stories will focus on major administrative initiatives, educational programs, research projects and the many accomplishments of faculty and staff members and students. Campus notices will include a wide range of campus-specific

(See DAILY on 4)

AdvanceVT releases results of university childcare survey

By Juliet Crichton

AdvanceVT, a National Science Foundation-sponsored comprehensive program at Virginia Tech that promotes and enhances the academic careers of women in science and engineering, has released the findings of a questionnaire that addressed childcare needs of the university community.

"The survey clearly shows that finding appropriate childcare is a challenge for many parents at Virginia Tech, and that there is no 'one size fits all' solution," said AdvanceVT Program Coordinator Peggy Layne. "The responses to the survey can provide the basis

for an evaluation of the business aspects of various approaches to meeting the needs of the university community."

Completed by nearly 1,400 university faculty and staff members and graduate students during the spring 2004 semester, the questionnaire was designed to determine what childcare arrangements are being used, what types of childcare parents would like to have available, and the impact of childcare on parents' ability to do their jobs.

More than half of the 1,400 survey respondents report having children age 12 or younger, and over a third indicate plans to have

or adopt a child in the next five years. Most respondents report using full-day childcare, five days a week, at a licensed or certified day-care provider.

Analysis of the survey indicates that an overwhelming majority of respondents—both with and without children—feel that a childcare facility should be available either on or near campus. In addition, those respondents with children generally indicate strong interest in using such a facility, and nearly half report that securing adequate childcare is difficult.

(See ADVANCEVT 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, 24

Yom Kippur Begins (Sundown).
New Faculty Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Dan Inman.

Saturday, 25

Yom Kippur.
Football, noon, Lane Stadium: NC State.

Tuesday, 28

GSA Graduate/Professional School Day, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.
Women Faculty Research Series Program, 4 to 5:30 p.m., DBHCC Executive Conference Room.

Wednesday, 29

"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.
College of Science Distinguished Lecture, 5:30 p.m., 3100 Torgersen Hall: Astronaut Roger Crouch.

Thursday, 30

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

OCTOBER

Friday, 1

Last Day to Drop.
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Begins.

Saturday, 2

Football, noon, Lane Stadium: West Virginia.

Monday, 4

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

Wednesday, 6

"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.
Theatre Arts Performance, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: Anton in Show Business.

Thursday, 7

Women Faculty Research Series Program, 4 to 5:30 p.m., DBHCC Executive Conference Room.
Theatre Arts Performance, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: Anton in Show Business.
Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Blacksburg Presbyterian Church: Burning River Brass.

Friday, 8

Theatre Arts Performance, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: Anton in Show Business.
International Faculty Reception, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Cranwell International Center.

SEMINARS

Friday, 24

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Dave Lampe, Duquesne University.
Geography, 3:30 to 5 p.m., 136 McBryde: Peter J. Hugill, Texas A&M University.
Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Lawrence Taylor, University of Tennessee.
Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Blan Godfrey.

Thursday, 30

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Val Parvu.

OCTOBER

Friday, 1

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Rich Helm and Malcolm Potts.
Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Chris Tadanier.

Tuesday, 5

ESM, 4 to 5 p.m., 110 Randolph: J.A. Pelesko, University of Delaware.

Thursday, 7

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: John Johnson.

Friday, 8

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Todd Primm and Luis Martinez.
Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Shu-Chun Su.

BULLETINS

Football parking information noted

This is parking information for the home football game on Saturday, Sept. 25.

There will be no new parking in the following areas after 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 10. All cars must be removed from these lots by 10 p.m. on Friday: Stadium Lot, Track/Field House Lot, Coliseum Lot, gravel lot behind Jamerson Center, Litton Reaves Lot, Engel Lot, Tennis Court Lot, Shultz Lot, Derring Lot, Davidson Lot, Wright House Lot, Duck Pond Lot (formerly called the Overflow Lot), Price Hall Lot, and Washington Street (both sides of the road from West Campus Drive to Kent Street).

Additionally, vehicles that are parked along the outside perimeter of the Duck Pond Road Resident Lot (the Cage) next to the fence must be moved by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 10. Vehicles that are not removed from these areas will be towed.

For clarification see the Football Parking Map at www.parking.vt.edu, call Parking Services at 1-3200, or go to www.parking.vt.edu.

