Torgersen notifies board of his retirement plans

By Larry Hincker

Paul Torgersen, Virginia Tech’s fourteenth president, announced Monday that he will retire from Virginia Tech effective December 31 of this year.

“It has been an incredible journey for me. Virginia’s land-grant university is not only as strong as ever, but is a vital element in the social fabric of our commonwealth. I believe that I have contributed to the improvement of the institution; I know that I received as much in personal fulfillment and growth,” Torgersen said.

“The university and all its stakeholders have been blessed by this committed and strong leader. At a time when most men would have been covering retirement, Paul Torgersen embraced the university motto of service above self and accepted the challenge of rebuilding the university’s resource base. We are well positioned to be the model land-grant university of the 21st century,” said Board of Visitors Rector Jim Turner.

Torgersen became president in 1993 at age 62 upon the sudden health-related departure of President James McComas. McComas’s tenure was marked by a series of recession-driven budget reductions during the early 1990s.

Starting his presidency with the goal of rebuilding financial resources, Torgersen secured state as well as private resources for building projects and salary equity. Today, he leaves a campus experiencing a building boom. “Not since the Marshall Hahn era of the late 60s have we seen buildings popping up like we do now. He helped restore academic reputation,” said David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs. “It is a critical quality and level of achievement of students are assurance that program accreditation in institutional mission and purpose, institutional effectiveness, educational programs, educational support services, and administrative processes. Accreditation is good for ten years. Accreditation reaffirms the university’s academic reputation,” said David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs. “It is a critical component in the operation of the university because so many things depend on it, such as continued federal financial-aid programs and the ability to launch various types of academic programs.”

This year’s accreditation process also gave the institution an option to conduct either a strategic self study or a traditional self study. Virginia Tech chose a strategic self study, focusing on transforming Virginia Tech for the information age. In general, the visitation team also assisted in transforming Virginia Tech for the information technology excellence into an information-technology leader. He was often quoted as saying that we must develop the vision for the ‘model land-grant’ university of the 21st century. The institution received high praise and awards for its Faculty Development Initiative which, through intensive teacher training, quickly infused technology throughout the curriculum. The Math Emporium, an innovative way to teach lower-level math, remains one of the largest programs of its kind in the nation. Still in its embryonic stage is Virginia Tech’s unique attempt to develop wireless internet technology through broadband-high frequency spectrum. Virginia Tech is the only university in the nation to own an LMDS-spectrum license. And while Torgersen was president, the university developed for the state, Network Virginia, a broadband-network that many consider a model for the next generation Internet.

Shortly after being unanimously selected by Tech’s Board of Visitors in late 1993, he began a series of travels around the state to build relationships with those whose support was crucial to the university: Virginia’s state senators and delegates. Over the ensuing year he met with about 80 percent of the General Assembly members to tell the Virginia Tech story. He continued to place a high priority on legislative relations, deftly noting that “We must not forget that along with students, parents, and alumni, the commonwealth of Virginia is an important stakeholder in the success of Virginia Tech.”

Torgersen’s tenure as president capped a 33-year career at Virginia Tech beginning in 1967 as head of the Department of Industrial Systems Engineering. He became dean of engineering in 1970 and held the post for 20 years. Torgersen is credited with leading the college to national recognition. When he stepped down to return to teaching in 1990, the College of Engineering had become a full-fledged member of the most elite engineering schools in the nation. Over the past two decades the college has consistently ranked among the top 25 schools in the nation.

Known by those who worked with him as a quiet but deliberate decision maker, he

(See TORGERSEN on 8)

University receives re-accreditation with commendation

By Catherine Doss

President Paul Torgersen has been notified of the re-affirmation of accreditation, following more than a year of preparation for and involvement by virtually the entire university community in the accreditation process.

“For a university of our size and complexity, this was a remarkably good review,” said Peggy S. Meszaros, senior vice president and provost.

In his letter to Torgersen, James T. Rogers, executive director of the SACS Commission on Colleges listed eight areas recommended by the accreditation visitation team that needed either further review or documentation. According to David Conn, director of the university’s self study, the team pointed out after its visit to campus last March these recommendations were procedural or technical in nature and reflected no substantial flaws in the institution. The compliance team ended its report by issuing a commendation for the university’s financial planning and management.

Accreditation is mandatory for all educational entities in Virginia. The set of criteria with which each institution must comply is both stringent and complex. For Virginia Tech, the criteria included more than 460 areas of compliance in institutional mission and purpose, institutional effectiveness, educational programs, educational support services, and administrative processes. Accreditation is good for ten years.

Accreditation reaffirms the university’s academic reputation,” said David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs. “It is a critical component in the operation of the university because so many things depend on it, such as continued federal financial-aid programs and the ability to launch various types of academic programs.”

This year’s accreditation process also gave the institution an option to conduct either a strategic self study or a traditional self study. Virginia Tech chose a strategic self study, focusing on transforming Virginia Tech for the information age. In general, the visitation team also gave high marks to the self study and the strategic initiatives it considered truly transforming such as the Faculty Development Institute, the Cyberschool, and the Math Emporium. Anne McNabb chaired the steering committee for the strategic self study. The eight areas needing follow-up attention are:

1) Confirm that notification of all new programs has been submitted to the Commission on Colleges;

2) Complete evaluations of off-campus programs, and provide assurance that program quality and level of achievement of students are equivalent to comparative on-campus offerings;

3) Complete and report on modification of undergraduate admissions policies and procedures scheduled for completion in January 1999;

4) Complete and report on the review of graduate admissions policies;

5) Report on goals for the distance-learning program scheduled for completion in spring semester 1999;

6) Implement and document a solution to the problem of credentials for graduate teaching assistants;

7) Implement the university’s new delivery system of providing access to library materials.

