SPECTRUM

Founders Day celebrates accomplishments of university community

By David Nutter

Virginia Tech celebrates the accomplishments of its faculty and staff members and students at Founders Day, Friday, April 9. The annual convocation in honor of scholarship and service will begin at 3:15 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

President Paul Torgersen will give the keynote address at the celebration. Henry Dekker, former rector of the Board of Visitors, will receive the university’s highest award, the William H. Ruffner Medal. Dekker has been instrumental in efforts to revitalize Tech’s Corps of Cadets.

The XCaliber Award is being recognized on Founders Day this year. Established last year by Provost Peggy Meszaros and offered to be the Inman family at Learning, the XCaliber Award is designed to honor faculty and staff members who are using innovative approaches to teaching using technology.

The 1999 Founders Day Award winners are: Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award: Jon C. Cawlney, Department of Biology; Graduate Student Service Award: Travis O. Brenden, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences; XCaliber Awards: individual faculty member: N. Dwight Barnette, Department of Computer Science; team of faculty and staff members: Stewart A. Hill, Stephen E. Scheckler, C. David Taylor, Department of Biology; team of faculty and staff members—Math Emporium: Robert Olin, Christopher A. Beattie, Monte B. Boisen, Terri A. Bourdon, Kenneth B. Hannegren, Charles B. Hodges, Gail M. Hunger, Abigail W. Kohler, Gwendolyn A. Lloyd, Margaret P. McQuain, Linda E. Powers, Robert C. Rogers, John F. Rossi, Linda H. Scruggs, Bonnie B. Shearol, Deborah B. Smith, Michael Williams, Department of Mathematics; Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards: Bonnie J. Smith, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology; J. Reese Voshell Jr., Department of Entomology; Alumni Excellence in Academic Advising: David J. Parrish, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences; Wine Awards: S. Dru Forrester, Department of Small Animal Clinical Services; E. Scott Geller, Department of Psychology; David W. Smith, Department of Forestry; Sporn Award for Teaching Introductory Subjects: Charles E. Frazier, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products; Sporn Award for Teaching Engineering Subjects: T. Roger Chang, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics.

President’s Award for Excellence: Peggy P. Arnold, Department of Biochemistry; John C. Chandler, Department of Food Science and Technology; Stephen W. Hiner, Department of Entomology; Diane F. Patty, Department of Chemical Engineering; Linda G. Smith, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Alumni Award for Excellence in International Programs: John A. Ballweg, Department of Sociology; Alumni Award for Excellence in Research: Richard A. Winett, Department of Psychology; Neal Castagnoli Jr., Department of Chemistry; Alumni Award for Excellence in Record Levels: John W. Scheckler, C. David Taylor.

Schmidt named Commencement speaker

By David Nutter

Eric Schmidt, the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of network computing giant Novell Inc., will be Virginia Tech’s Commencement speaker during ceremonies in Lane Stadium on Saturday, May 15, beginning at 9 a.m.

“Because of Virginia Tech’s nationally recognized leadership in information technology and our leadership in developing the architecture of the next generation Internet, I felt that Dr. Schmidt would be an outstanding choice to speak to our graduating class,” said President Paul Torgersen.

“Students here in Blacksburg will have been defined by the Internet; I think it is appropriate for them to hear from someone who helps shape the future direction of this wonderful new tool.”

At Novell, Schmidt is actively involved in all significant operating and strategic decisions for the company and plays a central role in the technical development of the company.

Novell, which reported revenue of $1.084 billion in 1998, is a fast-emerging leader in network services and Internet/intranet software solutions. With its corporate headquarters based in Provo, Utah, Novell produces enables customers to securely integrate the global Internet with their private business networks. These “intelligent networks” recognize every user, provide secure access to every network resource, and support every critical computing task.

Schmidt has many ties to Virginia Tech.

Stokes selected men’s basketball head coach

Ricky Stokes, who spent last season as the associate head coach at the University of Texas, has been named head coach of the Virginia Tech men’s basketball program, according to Director of Athletics Jim Weaver.