Alumnus, astronaut to speak

Roger Crouch, Virginia Tech alumnus, senior scientist for the International Space Station (ISS) and an astronaut on two scientific missions of the Space Shuttle Columbia, will speak on the vision for space travel in the first of the College of Science Distinguished Lecture Series. His talk, titled "Vision for Space Exploration," which will include the role the ISS will play in that vision, will be at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, in 3100 Torgersen Hall. A reception will follow in 1100 Torgersen. The event is free and open to the public.

Chartered University information available

For information on the Chartered University Initiative, go to the web site found on the Virginia Tech home page (www.vt.edu) which contains 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.

Voter registration deadline October 4

The Office of University Relations reminds all faculty and staff members that the deadline to register to vote is Oct. 4. Interested parties may register to vote at all DMV offices and public-assistance agencies. Voter application forms may also be obtained at <http://www.montva.com/departments/vote>. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Phi Beta Kappa Chapter updates membership

Virginia Tech's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, the Mu of Virginia, invites members who are new to the campus or to the Blacksburg community to register with the chapter for mailings, invitations, and announcements by providing name, e-mail address and mailing address to Nita Newswander, at nitanews@vt.edu, or by calling 1-5422. The chapter engages in service activities, awards scholarships, hosts two luncheons with invited speakers during the academic year, and especially values the opportunity to welcome members to Virginia Tech.

Teaching with technology workshops offered

The Faculty Development Initiative (FDI) has again expanded its free short-course offerings to address the instructional needs of faculty members. While FDI still offers courses on Blackboard, Dreamweaver, web design and others, an attempt has been made to develop workshops that integrate these skills within a more applied, pedagogical framework. As a result, many new topics are concerned with learner-centered instruction as well as practical applications of the Blackboard course management system.

Titles and dates for these new courses are as follows: "Creating Learner-Centered Instruction for the Web" (Wednesday, Sept. 28), "Building Communities of Learners: Synchronous and Asynchronous Instructional Activities" (Monday, Oct. 11 and Wednesday, Oct. 13), "Connecting With Students Through Online Interaction" (Thursday, Oct. 7), "Real Time' Online Communication" (Thursday, Oct. 21), "Practical Record Keeping: Blackboard and Excel" (Monday, Oct. 4 and Wednesday, Oct. 6), and "Read, Respond, Revise: Blackboard and MS Word" (Monday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Oct. 27).

To register and view full descriptions for the above workshops, visit <http://www.fdi.vt.edu/fall/2004> and click on "Register Now." The web site also contains listing for all of FDI's fall offerings. Although courses are designed for instructional faculty members, graduate students and staff members may register as well.

For more information, contact Ed Schwartz at 1-4975, or e-mail ed.schwartz@vt.edu.

Water resources research symposium set

The Virginia Water Resources Research Center's annual research symposium will be held October 4-6, 2004 at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center on the Virginia Tech campus. "Assessing and Managing Virginia's Water Resources" is the theme of this year's symposium.

Featured speakers include Brad Fenwick, vice president for research; Joseph H. Maroon, director of the Virginia

Department of Conservation and Recreation; Kenneth Reckhow, director of the Center for the Analysis and Prediction of River Basin Environmental Systems, Duke University; and Virginia Senator Martin E. Williams.

The symposium presents the most recent research findings and technical innovations and facilitates discussions by individuals interested in water-resources management and assessment. Speakers will address storm-water-management issues such as low-impact development, watershed monitoring issues such as fecal contamination and source tracking, TMDL development and implementation, GIS applications and decision support systems, water supply, groundwater flow, contaminant transport, and advanced wastewater treatment.

For registration information, go to www.vwrrc.vt.edu or e-mail Jane Walker at janewalk@vt.edu or Judy Poff at jupoff@vt.edu.

MAOP office moves

The Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) office has moved from 101 Price Hall to 122 Hillcrest Hall. MAOP telephone and fax numbers will not change; however, the mail code will now be 0260.

The new location will give MAOP greater visibility on campus and allow synergy with related student programs. Hillcrest Hall also provides access to much better programming space for MAOP family meetings. MAOP will continue its mission and commitment to serve a diverse student body at Virginia Tech.

For more information, call 1-5023.

Free drop-in childcare offered

"Kids Night Out," a drop-in evening of child care for children aged 3-12 will be offered Tuesdays evenings, from 6 until 8:30 p.m. until November 2. The location is the Women's Center, Price House, behind McBryde Hall.