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7) Implement the university’s new delivery system of providing access to library materials.

(See UNIVERSITY on 8)

Board approves lowered tuition, fees policy

By David Nutter

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors approved a tuition-and-fee policy for the 1999-2000 academic year that will set tuition for the coming year drop by 20 percent because of increased state support. Tuition for in-state undergraduates for the coming academic year will be $2,792, a $708 decrease from the current tuition fee of $3,500. This 20 percent decline in tuition is being made possible by an infusion of state funds to offset the reduction in tuition.

“From 1989 through 1996, tuition in Virginia has increased dramatically because of a decline in state support for higher education. The higher education community has been alarmed at this loss of state support. This year, Governor Gilmore and the General Assembly have recognized these concerns and taken an important first step in helping hold down the cost of tuition,” President Paul Torgersen said. “They are to be

(See BOARD on 7)
At the Virginia Association on Aging (VAA) conference held in December, Virginia Tech students and professors combined to sweep the education awards.

Karen Roberto, Tech’s director of the Center for Gerontology and Professor of Adult Development and Aging, was named the outstanding educator. Roberto’s research examines the psycho-social aspects of aging. Within this realm, she has focused on older women’s adaptation to life with osteoporosis; the process families use in making health-care decisions for older adults; relationships and friendships. Her $300 award was donated to Tech’s Center for Gerontology.

Carla Bailey, a doctoral candidate in the Environmental Design and Planning Program in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, received the outstanding doctoral student award for the year 1998-99. Bailey works as a technical advisor to the Swiss National Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research. Bailey also earned a graduate certificate in gerontology through the Center of Gerontology at the College of Human Resources and Education. Her dissertation research is titled “Understanding Age and Suburban Space: A Temporal-Spatial Analysis of the Political and Economic Context of Aging and Place in Arlington, Virginia.” Bailey also recently authored a policy brief while working with the Rural Health Policy Research Program at Virginia Tech: “Growing in Medicare Managed Care in Virginia: Metro-Nonmetro Changes.”

A graduate of SUNY-Cortland, Scanlon is enrolled in human development/adult development and aging and will also earn a graduate certificate in gerontology. She is a graduate assistant in the Adult Day Services Center at Tech. Nominees were judged on academic excellence, research projects, work experience, career plans, community service and faculty recommendations. Both students received $1,000 scholarships.

This marks the third straight year that Virginia Tech students have won awards. The VAA Board determined it was unfair for master’s and doctoral students to compete and initiated the dual-award system this year.

SUSAN HUTCHINSON, assistant professor in educational leadership and policy studies (ELPS), will present two papers at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) to be held in Montreal, Canada from April 19 through the 23. She will review methodological characteristics of research, which was published in The Journal of Higher Education, The Review of Higher Education, and Research in Higher Education along with co-author Cheryl D. Kelly. Hutchinson will also present “Rationales of a professional audience for survey completion,” a study completed with Kathy E. Green.

Also at the AERA conference, Steven M. Janosik, associate professor in ELPS, is a panelist for “University Policy Centers: Past, Present, and Future.” Janosik is also presenting “The Research and Information Needs of Education Policy Makers in Virginia” at the Virginia Educational Research Association meeting in Richmond March 3-5. At the American College Personnel Association conference in Atlanta on March 20-24, Janosik will discuss “Stakeholder Expectations for Due Process in Campus Student Judicial Hearings.” At the Association of Student Affairs in Higher Education conference in February, Janosik was tapped to present “How Much Process Is Due: A Response From a Different Set of Voices.”

Pat Traynor, research scientist in the Department of Biochemistry, organized a three-day biotechnology risk-assessment workshop on “Ecological Effects of Pest Resistant Genes in Managed Ecosystems.” The January meeting assemblment multi-disciplinary expert groups to assess current knowledge and need research on whether the transfer of resistance traits by outcrossing from crops to related wild or weedy species may have undesirable ecological consequences.

Traynor is the principal investigator for an ongoing USDA grant that supports Information Systems for Biotechnology, a national resource in information about agricultural biotech research and product development, biotechnology regulations, and environmental issues associated with small and large-scale releases of genetically modified organisms. She also works to ensure the environmentally responsible use of biotechnology products by serving as a bio-safety advisor in Asian, African and Latin American countries under the auspices of U.S. Agency for International Development and the International Service for National Agricultural Research, based in the Netherlands.

Steven McMullin, assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, was program chair for the recent annual meeting of the Virginia chapter of the American Fisheries Society, held in Danville. He also assumed the duties of chair president.

Patricia Flebbe, U.S. Forest Service research scientist and assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, was elected secretary of the Virginia chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The newsletter for the College of Arts and Sciences won a Special Merit Award for external newsletters in the CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) District III Advancement Awards Program. Sally Harris edits, writes, and designs the newsletter using a template designed by Creed Taylor of Graphic Arts. Adelene Kirby and Teresa Mutispaugh serve as editorial assistants, and other public-relations coordinators contribute or collaborate on some stories. Most photos are by Bob Veltri, Rick Griffiths, and John McCormick of Visual Communications-Photo.

Riley publishes The American Newspaper Columnist

By Sally Harris

Sam Riley, professor of communication studies at Virginia Tech and author of the new book The American Newspaper Columnist, says those writers have been “the most neglected people in the newspaper business except maybe for the paper boys.”