“I am delighted that Ricky Stokes has accepted our offer to be the head coach at Virginia Tech,” Weaver said. “He is an outstanding individual who has achieved the highest level, both as a player and as a coach. He will be an excellent leader for our program.”

Stokes, a native of Richmond, has been involved in eight NCAA Tournaments (once reaching the final eight and twice the final 16) in his 11 seasons as a full-time assistant coach. He also was a part of four NCAA Tournament teams at the University of Virginia, where he played from 1980-84. The 36-year-old Stokes has been an assistant coach at Bowling Green, Wake Forest and Virginia.

“I am very excited about being named head coach at Virginia Tech,” Stokes said. “Virginia Tech is a great academic and athletic institution. I am looking forward to the challenge, and I’m ready to take the Virginia Tech men’s basketball program to new heights.”

Stokes joined Rick Barnes’ staff at Clemson two weeks before Barnes accepted the head coaching job at the University of Texas last year. This past season, he helped guide the Longhorns to a 19-13 overall record and NCAA first-round appearance. Texas went 13-3 in the Big 12 Conference, winning the league title for the first time in school history. Stokes also signed three of the top 10 players in the state of Texas during the fall signing period.

“Our entire staff is excited for Ricky Stokes,” Barnes said. “We are going to miss him, both on a personal and professional level. There is no one more deserving or more ready for the challenge of being a Division I head coach than Coach Stokes. Having spoken with him before he left for the interview, I know how excited he was about Virginia Tech and the tradition of its basketball program. There is no doubt in my mind that he is a perfect fit for the job.”

During the past 11 seasons as a coach, Stokes has recruited and/or coached such talent as 1997 college player of the year and number 7.

Enrollment reaches record levels at VTNC

By Carolyn Frey

Graduate enrollments at the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center (NVC) in Falls Church reached record level this spring with 2,409 registrations.

At the center, Virginia Tech offers 36 graduate degree programs, primarily for working professionals, as well as short courses and seminars sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education. The greatest growth was achieved by the computer science program, which expanded by 116 percent from spring to spring.

For the same period, college registrations advanced 63.9 percent in Arts and Sciences, 23.8 percent in Human Resources and Education, and 8 percent in Business. Overall, the center’s enrollment grew 19 percent spring to spring.

In response to the growth, Virginia Tech has rented and remodeled two 1,500-square-foot classrooms at an office building located at 7115 Leesburg Pike, a five-minute walk from the center. “Our enrollment gains can be attributed to the university’s expanding partnership with the region’s technology community as well as the center’s increasing local and international visibility,” said Judy C. Pearson, director of the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center.

“The Graduate Program in Information Technology is excellent example of how we can work with the region’s business community to identify an educational need and quickly formulate a high-quality program.”

(See STOKES on 7)
The Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and students are often the subject of significant national and state-wide news coverage. To better inform the university community about these accomplishments, the Office of University Relations has compiled this monthly report. This report excludes coverage in the Roanoke news-media market. For more information about the articles mentioned, call Julie Kane, university public relations coordinator, at 1-993-4, or contact your college public-relations officer.

Los Angeles Times (September 20, 1998): Steve Markham, professor of management, was quoted in a story, “Less Qualified Tend to Lie More on Tests,” about the tendency of some job applicants to lie on pre-employment personality tests to get jobs they aren’t qualified to have.

The Farmerville Herald (December 1998): David Smith, forestry professor, was featured in an article about the establishing of a natural-resource center by the 4-H Educational Center. He was quoted several times on the relevance of teaching natural-resource management to children.

Prism (January): The College of Engineering’s Green Engineering program was featured as one of the leaders in the country in the American Society for Engineering Education’s magazine, Prism. The article featured the efforts of the following engineering faculty: Ron Kander, John Novak, Ron Gordon, and Malcolm McPherson.

SmartMoney.com (January 20, February 2): Don Chance, finance professor, was the featured expert in two “Ask SmartMoney” columns in this Internet magazine published by the Wall Street Journal: “Locking in gains with collars,” and “Reading the S&P 500 futures.”