Children of any Virginia Tech student, aged 3-12 (must be toilet trained) may participate. There is no need to pre-register, and the service is free. For more information, e-mail jmelts@vt.edu.

Export-control-compliance training set

A training session on export control compliance will be held Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 10:30 to noon in 1045 Pamplin.

More and more emphasis is being placed on compliance with export control laws. Individual faculty and staff members can be subject to fines and/or jail time for violating export control laws. The training will be presented by Regina Turner, manager Export Office, John Hopkins University Applied

(See BULLETINS on 3)

BULLETINS

BULLETINS

Continued from 2

Physics Laboratory, Office of Counsel.

The presentation provides a high-level overview of export compliance and illustrates how regulations impact the duties and responsibilities of individuals throughout the organization. The information is important in particular instances where foreign persons are involved (directly or indirectly) in the use or fabrication of goods and services that are regulated by either the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Commerce and export-compliance regulations from other government agencies.

Nobel Laureate to speak at VCOM

Sydney Brenner, Nobel Laureate and pioneer in genomics will be the keynote speaker at the first Via Research Recognition Day held by the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) on Sept. 30 at 1 p.m.

Located in the Corporate Research Center, VCOM educates primary-care physicians to serve Southwest Virginia and to advance research in human health.

The Via Research Recognition Day will include a presentation of research abstracts and a poster review and evaluation process, along with speakers and oral presentations. President Charles Steger will provide an overview of the collaboration between VCOM and Virginia Tech and VCOM faculty members Jan Willcox, Hara Misra, Ashok Amin, James Mahaney, and Gunnar Brolinson will preside over various sessions.

Participants are asked to register with Kelly Varelos at kvarelos@vcom.vt.edu or by calling 1-4927. Registration is free for Virginia Tech faculty members and students. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits will be awarded to participants and more information is available from Varelos.

Child Development Center seeks applications

The Virginia Tech Child Development Center for Learning and Research (CDCLR), which will be operation in January 2005, is currently accepting applications. The CDCLR will continue to offer quality care and education that the Lab School has been recognized nationally and internationally for its excellence in teaching, research and teacher preparation. The CDCLR is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs and is licensed by the State of Virginia. The center will primarily offer full-time, full-year care for

families of university faculty and staff members.

The CDCLR will be located in Wallace Hall in the present site of the Lab School. The CDCLR will operate three classrooms, one for 10 toddlers (15 to 36 months), one for 15 young preschoolers (3 to 4 years) and one for 15 older preschoolers (4 to 5 years). Head teachers in each classroom will hold college degrees in child development and/or early childhood education certification. Qualified, experienced teachers with college degrees and/or associate degrees in child development or child-care will serve as assistant teachers. 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 in the summer, one week during winter/holiday break, Memorial Day, Independence Day, two days for Thanksgiving break, a few professional development days. The cost per child will be \$700 per month for a one-year contract.

There will be an open house on Thursday, Oct. 14 from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Lab School.

For information about the CDCLR and application form, go to <http://www.humandevlopment.vt.edu/cdclr.html> to download these items. For more information or an application form, contact Christine McCartney, at cmccartm@vt.edu, or call 1-6148.

VT Majors Fair scheduled

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence and the University Academic Advising Center will be co-sponsoring the VT Majors Fair Thursday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cassell Coliseum. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Academic Diversity."

The event provides the Virginia Tech community an opportunity to support student success by helping our undergraduate students learn about the many major and minor programs of study available to them. The VT Majors Fair allows students to get to know the faculty and staff members and students who give the major its life. Students attending the fair will be entered in a drawing to win a Sony Color CliÈ PDA and participating departments will be eligible to win a \$150 departmental stipend.

Each academic department is asked to contact the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence at caee@vt.edu by Friday, Sept. 30 to provide the contact information for the person responsible for their department's participation.

International center to host reception

The Cranwell International Center will host a reception in celebration of the university's international faculty members, scholars and researchers on Friday, Oct. 8 from 5:30 until 7 p.m.

The celebration will be an informal occasion for the university's international professionals to come together. This is the first time the center has hosted an event for international faculty members, scholars and researchers. Spouses and family members are welcome, and guests are encouraged to wear their normal university attire.

For more information, contact the center at 1-6527 or e-mail jnutter@vt.edu.

Orange Effect T-shirts now available

The Student Government Association's 2004 Orange Effect T-shirts are officially on sale.