The figure of the newspaper columnist, which emerged in America in the mid-nineteenth century, plays a key role in modern newspapers. Today, they add a decidedly personal touch to the newspapers in which they appear—an important consideration in an increasingly impersonal, corporate, no-nonsense medium, according to Praeger Publishers, which published Riley’s latest book. Yet journalists and university teachers usually include in their discussions the Hearsts and Pulitzer, outstanding editors in New York, Chicago, and a few other cities, and a few of the most outstanding reporters. Riley said, “But there’s very little mentioned about columnists, even though some of them have been among the most interesting writers, made the most money, and had the most remarkable careers.”

In this book, Riley provides the most complete look available at the emergence of the columnist and at who the leading columnists have been from the Civil War era to the present. Riley examines 780 columnists and their work chronologically—according to when their columns first appeared—within several categories—mid-to-late 1800s, humor, column poets, syndicated political, other syndicated, local, and minority columnists.
Senate discusses recruitment efforts

By Susan Trulove

Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) has announced the third round of ASPIRES recipients. ASPIRES stands for a Support Program for Innovative Research Strategies. Support from the Provost’s Office and RGS provided almost $1.4 million to support faculty members’ programs in amounts ranging from $4,500 to $40,000. Winning proposals also included funding from departments, colleges, and other sources.

“The intent is to aid faculty members in increasing their success rate in competing for external support, such as by purchasing equipment, providing training, or renovating facilities, and to increase the quality of scholarship,” said Gene Brown, associate provost for RGS program development. “The program has been very successful. Last year’s $1.7 million investment returned $8.1 million in research contracts and grants, as of this September. In addition, 72 papers have been published from the research facilitated by ASPIRES funds.” Almost $13 million in proposals from ASPIRES projects still await funding.

“We are particularly pleased to be able to support faculty members’ research and initiatives,” said Len Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School. “The results prove that these individuals are savvy. They know what needs to be done and how to do it. The result is a university with significant strengths to offer students and sponsors.” Awards this year were made in categories that support the university’s cross-cutting initiatives—those areas where the university is building on traditional strengths and responding to critical issues. From 126 proposals, 52 were funded, as follows:

Biosciences and Biotechnology
M.A. Saghai-Marof and others in crop and soil environmental sciences (CSES) for development of DNA chip technology.
Brian Storrie and others in biochemistry and plant pathology and weed science (PPWS) to expand the research capabilities of the digital confocal microscope facility.
Prakash Nagarkatti and others in biology and Veterinary Medicine to establish cellular and molecular research facilities.
Sue Tohn of PPWS for functional genomic analyses of viral genomes and plant gene responses.
Ann Stevens and others in biology for creation of a state-of-the-art protein-purification facility in Derring Hall.
Scott Salom and Rick Fell of entomology for ultra-cold freezer (minus-60 to minus-80 C) to store highly volatile biology.
Jill Sible and John Tyson of biology to determine the molecular mechanisms and mathematical models of the Eukaryotic cell cycle.
K.V. Cott and others in civil engineering and environmental engineering (CEE) for a novel method for production of a collagenase stimulating protein (CSP).
Boris Chevone and others in PPWS and Forestry to study chlorophyll fluorescence as an indicator of environmental stress in plants.
Eric Nilsen and others in biology for renovation of research space for plant ecology in Derring Hall.
Charles Hagedorn and others in CSES and PPWS for purchase of automated microbial genomic-identification equipment.
W.E. Newton and others in biochemistry and PPWS for an electron paramagnetic resonance facility.
Jeff Bloomquist and others in entomology to enhance collaborative research and education programs.
Ken Webb and others in animal and poultry science and entomology for characterization of peptide transporters cloned from chickens.

Muriel Lederman and others in biology and PPWS to use a human virus to produce foreign protein in plants.
Computing, Information, and Communications Technology
Sanjay Raman of electrical and computer engineering (ECE) for an on-wafer probe station.
Dong S. Ha of ECE to establish a custom IC design lab.
Environmental Sciences and Energy Systems
H.M. Valet and others in biology for study of aquatic-terrestrial interactions.
Saeed Mostaghimi and others in biological systems engineering (BSE) for a watershed-assessment laboratory.
Foster Agblevor and others in BSE for renovation of the bio-process engineering laboratory.
Mike Vaughan and others in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and Veterinary Medicine for a center for urban research.
Dan Bosch and others in agriculture and applied economics and CSES to develop leadership in problem-solving environments for ecosystem management.
John T. Novak and others in CEE to establishing an advanced particle-characterization laboratory.
James Jones and others in Architecture and Mechanical Engineering (ME) for a laboratory for the evaluation of thermal performance in buildings.
James Burger and others in Forestry for a vegetation, soil, and water processing and analysis facility.
Matthew Eick and others in CSES to develop a major inter-disciplinary research program.
Wayne Scales in ECE for the Virginia Tech Global Positioning System (GPS) Laboratory.

Randel Dymond in CEE to establish GIS research infrastructure.
Mark Widdowson and others in CEE for monitoring natural attenuation of groundwater contaminants.
Food, Nutrition, and Health
Lottie L. Kol and Salmon of entomology to upgrade essential equipment for the quarantine lab.
Maury A. Nussbaum of industrial and systems engineering (ISE) for measurement of muscle fatigue using external muscle stimulation.
Carl Griffey and others in CSES to developing plant-breeding programs.
R.D. Howard of Veterinary Medicine for an equine clinical research facility.
John Casali and others in ISE and mining and minerals engineering for a strategic initiative to promote field research.
Richard Winett and others in psychology and human nutrition and foods for an integrative approach for effective and efficient exercise training.
Karen Roberts of the Gerontological Center to study the health-care encounters of older adults.
Laura A. Wojcik of engineering science and mechanics (ESM) for 3D bio-mechanical modeling.
Eileen Anderson and others in psychology for study of Internet health-behavior dissemination.
William Ley and others in Veterinary Medicine for specialized training in advanced reproductive technologies.
Learning Communities
ALSoS and others in ESM and materials science and engineering (MSE) for integrated accelerated design and prototyping and a student projects lab.