Access (January 27): The cover story was about Virginia Tech and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications Scientists’ research to evaluate the uses of virtual-reality (CAVE) applications. The principal investigator is Deborah Hix of computer science. The story is at: http://access.ncsu.unc.edu/CoverStories/VRApps/

New York Times (February): The work of William Velander, director of the Pharmaceutical Engineering Institute, was featured in an article citing the American Red Cross’ work on the production of bandages that could seal a bleeding wound. The article cited the ARC’s support of Velander’s work with transgenic pigs which will produce the proteins needed to mass-produce the bandages.

Infectious Diseases in Children (February): Journal of the American Medical Association (January): The work of Sheldon Jacobson of industrial and systems engineering was featured. Jacobson has developed an algorithm that could increase child-immunization rates and still save money. His work was done in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control.


Richmond Times-Dispatch (Home Section-February 13): The Sheldon H. Shortt Jr. Professor of Forestry, David W. Smith, was the lead quote in an article about the future of hemlocks in Virginia forests.

Broadband Networking News (February 16): George Morgan, finance professor, was quoted in a story, “Friends in the ivory tower,” about Virginia Tech’s plans to deploy broadband-radio-spectrum technology known as LMDS (local multipoint distribution service) to area residential users in May. Morgan, who directs the Space and Wireless Business Center, says the project will collect information that could be used to lower the cost of LMDS to homes and to gauge its effectiveness as a solution to the “last-mile” problem.

Black Entertainment Television (February 23): English Professor Nikki Giovanni was featured in a live one-hour interview broadcast from Virginia Tech.

Richmond Times-Dispatch Metro Business Monthly (March): Barry O’Donnell, associate director of the MBA program in the Pamplin College of Business, was quoted in a cover story, “Does it pay?” about the possible impact of an MBA on the salaries and career prospects of those who earn the degree.

Time Digital (March): Ray Pethtel, university transportation fellow, was featured in a special supplement of Time magazine. Pethtel was mentioned in the cover story called “Dream Machines.” The story focused on the smart road.

Richmond Times-Dispatch (March 7): Roe-Hoan Yoon of the Mining and Minerals Engineering Department was featured for his work on the development of a clean coal-recovery process known as “Microclay.”

Mutual Radio (March 16): Chemistry Professor Joseph Merola discussed how water weakens paper on “Why Is It?” a program that explains basic scientific principles.

The Virginian Pilot (March 17): Don Chance, finance professor, was quoted in a story, “Dow hits 10,000, slips back,” about local reaction to news of the industrial average surpassing the 10,000 mark.
Grants help students meet tough academic standards

By Catherine Doss

Student Success grants, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, have proven to be successful not only in helping students meet tougher academic standards but also in providing design collaborators with meaningful intervention efforts among various departments, according to David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs.

“Overall, faculty and students have provided success under the new academic-eligibility policy can be attributed to excellent programs the university has put in place to assist students who are at risk of falling below the minimum standard,” Ford said.

Under the new policy students must maintain a cumulative QCA of 2.0 to remain in good standing. Academic performance is reviewed at the end of each semester.

The Student Success grants project provides funds for departments and/or units to pilot various programs or research to help students be academically successful at Virginia Tech. Thirteen such projects are currently under way, and some have already shown positive results.

For example, a campus-wide cooperative-intervention project between the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Human Resources and Education and the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence is working with students to help identify different factors affecting their academic performance and develop a plan for changing detrimental behaviors.

“The goal of the program is to get parents and students working together to improve grades,” said Sharron Sturgis, associate dean of students for students at risk of academic ineligibility. “The lecture was in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) who implemented the program along with Jerry Via, CAS assistant dean; Jane Abraham, instructor in teaching and professional development; Carol Slusser, enrollment services assistant in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; and graduate student Saranette Miles.

Parents of first-semester undergraduates were invited to an information session during Parents’ Weekend last fall. More than 80 took advantage of the opportunity to meet with faculty members, student advisors, and counselors to learn more about the resources available to ensure student success at Virginia Tech. In addition, student-success fairs were held in October and January for first-year students for them to learn more about such topics as time management and study skills. Participants were asked to develop their own contract outlining behaviors they would like to change to help them improve their grades. From mid-term last fall to the end of the semester, the number of participants in the October student success fair who were considered academically ineligible decreased from 71 to 32, and the number of students with a QCA of less than 1.0 decreased from 29 to 7.