The official "Orange Effect" weekend begins Friday, Sept. 24, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 26. On game day, fans are encouraged to wear the 2004 Orange Effect T-shirt. Faculty and staff members, alumni, and friends will be able to purchase Orange Effect T-shirts on line at vt.universitysportwear.com.

Six Flags America offers discount

Six Flags America in Largo, Maryland is hosting Government Appreciation Days on Saturday, Sept 25 and Sunday, Sept. 26. Tickets may be ordered on line for \$16.49 per person. (Children 3 and under are free). Credit-card orders can be placed at www.sixflags.com/parks/america. In the upper-right-hand corner use Promotional Code 04GOVTDAYS and print the eTicket.

ODK accepting membership applications

Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society, is now accepting applications for membership through October 11. Qualifications for students include being a junior, senior, or graduate student, having a minimum 3.0 GPA overall and excelling in at least one of five areas: scholarship; athletics; campus/community service, social/religious activities, campus government; journalism, speech, mass media, creative/performing arts. Faculty and staff members are requested to encourage qualified students to apply. ODK is also accepting nominations by ODK members for faculty, staff, and alumni members. Contact Nicki Cantrell at cantrell@vt.edu for more information. Student applications can be picked up and turned in to 319 Squires, and are available at www.filebox.vt.edu/org/odk/.

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 17 Special Awards edition, the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs, which selects the recipients of the Alumni Awards for Excellence in Outreach, was incorrectly referred to as the Commission on Outreach. Additionally, the correct title of the award listed as the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Programs is now the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Affairs. We regret any confusion these errors may have caused.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published bi-weekly on Fridays during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

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.

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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Changes noted in offices serving students, employees with disabilities

Over the past year, several changes have been made in the offices that serve students and employees with disabilities. There have also been changes in assistive technologies that are available as well as new guidelines to make our web pages accessible to all users.

The Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator's office has been relocated from the Office of Equal Opportunity to Personnel Services. The ADA coordinator is available to conduct training on ADA and employment, provide access/accommodations for faculty members, student employees and guests; and to assist departments in ensuring all programs, policies, procedures, conferences and training

sessions are accessible. An online map showing accessible routes is available at <http://www.maps.vt.edu/>. Hard copies are available from the ADA coordinator. ADA brochures on campus contacts and emergency evacuation of people with disabilities are available at website www.ps.vt.edu. Contact Virginia J. Reilly, 1-9331 (voice); 1-6258 (TTY); First Floor Southgate Center (0318).

The Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) formerly a part of the Dean of Students, now reports to Brian Warren, assistant vice president for Student Affairs. The SSD staff coordinates all accommodations for
(See *CHANGE* on 4)

Most academic, administrative spaces now wireless

According to Communications Network Services (CNS), more than 85 percent of the university's academic and administrative spaces now have wireless network service available. As a result, the university is now able to transition from a pilot to a production wireless local area network (LAN). Wireless LAN access is being provided to departments as a supplement to the traditional "wired" Ethernet service.

Effectively immediately, Ethernet service and Wireless LAN service will be bundled together for departmental users. There is no rate increase for this enhancement to the traditional Ethernet service. The current monthly rates of

\$7.75 for 10Base-T service and \$10 for 100Base-T service will continue to apply to these services with the Wireless LAN enhancement. Departmental users may choose Wireless LAN without wired Ethernet service, for a monthly rate of \$7.75.

Wireless networking technology, while providing the benefit of mobility, provides only a fraction of the capacity of traditional Ethernet, and the quality of the service can vary greatly over time. Some factors which may affect the quality of service are the number of users on the same access point, building construction and
(See *ACADEMIC* on 4)

EMPLOYMENT

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

Crop/Soil Environmental Science. Assistant Professor.

Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology. Clinical Instructor.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Human Nutrition, Foods/Exercise. Head.

University Development. Assistant Director for Intercollegiate Athletics.

Education Leadership/Policy Studies. Information Specialist.

Reynolds Homestead Forest Resource Center. Superintendent.

Services for Students with Disabilities. Coordinator.

Institute for Distance/Distributed Learning. Assistant/Associate Director for Research/Assessment of Teaching/Learning in Electronic Environments

Institute for Distance/Distributed Learning. Assistant/Associate Director for eLearning Planning/Operations.

Center for Geospatial Information Technology. Project Associate/Senior Project Associate.

Biology, Postdoctoral Associate. Northeast District Cooperative

Extension. Crop/Soil Sciences. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources. Farm Business Management, Hanover County.