(See ASPIRES on 7)
**EVENTS**

**Thursday, 25**
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, 234 War Memorial Gym: “Planning a Web-Based Course.”
- YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: “Glimpses of Prague and Southern Bohemia,” by Beth Thomas.
- Black History Month Program, 7 p.m., Colonial Ballroom, Squires: Keynote address by Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant.
- Book Reading/Signing, 7 p.m., Volume Two: R.T. Smith.
- Guest Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Louise Billad.
- TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.

**Friday, 26**
- International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m. Cranwell Center: “Mining and Environmental Safety in the Developing World,” by Gustav Jackson.
- TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.

**Saturday, 27**
- Women’s Basketball, noon, Atlantic-10 Tournament opens in Philadelphia. Opponent TBA.
- Men’s Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Duquesne.
- New River Symphony, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium.
- TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.

**Sunday, 28**
- YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., meet in parking lot 403 Washington St.: Lipsey Farm.
- TAUT Mainstage Production, 2 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.
- Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Cyndi Cox.
- Music Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Early Music Ensemble.

**MARCH**

**Monday, 1**
- Salary and Wage Paydate.
- Women’s History Month Begins.
- Volunteer Fair, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

** Rossi F. Libby**

**Activities**

**Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library:** “Using MacroMedia Director to Create Digital/Multimedia Content.”

**University Council Meeting, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.**

**Guest Artist Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Tony Baker.**

**TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.**

**Tuesday, 2**
- Multicultural Program, noon-1:30 p.m., MCC, Squires: Monthly Book Club.
- CEUT Workshop, 12:15-1:30 p.m., North Lounge, Johnson Student Center: “Inverting Pauses Into Lectures,” by Margaret Hable.
- VTU Program, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: “The King and I.”

**TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.**

**Wednesday, 3**
- YMCA Mornings, 9-10:15 a.m., Luther Memorial Church: “Quilting.”
- With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTF: Program TBA.

**TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.**

**Thursday, 4**
- YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: “Iceland by Jeep: Two Teens and Three Long Days,” by Andy Roberts.
- Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Steve Oberheu.
- TAUT Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Into the Woods.

**SEMINARS**

**Thursday, 25**
- Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 654 Whittemore: “The Importance of Being Degraded: Proteolytic Pathways From Arabidopsis to Zinnia,” by Eric Beers.

**Wednesday, 3**
- CASS, 3 p.m., 303 Davidson: Surface Modification of Fibers for Composite Reinforcements,” by Leonardo Lopez, Dow Chemical.

**Science and Technology Studies Center, 4-6 p.m., Brush Mountain Room, Squires: “Beauty and the Medical Image,” by Nadine Lennson, SUNY.

**Thursday, 4**

**BULLETINS**

**Affirmative Action incentive grant proposals sought**

Elyzabeth Holford, director of Tech’s EOOA Office, has announced the tenth call for proposals for the Affirmative Action Incentive Grants Program. The program is designed to provide seed money for new affirmative-action activities for faculty and staff members or students. The program, which is a project of the university’s EOOA Committee, will award grants of up to $2,500 (from a total pool of $20,000) for innovative affirmative action projects. The awards will be made for a one-year period, beginning July 1, 1999, with a potential one-time renewal. Applicants seeking renewal or extension of previously funded projects must also submit a proposal.

Activities appropriate for support include: projects designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of new approaches to promote affirmative action; activities which will enhance the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women, minorities, and people with disabilities; programs that will encourage behavioral and attitudinal changes supportive of affirmative action; thereby improving the campus environment for women, minorities, and people with disabilities; and, studies seeking ways to improve Virginia Tech’s ability to monitor and evaluate its affirmative action programs.

Proposals may be submitted by individual members of the faculty or staff, by university departments, or by recognized campus organizations.

**Leave donations requested**

Virginia Tech employees in the Residential and Dining Programs area have requested leave donations. These employees are eligible to receive leave through the Leave Sharing Program. Any salaried classified employee or a 12-month regular faculty member has an opportunity to participate by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours. There is no maximum donation limitation per year, nor is there a minimum balance. The employee’s condition will remain confidential. However, leave must be donated to either a specific individual or area.

To obtain a donor form, ask a department administrative office or contact Personnel Services department at 1-9331. The completed form should be sent to Mary Champagne Gearheart, leave administrator, Personnel Services 0318.

**Training on fiscal policies announced**

The Controller’s Office and the Office of Sponsored Programs are conducting training sessions for university personnel on how these standards, regulations and policies impact daily fiscal activities. This training is designed to provide the guidelines necessary to prevent the direct charging of costs that are normally considered indirect costs to sponsored programs.

Increased attention by federal auditors and project sponsors is being placed on university accounting of charges to sponsored programs. The goal is to educate the university community on how to implement these new policies and procedures in order to comply with the Cost Accounting Standards and federal regulations.

Three general training sessions are scheduled on the Cost Accounting Standards and University policies at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. To reserve a place in one of the following training sessions please call
Grant to deliver Black History Month keynote address

By Clara B. Cox

Gwendolyn Goldsby will deliver the keynote address for Virginia Tech’s Black History Month celebration. 7 p.m. February 25 in Squires Colonial Hall. A reception will follow in the Black Cultural Center in 126 Squires. Preceding her talk, she will participate in an informal discussion at 5 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

Goldsby is a psychologist, author, community activist, motivational speaker, magazine columnist, sex counselor, consultant, and lecturer who holds two master’s degrees, a doctorate in theology, and a doctorate in education.