“The most potent message we got from students was that this project has given them confidence that they can indeed succeed at Virginia Tech,” Sturgis said. “By mid-term, most of those who were in trouble academically had already given up.”

A Student Success project in the Pamplin College of Business provided first- and second-year students who were at the lower levels of academic probation with the support of an upper-division undergraduate advisor. Seventeen students completed the program last fall, and data indicated an improved average academic GPA performance by the participants of 0.65.

“The success of this project hinged on the peer-to-peer modeling high that lead to improved academic performance,” said Norrine Bailey Spencer, associate dean for undergraduates and assistant professor in the College of Business.

“The students in academic trouble had developed habits of not attending class, not thinking of their life after college, and not managing their time well.”

An innovative Student Success project out of the Office of the Dean of Students provides the opportunity for two graduate students to “work with a select number of undergraduates who have been diagnosed with attention-deficit disorder (ADD). Students and coaches meet weekly to develop and maintain strategies for academic, career, and personal success. The program also works to increase the participants’ ability to successfully use campus resources.

“Most of the participants were diagnosed with ADD before entering college; however, some of them didn’t know they had ADD until they started college,” said Susan Angle, assistant dean of students for students with disabilities.

“The one thing they all had in common was the need to participate in a program that offered the opportunity to amend problem situations that deal with procrastination, disorganization, and poor time management, which they had struggled with over the years.”

Coaches review participants’ schedules each week and help them organize their work and plan ahead for tests, papers and daily activities.

Student Success grant money also helped fund an on-going effort in the chemistry department to improve overall performance by students enrolled in Chem 1035 and 1036, freshman-level general-chemistry classes.

“The average class size for this course is 175 students, which makes it very difficult to give homework assignments and quizzes to help reinforce the concepts,” said Patricia Amateis, instructor of the course.

The problem was rectified with an approach spearheaded by Amateis and Jim Viers, associate professor of chemistry. The lecture portion of the class needed to be streamlined for Mondays and Wednesdays; however, instead of a large lecture on Fridays, students are split into groups of 30 and attend informal problem-solving workshops led by upper-level undergraduates.

During these weekly workshops, students are given homework assignments, quizzes, and have their questions answered about the material covered in the lectures.

“We hope that students will really connect with their peer instructors,” Amateis said. “They are much freer to ask questions, and some even thank us for giving homework assignments!”

An evaluation of the project last year showed that the QCA for Chem 1035 classes with work groups was 0.5 higher than that of

A university pre-Retirement program has been scheduled for April 12 and 13, in the McDonnell Brown Hotel and Conference Center. All faculty and staff members are welcome.

Anyone who cannot attend a complete session can attend those specific programs that may be of interest. The presentations scheduled for each day are listed below. Please note that several presentations are presented both days and you may attend either presentation as schedules permit. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Carolyn Pratt at 777-8669 or email cpratt@vt.edu. A schedule of sessions includes:

**Retirement sessions offered**

**Monday, April 12**

3:45 p.m. — Retirement Overview

**Monday, April 13**

10:45 a.m. — Estates, Wills, Trusts

1:15 p.m. — New Dimensions

4:15 p.m. — Health Insurance after Retirement

10:45 p.m. — Healthwise for Life: Medical Self-Defense

4:15 p.m. — Healthwise for Life: Medical Self-Defense

9:30 a.m. — Retirement Overview

1:15 p.m. — Health Insurance after Retirement

3:30 p.m. — Retirement Information

9:30 a.m. — Retirement Overview

12:30 p.m. — Health Insurance after Retirement

3:30 p.m. — Retirement Information

— Participants in this session will receive free the book Healthwise for Life: Medical Self—Care for Healthy Aging.

**Club donates $1,000 to UOIP**

**By Catherine Doss**

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg recently awarded $1,000 to the University Office of International Programs (UOIP) to help support study-abroad activities by needy and worthy Virginia Tech students seeking an international experience. In making the donation, Rotary Club President Ken Martin said that support for international study falls within the core mission of Rotary International.