Central District Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Crop/Soil Sciences, Amelia County.

CHANGE*Continued from 4*

students. Students who ask for any modifications due to a disability should be referred to the SSD office. All videos that are purchased or developed by a department should be open or closed-captioned. Contact Susan P. Angle, 1-3788 (voice), 1-1740 (TTY); spangle@vt.edu; www.ssd.vt.edu; 150 Henderson Hall (0185).

Federal guidelines require that webpages be accessible for people with disabilities. The Faculty Development Institute (<http://www.fdi.vt.edu>) offers classes each semester on making websites accessible, with one-to-one follow-up assistance to individuals available through the New Media Center located in 1140 Torgersen. Contact Shannon Phillips, NMC manager, 1-5377; <http://www.nmc.vt.edu/>.

The Institute for Distance and Distributed

Learning (IDDL), located in Torgersen 3046, IDDL will work with faculty members who are developing new eLearning courses to be delivered electronically (online or through interactive video-conferencing) to ensure that these courses are accessible to students with disabilities. Contact www.iddl.vt.edu.

Special Services in Newman Library provides a variety of assistive technologies (AT) and support services for students, employees and guests with disabilities. Disability accommodations using AT are available upon referral by SSD staff for students or by the ADA coordinator for others. In addition, AT classes or presentations, consulting services or demonstrations, and research are conducted in the AT Lab located in 1180 Torgersen Hall. Contact Bill Holbach, AT coordinator, 1-3461 (voice); Hal Bracket, AT lab and special services manager, 1-3937 (voice); 1-3035 (TTY); AT

and Special Services (0434), or e-mail assist@vt.edu.

Informal and formal complaint processes are available through the OEO, 1-7500 or eooffice@vt.edu.

ACADEMIC*Continued from 3*

renovation, interference from electrical equipment, and prevailing meteorological conditions. For these reasons Wireless LAN is not intended to replace traditional Ethernet at the desktop. Refer to the wireless website, <http://wireless.cns.vt.edu>, for information to assist in deciding when the use of wireless LAN is appropriate.

For more information, contact CNS Ordering and Provisioning at cnsdesign@vt.edu or calling 1-6460

ADVANCEVT*Continued from 1*

Essentially, the responses reveal that a childcare facility located on or near campus would alleviate many of the difficulties parents face, including help on those days when the university remains open but local childcare providers are closed.

Respondents note that improving the availability and flexibility of childcare options accessible to university employees would help recruit and retain excellent employees at Virginia Tech in the future.

A summary of these findings was presented to local childcare providers at the Blacksburg Community Center on Aug. 20. A complete report of the findings is available at www.advance.vt.edu, and paper copies of the report may be requested from Barbara Johnson at 1-7682.

For more information, contact Layne at 1-9948 or playne@vt.edu. To learn more about AdvanceVT, go to <http://www.advance.vt.edu>.

DAILY*Continued from 1*

information, such as parking notices, Personnel Services announcements, event reminders and various administrative policies or updates. The university community is encouraged to submit notices for inclusion in campus notices. All Virginia Tech-affiliated organizations may post calendar items to the university calendar.

The site will also have links to other sources of campus and community information. News stories will be archived for future reference and campus notices and university calendar listings will be posted until the information or event has expired.

The daily e-mail will be available to anyone on a subscription basis. Messages will be delivered overnight and be on your computer first thing every Monday through Friday morning. To subscribe to the service, send an e-mail to listserv@listserv.vt.edu and write in the body of the message, "subscribe VTnews firstname lastname" ('firstname lastname' is the name of the person subscribing to the

service). Information how to unsubscribe is posted on the bottom of each daily message.

The university will continue to send emergency "broadcast" e-mail and voicemail messages in the event that an urgent message needs to be conveyed to students, the faculty and staff, or the entire university community.

"Historically, our campus newsletter, *Spectrum*, has been the primary way in which we have communicated university information to faculty and staff members," Hincker said. "Because *Spectrum* is published once every two weeks, and has limited space, we are not able to be as timely and as in depth with news and information as we would like. The Virginia Tech News website and Virginia Tech News Daily e-mail will enable us to inform the community as news happens, and in greater depth. We plan to discontinue *Spectrum* at the end of the year."

Hincker added that a printed weekly summary of information posted on the Virginia Tech News website will be produced for Virginia Tech employees who do not have daily access to e-mail. University departments with large

populations of employees without computer access will be asked to post the daily e-mail on public bulletin boards for all employees to read.