Grant specialized in assertiveness training, affirmative-action seminars, multicultural issues, parenting workshops, human sexuality, male-female relationships, child and elderly care, sexual harassment, stress management, and leadership and life-skills development. A particular focus is mental-health education.

She is the author of The Best Kind of Loving, a best-selling book about male/female relationships, and writes a monthly advice column, “Between Us,” for Essence Magazine that draws over 7.5 million readers. She has also hosted a mental-health radio talk show and has made guest appearances on television and radio, including Monte Williams, Good Morning America, Sally Jessy Raphael, Oprah, The MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour, Black Entertainment TV, Regis and Kathy Lee, The Maury Povich Show, National Public Radio, CBS News, and CNN.

Grant is a member of the Phi Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies and the National Association of Black Journalists. She is a life member of the National Council of Negro Women. The Association of Black Psychologists awarded her the Bobby E. Wright Community Service Award for her work in mental health.

Grant’s address, the informal discussion, and the reception are sponsored by the Black History Month Steering Committee, a program of Student Affairs and the Division of Student Life.

Students’ parents pleased with Tech education

A sampling of parents of first-year students at Virginia Tech reports that the university generally meets their top expectations, according to a survey conducted by the Division of Student Affairs earlier this month.

The survey is a follow-up to a two-year study called the Parent Project in which more than 1,300 parents identified their top hopes and goals for students’ overall college experience. The parents in the current survey had participated in the Parent Project and which had agreed to be contacted by e-mail for follow-up. In the survey the parents reported how their own students were doing this year on the top seven parental goals. The survey drew responses from 35 percent of the group, or 143 students.

“I am pleased...that the parents believe their sons and daughters had a very good experience at Virginia Tech...”

vice president for student affairs.

In the electronic survey, 92 percent of the parents agreed with the statement, “My student is receiving a quality education,” and 92 percent also agreed with the statement, “My student is becoming more mature/independent.”

Sixty-four percent of the respondents agreed with the statement, “My student is preparing appropriately for the job market,” with another 31 percent neither agreeing nor disagreeing. Many commented that it is too soon to answer this question in the first year.

Of the remaining four statements, 89 percent agreed that their student “is enjoying Virginia Tech,” 80 percent agreed that their student “is academically successful,” and 84 percent agreed that their student “is academically successful,” and 84 percent agreed that their student “is academically successful,” and 84 percent agreed that their student “is developing friendships/networks.”

According to Cathryn Turrentine, director of planning and assessment for the Division of Student Affairs and survey coordinator, “Copies of each parent response have been sent to the appropriate associate dean for follow-up.”

Service-Learning Center publishes Best Practices

Best Practices in Cyber-Serve: Integrating Technology with Service-Learning Instruction is a new publication from the Virginia Tech Service-Learning Center.

The purpose of the publication, made possible by a grant from Learn and Serve America: Higher Education, is to distribute insightful practices that highlight the use of technology in service-learning instruction. The authors discuss with candor their experiences in employing instructional technologies in service-learning programs and classrooms, and how this integration has been both challenging and ben-
The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position-closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services website at http://www.ps.vt.edu. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service: Office/Clerical: 1-6196; Technical/Research: 1-6160; Service/Trades: 1-8176; Professional and Managerial: 1-4649; Information Technology: 1-2233. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with a “W” are hourly and do not include state benefits. Comments about this shortened listing should be made to perserv@vt.edu or by calling 1-5301 or 1-6258 for persons with hearing impairments. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline.

To better serve applicants, the closing date for advertised positions has been changed to 1 p.m. Monday unless otherwise stated. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

Full Time

Banquet Supervisor (tpw-a), 7424G, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Program Business Analyst (Accountant Sr), U2339P, Physical Plant.

Computer Systems Engineer, 7411D, Communications Network Services.

Distance Learning Specialist, 7410D, Office of Distance Education.

Executive Secretary, 2226D, University Development.

Executive Secretary, 21025, University Development.

Executive Secretary, 2300M, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Fiscal Technician, Senior, 2414P, University Library.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 7266H, Residential and Dining Programs/Dietrick Dining Hall.

Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef, 0029H, Residential and Dining Programs/Owens Dining Center.

Food Production Worker A (2nd Cook), W02240H, Residential and Dining Programs/Owens Dining Center.

Housekeeping Worker, 7323P, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 1076H, Residential and Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 7261G, Recreational Sport.

Installation and Repair Tech, Senior, 7288D, Video/Broadcast Services.

Installation and Repair Technician, 7430S, Communications Network Services.

Installation and Repair Tech, (Computer Tech.), 6841T, Parking Services.

Instructional Technology Systems Manager, 2122D, Educational Technologies.

Laboratory Specialist, 7428M, Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science.

Laboratory Specialist, 7429M, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 6375M, Food Science and Technology.

Locksmith, 216P, Physical Plant.

Mailroom Support Assistant, 6614J, Human Nutrition Food and Exercise.

Office Services Specialist, 7427J, Materials Science and Engineering.

Plumber Steamfitter, 1926P, Physical Plant.

Pgm/Spt Tech Senior (Web-Site Technician), 6914T, Physics.

Program Support Technician, 5548M, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences/Virginia Cooperative Extension-Pulaski County.

Programmer, 7405D, Administrative Information Systems.

Programmer, 6772D, Administrative Information Systems.

Programmer, 6795S, Educational Technologies.

Programmer, 1884S, University Libraries.