Lyn Gray, director of international programs, accepted the donation on behalf of UOIP. Gray said increased interest in study abroad on the part of Virginia Tech students has focussed attention on the need for more scholarship support.

“Many Tech student wishing to participate have a difficult time finding sufficient funds to cover the additional costs associated with international study,” Gray said. “Contributions of this type are very welcome indeed.”

Gray also commended the club for its outstanding international work, which is well known in the community and throughout the world. For more information about study-abroad opportunities and/or financial aid available for international study, contact UOIP by telephone at 1-5888, or visit the office’s web site at http://www.vt.edu:1002/international/
**ACTIVITIES**

**Wednesday, 7**

**Multicultural Program, noon, Squires Multicultural Center:**
“Comparing Voluntary and Involuntary Immigration.” Discussion facilitated by Richard Shingles.

**International Week Activity, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center:**
“The Role of Women in Different Cultures.”

**“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WYTF:**

**Music Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom: University Symphony Band.**

**Thursday, 8**

**Multicultural Program, noon, Squires Multicultural Center:**
“The Holocaust: Too Painful to Remember or Too Important to Forget?” Panel Discussion.

**STC Lunch Discussion, 2 p.m., 132 Lane: Topic TBA, by Leslie Bochensky.**

**CEUT Videoconference, 2:30-4 p.m., DBHCC Room C:**
“Faculty on the Frontlines: Reclaiming Civility in the Classroom.”

**International Week Activity, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center:**
“Acohol Awareness: An International Perspective.”

**Book Signing and Reading, 7 p.m., Volume Two: Jeff Mann, author of Bliss.**

**Friday, 9**

**International Week Activity, 7-8:30 p.m., DBHCC:**
Talent Show.

**VTU Program, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium:**
“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”

**Saturday, 10**

**International Week Activity, 5-6 p.m., Alumni Mall: Interactive African Dance.**

**International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center:**
“A Thousand Hands: Recycling in India.”

**Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Jon Pratt.**

**Sunday, 11**

**YMCA Hike, 10 a.m., meet in parking lot 403 Washington St.: New River Trail.**

**International Week Activity, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Downtown Blacksburg: Street Fair:**

**Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Josh Wirt.**

**Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Dan Wilner.**

**Monday, 12**

**Easter Buffet, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC.**

**International Week Activity, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center:**
Slideshow.

**Tuesday, 13**

**International Week Activity, 3-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: “Exploiting the Secondary Growth Potential of Arabidopsis to Study Protoas from Vascular Tissue,” by Bob Johnson.**

**ACTIVITY**

**Thursday, 1**

**Statistics, 3:30-4 p.m., 409 Hutcheson:**
“A Variable Sampling Rate Control Chart Method for Simultaneous Monitoring of Mean and Variance.” by Christopher Hughes.

**Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 654 Whitmore:**

**Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Graduate Student Presentations, by Sarah Engel and Theresa Dellinger.**

**Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 2044 Derreing:**
“Use of Metaphors in Teaching Geology,” by Susan Erikson.

**Friday, 2**

**Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson:**
“Wurstere’s Crowns: The Synthesis, Properties and Coordination Chemistry of a New Class of Redox-Active Macrocycles,” by John Sibert, ECU.

**MCCB, noon, 102 Fraim:**

**Saturday, 3**

**International Week Activity, 5-6 p.m., Alumni Mall: Interactive African Dance.**

**Saturday, 4**

**Friday, 5**

**International Week Activity, 5-6 p.m., Alumni Mall: Interactive African Dance.**

**International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center:**
“A Thousand Hands: Recycling in India.”

**Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Jon Pratt.**

**Thursday, 6**

**International Week Activity, 7-8:30 p.m., DBHCC: Slideshow.**

**VTU Program, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium:**
“A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.”
Spring clean-up slated for April 17

Volunteers can still sign up for Broomin' and Bloomin', an annual clean-up effort sponsored by the Montgomery County Improvement Council (MCIC). This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17.

Volunteers gather at specific sites around Montgomery County to pick up litter from road sides and to clean up illegal dump sites and water ways. Since 1997, Broomin' and Bloomin' has also included a litter pick up at the Virginia Tech campus.