"We now live in a world where news and information is distributed continuously around the clock," Hincker said. "Our new Virginia Tech News service will enable us to provide

the university community with information quickly and direct it to those who want and need to have it."

University Relations will maintain the website and distribute the daily e-mail. Questions and comments may be sent to VTnews@vt.edu.

NSF*Continued from 1*

2000 (the latest year for which these figures are available).

"This good news, however, should not obscure the fact that we need continuous improvement in the attraction and retention of African-Americans in IT," Smith said.

Moreover, Belanger said, in more recent years, general enrollments in computer science have declined—by almost 30 percent in the 2001-2004 period. (It is not known whether there is a corresponding decline in African-American enrollments.) "We need to learn more about the factors that drive recruitment

and retention in the absence of a thriving job market, especially for under-represented groups," she said.

Their project, Belanger said, will focus on the characteristics of African-Americans who succeed in IT career paths. It will examine the impact of rarely studied intrapersonal factors such as learning style, visual-spatial intelligence, and resilient personality as well as interpersonal factors such as mentoring and internships on African-Americans' "job-fit" perceptions.

Their multidisciplinary, culturally diverse research team, Belanger said, has developed a model that describes how students select, persist in, and graduate from IT programs and make the transition to the IT workplace, including faculty jobs at colleges and universities. The NSF grant will allow the researchers to test their model and its applicability to African-Americans.

The researchers will conduct three waves of surveys of the same group of participants—as college juniors and seniors, first-year graduate students, and first-year employees. They will develop an intervention/training program, Web groups, and practitioner-student mentorships.

Smith and Belanger said their study has potential practical benefits to the scientific, educational, and business communities, and society as a whole. The benefits include increasing African-American student awareness and attitudes about academic careers in IT, improving teaching methods that leverage African-American students' visual-spatial intelligence, and improving the processes by which African-American IT workers will be trained, recruited, and retained.

"For the United States," Smith and Belanger said, "employment of a qualified diverse workforce is both an economic and a social imperative. Economic global competition places a premium on the availability of a qualified diverse workforce. Studies have shown that diversity provides multiple perspectives and stimulates novelty, innovation, and evolution in both academe and industry."

To take academe as one example, they said, a loss of diversity "translates into myopic research pursuits, limited institutional creativity and innovation, and, ultimately, uniformity in shaping the future of society."

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for the SBES program. A key feature of the new learning environment is the ability for the professor to easily interact with students using multiple types of technologies, including new, state-of-the-art interactive videoconferencing. Learning tools such as Centra One and Blackboard designed for the World Wide Web represent two of the key technologies. These tools are supported by the Virginia Tech Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning and Educational Technologies, as well as by Wake Forest's Office of Academic Computing.

Virginia Tech is using the Tandberg Director Videoconferencing system, enabling high-quality interactive video conferencing. The system is able to handle the latest internet protocols. Faculty members are able to incorporate a variety of interactive learning activities and rich media into their learning environment. For example, virtual office hours and interactive research seminars are now available.

This classroom, located in 220 Hancock Hall, is the first at Virginia Tech designed to use the H.323 protocol, a multimedia conferencing protocol that includes voice, video, and data conferencing for use over the network. Additionally, this classroom will be included in future research on video conferencing.

A contingent of Wake Forest faculty will visit the Virginia Tech campus today to

participate in the ceremony and to learn more about the research facilities at Virginia Tech. Representatives of Wake Forest's radiology, neurology, biomedical engineering, pharmacology, urology, orthopaedic surgery, internal medicine, biochemistry, microbiology and immunology, surgical sciences, plastic/reconstructive surgery, anesthesiology, and regenerative medicine departments will be participating.

They will visit a number of the biomedical engineering laboratories, as well as the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Applied Biosciences Center, and the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Doug Eckel, director of research advancement, college of engineering, is coordinating the event.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new classroom facility will occur at 4:30 p.m. in 220 Hancock Hall on the Virginia Tech campus. Simultaneously, the Teleconference Center on the Wake Forest campus will hold a ribbon cutting.

During the past year Glenda Scales, associate dean for distance learning and computing in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, and John Boehme, associate dean for academic computing and information sciences, Wake Forest University School of Medicine Office of Academic Computing, were co-project leaders for launching the distance-learning infrastructure project to support the SBES program.