Programmer Analyst, 1228S, University Libraries.

Programmer/Analyst, 6824D, Administrative Information Systems.

Programmer/Analyst, 7426D, Information Systems.

Research Specialist, 7412M, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences.

Research Specialist, 7425M, Southwest Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Research Specialist Senior, 7422M, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

Research Specialist Senior, 6517J, Center for Public Policy and Administration.

Senior Programmer Analyst, 7421G, Institutional Research.

Senior Programmer/Analyst, 7328D, Administrative Information Systems.

Part Time

Animal Care Technician A, W022155M, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Banquet/Setup (foa-b), W022143G, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.


Enrollment Svcs Assistant (Academic Adviser), W022613T, Computer Science.

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Computer Science, Instructors (3). To begin in August 1999. Applicants should have a master’s degree in computer science or a strongly related discipline. Individuals are especially sought with experience or interest in innovating teaching approaches such as active learning, lab-based instruction, on-line course delivery, and distance learning. The department has significant laboratory facilities dedicated for undergraduate instruction. Excellent Virginia Tech students are required to own a personal computer meeting university standards. Instructors teach three courses per semester, almost always with support from graduate teaching assistants. The appointments are for one academic year (nine months) with additional funding available for summer teaching and the possibility of annual renewal. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a one-to-two-page statement of teaching philosophy and goals, and have at least three letters of reference sent to Instructor Search, Dept. of Computer Science (0106), 660 McBryde Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. Review begins March 15, and continues until positions are filled.

Department of Forestry, Assistant/associate Professor, Forestry Operations/Forest Engineering, Position is 12-month, tenure-track. Responsibilities: Teaching and research in GIS applications as forest inventory and wood-supply analysis; teach undergraduate and graduate courses in quantitative data analysis within the candidate’s area of expertise, with possibilities to include GIS, forest sampling and inventory, and wood-supply analysis; conduct research in forest inventory, wood-supply analysis, and/or GIS and collaborate in interdisciplinary projects in the college; advise undergraduate and graduate students. Qualifications: Ph.D., with an emphasis in a quantitative area; strong background in GIS principles and applications; experience in GIS applications to forest inventory and wood-supply analysis desired. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Review begins March 15, and continues until a suitable candidate is selected. Starting date is negotiable, with a target of July 1, 1999 or soon thereafter. Send written letter of interest, vita, transcripts, and names and addresses of three references to Harold E. Burkhart, Dept. of Forestry (0324), 307 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. E-mail: burkhart@vt.edu; phone: 1-6952; fax: 1-3698.

FACULTY POSITIONS

Fiscal Technician, W022619M, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Food Operations Assistant B/3rd Cook, W022602H, Residential and Dining Programs/Personal Touch Catering.

Food Operations Assistant (Dishwasher), W022603G, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Get Connected Technician, W022615D, Administrative Information Systems.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Residential and Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, W022143G, Schiffert Health Center.

Laboratory Aide, W020811M, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Office Services Specialist, W022331G, Program Development.

Office Services Specialist, 7284J, Civil Engineering.

Pharmacy Supervisor, W022501M, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Program Support Technician, 7413J, Research and Graduate Studies.

Program Support TechnicianSenior, W022240D, Administrative Information Systems.

Program Support TechnicianSenior, W022069D, Administrative Information Systems.

Program Supt Tech (Visual Resources Curator), W02912T, Art and Art History.

Programmer, W022504D, Communications Network Services.

Programmer, W022623M, College of Veterinary Medicine/Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology.

Trades Helper/Carpenter’s Assistant, W022019H, Residential and Dining Programs/Facilities.

University Only Business Analyst (Accountant Sr), U2339P, Physical Plant.

Off-Campus Distance Learning Specialist, 7410D, Office of Distance Education.

Office Services Assistant, 6614J, Human Nutrition Food and Exercise.

Program Support Technician, 5548M, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences/Virginia Cooperative Extension-Pulaski County.

Research Specialist, 7425M, Southwest Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Research Specialist Senior, 7422M, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

Research Specialist Senior, 6517J, Center for Public Policy and Administration.

Senior Programmer Analyst, 7421G, Institutional Research.

Senior Programmer/Analyst, 7328D, Administrative Information Systems.

Part Time Animal Care Technician A, W022155M, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Banquet/Setup (foa-b), W022143G, Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.


Enrollment Svcs Assistant (Academic Adviser), W022613T, Computer Science.

search in GIS applications such as forest inventory and wood-supply analysis; teach undergraduate and graduate courses in quantitative data analysis within the candidate’s area of expertise, with possibilities to include GIS, forest sampling and inventory, and wood-supply analysis; conduct research in forest inventory, wood-supply analysis, and/or GIS and collaborate in interdisciplinary projects in the college; advise undergraduate and graduate students. Qualifications: Ph.D., with an emphasis in a quantitative area; strong background in GIS principles and applications; experience in GIS applications to forest inventory and wood-supply analysis desired. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Review begins March 15, and continues until a suitable candidate is selected. Starting date is negotiable, with a target of July 1, 1999 or soon thereafter. Send written letter of interest, vita, transcripts, and names and addresses of three references to Harold E. Burkhart, Dept. of Forestry (0324), 307 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. E-mail: burkhart@vt.edu; phone: 1-6952; fax: 1-3698.