“Virginia Tech is very important to this effort. Tech students are a big part of our volunteer force,” said Larry Bechtel, Tech's recycling coordinator.

Volunteers should report to the parking lot behind Derrig Hall at 7 a.m., where they will load onto Blacksburg Transit buses for transportation to various clean-up sites. Following the clean-up efforts, the buses will transport the volunteers to a picnic and then back to the Derrig lot.

The Virginia Department of Transportation will participate in this year’s clean-up efforts by providing vehicles to load and transport the litter gathered by volunteers.

To volunteer for this sixteenth annual Broomin' and Bloomin', call Crable at 382-5793.

Business/technical writing program offered

The professional writing faculty in the Department of English will host a colloquium Saturday, April 24, for teachers and business professionals interested in business/technical communications.

Participants will talk about communication requirements and problems faced by those in the workplace. The colloquium runs 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Hillcrest, with morning snacks and lunch provided. Admission is free.

Guest speakers are Paul Anderson, professor of English at Miami University, and Camille Wright Miller, business columnist and consultant. Anderson, who will open the colloquium, is a leader in the field of professional communication and the author of highly acclaimed texts on business and technical writing. Miller is a business columnist for the Roanoke Times and a consultant on workplace issues and problems for companies in Western Virginia. She will speak at lunch.

Participants will include Tech faculty members who teach professional writing, interested faculty members from other schools, the Pamplin College of Business, and the University Writing Program, and representatives from local business and industry. Representatives from companies that publish professional texts, including Allyn & Bacon and Houghton Mifflin, also will take part.

Topics of discussion include concerns and expectations about communication skills, business/ professional communication curricula, internships and co-op opportunities. Also, participants will discuss newsletters, brochures, and web pages; conferencing software, the Internet, and e-mail; in-house workshops on workplace communication; the importance of grammar and usage; and the role of style manuals.

A panel consisting of faculty members and members of the business community, including Rep. Jim Shuler, will make presentations, followed by a roundtable discussion.

Registration is due by April 10, and attendance is limited to the first 50 registrants. To register on line, go to http:// athena.enlish.vt.edu/dubinsky/tprocomm/brochure.htm. For information, call Jim Dubinsky at 1-7990 or e-mail dubinsky@vt.edu.

April 22 is a day for daughters

Take Our Daughters to Work Day is April 22 and for the fourth year the Women’s Center at Virginia Tech will be running programming on campus in grades 1-6. The day is planned to expose girls to non-traditional careers through a series of hands-on, educational experiences around the Virginia Tech campus. The theme for this year is “The Future is Me.” There is on-campus activities, though lunch will cost $6.50. Scholarships are available to defray the cost of lunch. For more information on the day, or to request a registration and schedule, please contact Jessie Meltsner at 1-7806 or jmeltsn@vt.edu.

Beliveau presentation focuses on construction-industry innovations

By Sandy Broughton

Yvan Beliveau will present “Raise the Level of the Lake and All the Boats will Rise Together” on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in Hancock.

Beliveau is the Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham professor in building construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. His lecture will be a study of professionalism, communication and the author of highly acclaimed texts on business and technical writing. Miller is a business columnist for the Roanoke Times and a consultant on workplace issues and problems for companies in Western Virginia. She will speak at lunch.

Beliveau’s presentation is the second in the weekly calendar and bulletin section for more information.

Veterinary College announces winners

By Cindy Harris, Public Relations intern

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s chapter of Phi Zeta announces the winners of a local manuscript contest. Graduate student Jonathan Fox was honored in the basic-research category for his manuscript on “Naturally occurring GM2 gangliosidosis in two Muncikar deer with pathological and biochemical features of Tay-Sachs disease.” The manuscript was published in the academic journal Acta Neuropathologica.

In the clinical-research category, third-year surgery resident student, Kim May was recognized for her manuscript on “Urinary bladder marsupialization for the treatment of obstructive urolithiasis in male goats,” which was published in the journal of “Veterinary Surgery.”

The award-winning manuscripts have been submitted for Phi Zeta’s national competition, which will be judged on originality, scientific significance, study quality and clarity of writing and illustrations.