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Associate/full Professor, Tenure-track faculty. (See EMPLOYMENT on 7)
 Mohammad College of Veterinary Medicine will rise 3 percent. For residents of Virginia and Maryland, tuition will increase $2,084 to $7,840. For out-of-state students, tuition for the 1999-2000 academic year will be $21,308, up from $20,688. Last year the General Assembly allowed public universities to impose a technology service fee. Virginia Tech imposed a technology service fee of $36 annually for all full-time students. The technology fee will remain the same for the coming year. All full-time students are required to pay a comprehensive fee. The comprehensive fee is composed of five separate fees: student activity fee, athletic fee, bus fee, health fee, and recreational-sports fee. The comprehensive fee will increase $23 from $789 to $792 to support additional costs for housing, student health, and activities. Virginia Tech has the lowest comprehensive fee of any public university in the state.

Virginia Tech operates the largest residential program in the state, with 8,500 students living in its residence halls. Room rates for the coming year will rise 4.3 percent, a $72 to $140 increase depending upon which residence hall students live in. Board fees will rise 3 percent, from $48 to $56 depending upon which meal plan the student purchases. “These increases will pay for legislated salary increases, debt service for a new residence hall and dining facility, and the partial implementation of aplan to improve the quality of the residence halls,” said Minnis Ridenour, executive vice president. The combined cost of attending Virginia Tech in Fall 1999 as an in-state undergraduate student living on campus will be $7,400, down from last year’s cost of $7,953. “That is still the lowest rate for any four-year public institution in the commonwealth,” Torgersen said. “An education at Virginia Tech is still the best buy in Virginia.”

BOARD

THEME}

Continued from 1

applauded for this effort.”

While the General Assembly is still in session and the tuition buy-down has still not been signed into law, the board took this action contingent upon the additional appropriations from the state.

While additional funds are being provided to assist families of in-state undergraduates, out-of-state undergraduates will see their tuition rise by $300 or 2.8 percent from $10,716 to $11,016. Non-resident students are required by state law to pay 100 percent of the cost of their education.

Tuition for in-state graduate students will remain the same at $4,122 annually. Tuition for out-of-state graduate students will rise $198 or 2.9 percent from $6,732 to $6,930.

Tuition for students in the Virginia-

ASPIRES

Continued from 3

Bja Luciak and others in political science and women in development for gender equality and democratization in Central America and Cuba.

Roger Ariew and others in philosophy for economic development, and Ilja Luciak and others in political science for social change.

MIXED-PAPER

Continued from 3

Materials

Curtis Stern and James Thomas in ME for equipment for the Microwave Processing Laboratory.

Sean Cocoran in MSE for equipment for nano-indentation.

Paul Deck and others in chemistry for preparation and detailed characterization of well-defined surface-confined metalloocene olefin polymerization catalysts.

Imadeddin Al-Qadi and others in CEE and ESM for a material testing system upgrade.

Timothy Long in chemistry to develop unique polymerization reactor capabilities.

J.R. Foy of ESM for tribological assessment of alternative bearings for artificial joint replacement.


Thomas Murray, John Lesko, and others in CEE and ESM for an addition to the Structures and Materials Research Lab.

David Dillard and others in ESM for a laser xenometer.

Transportation

John Collura and others in CEE for a multi-modal traffic systems laboratory.

EMPLOYMENT

Continued from 6

ulty position in the Geotechnical Engineering Program. A Ph.D. in civil engineering or a related field is required. The position will be filled by an individual with an outstanding and nationally recognized record of accomplishment in geotechnical or geological engineering. Engineering leaders from academic, private practice, and government agencies are encouraged to apply. The initial term is for one full-professor level; however, exceptionally well-qualified individuals at the associate-professor level will also be considered. The successful applicants will be expected to contribute to teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels, to develop a strong research program, and to supervise both master’s and doctoral students. Review begins March 1, and continues until position is filled. To apply, please send a resume, a description of teaching and research interests, and the names and addresses of at least three references to George M. Fitz, Search Committee Chair, Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Information about the Geotechnical Engineering Program is available on the web at http://cee.vt.edu.

RILEY

Continued from 2

Columnists are certainly a colorful bunch, Riley said. Ambrose Bierce once traveled with Pancho Villa’s army. George Frazier reported a Yankee-Red Sox game—in Latin. Robert R. Haggart spent time in jail for releasing 200 pigs into a paper mill pond. Victor Riesel is said to have been the first American to hate Adolph Hitler. Charles Driscoll had the world’s largest private library on pirates.

Columnists sometimes saw life’s harder times, Riley said. Lillian Lewis was born the daughter of a runaway slave. Victor Riesel was blinded by sulfuric acid flung by an assailant. Bill Maxwell began his work life as a migrant farm laborer. They also flew higher, literally and figuratively: Inez Robb was on Pan Am’s first round-trip trans-Atlantic flight. Myrle Ryskind wrote for the Marx Brothers. I.F. Stone wrote a best-selling book on Socrates. Nick Kennedy wrote Pat Boone’s big hit “Love Letters in the Sand.” Sam Ragan and Charles Levendosky were the poet laureates of their states. David Lawrence founded and owned U.S. News & World Report.

Riley writes mainly newspaper and magazine writing, communication history, and communication law and ethics. He has written or edited 14 books, including Magazines of the American South, The Best of the Rest: Non-Syndicated Newspaper Columnists Select Their Best Work, and Biographical Dictionary of American Newspaper Columnists.

Virginia Tech Recycling: Revised Paper Recycling Guidelines

Collection of white paper, newspaper, and corrugated cardboard will continue as usual.

Beginning April 1, VTR will pick up magazines and catalogues (at least 50 pounds) upon request.

Beginning April 1, VTR will provide a dropsite for magazines and catalogues at Derring Hall for use by any recycling advocate at the loading dock on the west side of building.

White paper includes photocopy paper, letterhead paper, notebook paper, computer paper, stationery, opscan forms, white business cards, and envelopes (no windows). Newspaper includes newspaper, glossy inserts, and comic pages. Only glossy magazines and catalogues will be accepted.

No phone books, unsolicited mail, colored sheets, etc., will be accepted.

For questions or suggestions, contact the VTR office at 3-9015 or brechtel@vt.edu.


Riley writes mainly newspaper and magazine writing, communication history, and communication law and ethics. He has written or edited 14 books, including Magazines of the American South, The Best of the Rest: Non-Syndicated Newspaper Columnists Select Their Best Work, and Biographical Dictionary of American Newspaper Columnists.
Johnson named to new post in Forestry

Virginia Tech’s College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, in re-ordering its administrative positions to better support areas that are becoming increasingly more important, has named James E. Johnson to the new post of associate dean for outreach. He will coordinate the college’s efforts in Cooperative Extension, continuing education, and economic development.

“We are pleased to have Jim move into this leadership position,” Dean Greg Brown announced. “In his new role he will hold a 75-percent administrative appointment and retain a 25-percent appointment in the Department of Forestry.”

In addition to his Extension and research duties as professor of forestry, Johnson had been an Extension project leader for natural resources for the state of Virginia for nearly six years.

“Because the environment now plays such an important role in life today,” Johnson said, “the need for natural-resources education and services is greater than ever. Our college outreach efforts serve to take the research, knowledge, and talents of our faculty and apply them to helping citizens and companies to solve problems and acquire timely information.”

Johnson explained that outreach involves non-traditional means for teaching and learning by non-traditional audiences. For the past 20 years he worked in teaching, research, and Extension programs and generated nearly $2.3 million in contract and grant funds.

Johnson has published 150 scientific papers, technical articles, and Extension publications, and edited 14 symposium and workshop proceedings. He has also won five Southern Regional Awards for Excellence in Extension Programs, and is one of only two Extension forestry professors in the United States to win the National Woodland Owners Association Award for Outstanding Forestry Communications three times.

Johnson holds a B.S. degree in forestry from Colorado State University, an M.S. from the University of Maine, and a Ph.D., from Virginia Tech.

COTA announces conference-grant program

The Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement (COTA), a unit of the university’s Outreach Division, has announced a grant program for assisting faculty and staff members in developing conferences at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center (HRCC).

The grant awards of up to $5,000 must be used for honoraria and associated travel for faculty members and outside speakers.

“Funding will be made for new and innovative programs not currently available,” said Greg Boardman, faculty director of COTA. “Selection criteria will include the potential for national and international recognition; the expected number of participants; and the anticipated benefits to the department, college, and university.”

All proposals must include a timetable with interim milestones for project completion and be signed by the respective department head and academic dean. Proposals will be reviewed by the university’s outreach council, with final awards being approved by the vice provost for outreach upon recommendation from the outreach council. Each program must include the purchase of lodging rooms and/or meeting packages at the HRCC.

Proposal forms and budget worksheets are available by contacting Boardman by telephone at 1-2013 or by e-mail at gboard@vt.edu. Forms are also available on the web at www.cota.vt.edu.

Applicants should send two copies of their proposal. One copy must be sent to Boardman at mail code 0175. The other copy should be sent to the outreach council member who represents the applicant’s college.

UNIVERSITY

Board Approves Parking-Fees Increases

By David Nutter

At Monday’s Board of Visitors meeting, the board approved a $5 increase in the parking fee for faculty and staff members (up from $50 to $55), and a $4 increase for students from $40 to $44. The fee increase is the first since 1994.

Steve Mouras, director of transportation, records and trademark management, said the increase would cover cost of parking-lot construction and maintenance. Mouras also said the Litton-Reeves lot will be renovated this summer and the Coliseum lot is scheduled to undergo renovation in the summer of 2000.

Officials also confirmed that beginning in August, overnight guests at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center will be charged a daily parking rate of $1. Contractors’ personal vehicles will be charged for a parking permit at the same rate as for faculty/staff parking. Additionally, parking fines will increase from $15 to $20.

TORGersen

Continued from 1

Board of Visitors Rector James Turner, left, with President Paul Torgersen at Monday’s board meeting.

(R. Griffiths)

wasted no time in making tough streamlining decisions. He merged two colleges, Education and Human Resources, into one in 1995. He downsized his personal staff and quietly effected the retirement of others.

But by his own admission, he will probably be known as the teaching president. Of his latest role he often said, “I consider myself a professor who also is president.” Throughout his three-decade long Virginia Tech career, he always taught at least one class each semester...much to the chagrin of staff members trying to schedule his appearances around the state or country.

Along the way, he held the post of interim president for nine months in 1988 taking over after the resignation of the twelfth university president, William Lavery. He was also interim vice president for Development and University Relations in 1992. He was again tapped as interim president upon McComas’ sudden departure for health reasons in September 1993. The Board of Visitors permanently appointed him to the post effective in January 1994.

Torgersen will remain president through the end of the year. After that, “I plan to enjoy my new home on a hill overlooking the Ellett Valley and find ways to keep busy at my own pace.” Always the self-effacing teacher, he said, “I might even be persuaded to continue teaching voluntarily on a part-time basis, if the College of Engineering will have me.”

SERVICE-LEARNING

Continued from 5

official. The nine articles in the collection, representing efforts in agriculture, literacy, nutrition, physics, women’s studies, education, landscape architecture, and interdisciplinary studies, provide a range of examples for integrating technology with service-learning in a variety of instructional and administrative settings.

To receive a copy of Best Practices in Cyber-Serve, contact Michele James-Deramo, director of the Service-Learning Center, at 1-6947 or deramo@vt.edu.