Phi Zeta is a national veterinary honorary society that recognizes high scholarship, promotes research into matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals, and stands for the constant advancement of the veterinary professions.
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.personnel.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: 1-6176; Professional and Managerial: 1-4649; Information Technology: 1-2233. Some of the following positions include state or federal 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 1-625M for persons with hearing impairment. 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 EEO/AA employer committed to diversity.

Full-time

Accountant, 4526P, Grade 9, Controller’s Office.
Administrative Liaison, 3236D, Grade 8, Communications Network Services.
Agricultural Technician B, 3251M, Grade 5, Animal and Poultry Sciences.
Computer Network Support Tech Sr, 2758J, Grade 10, Mechanical Engineering.
Executive Secretary Senior, 2800W, Grade 7, University Development.
Fiscal Assistant, 7437D, Grade 5, University Development.
Food Operations Assistant B (3rd Baker), 2986H, Grade 2, Residential and Dining Programs/ Southgate Bakeshop.
Food Operations Manager A (Assistant Manager), 1205H, Grade 8, Residential and Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.
Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef, 0029H, Grade 10, Residential and Dining Programs/Owns Dining Center.
Housekeeping Lead Worker/Special Projects Crew, 300H, Grade 2, Residential and Dining Programs.
Housekeeping Worker, 7261G, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs.
Housekeeping Worker, 1076H, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs.

Non-Instructional

Department of Management Science and Information Technology.
Assistant Professor, will teach decision support systems, other information-technology-related courses, and management science/operations research. Ph.D. or equivalent in a related area is required; strong research interest and demonstrated teaching ability. Position requires strong computing ability and OR/MS background. For additional information, contact Bernard Taylor III, Department of Management Science and Information Technology, 107 Pamplin Hall (0235), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Engineering Science and Mechanics.
Instructor, the department is seeking for a non-tenure-track faculty position in solid mechanics from applicants with a Ph.D. and a superior academic and/or professional record. Successful candidate will teach one undergraduate course per semester, and conduct and manage an active research program. Research will focus in the area of testing, analysis, and design of adhesive bonds. Individuals with experience in fracture mechanics, fatigue, hydrothermal effects, durability predictions, and finite element analysis of bonded structures are especially encouraged to apply, as are individuals with interests in applying the principles of mechanics to bonded micro-electronic devices. The starting salary is $40,000-$45,000, and the position may be extended. Review begins May 1, and continues until the position is filled.

The position may begin as early as June 1, 1999. This appointment is initially for one year; continuation of this appointment beyond one year is contingent upon satisfactory work performance and availability of funding. Interested persons should send a letter of application including personal data, education, publications, research and professional experience to Professor Edmund G. Henneke, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, 2023W, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Instructional

Department of Management Science and Information Technology.
Institutional Research and Planning Analysis. Virginia Tech seeks an experienced professional for this position. The Office of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis (IRPA), which consists of six professional staff members, conducts its mission of providing institutional and educational subjects to inform senior administrators on trends and projection within the university, across higher education in Virginia, and in higher education generally. The office advises senior administrators on compliance with university, state, and federal reporting requirements. The director reports to the vice provost for budget and financial matters.

The successful candidate must have a master’s degree in educational technology, information management, planning, or related areas, and at least two years experience in preparation of reports, including many routine internal and external data reports; determine, jointly with the associate provost for, and interest in, the position along with three references to Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost, Search Committee for IRPA Director, 129 Smyth Hall (0433), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. Review begins May 1 and continues until a successful applicant is found.

Undergraduate Admissions. Assistant Director. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, goal oriented, attentive to detail, well organized, able to manage multiple priorities, and work well under pressure. Additional requirements include a demonstrated ability to work with a wide range of constituencies and a willingness to work a schedule that includes frequent evenings, weekends, and holidays. Extensive overnight travel will also be required. A sense of humor is desirable. The successful candidate will have excellent oral and written communication skills and be comfortable speaking before large groups of people. The candidate should have experience in either college admissions or academic counseling. Experience guiding high-school students in post-secondary planning is preferred. Experience in program planning, organization, management, and personal computer usage is a plus. A master’s degree or bachelor’s degree with three plus years related experience is required. The ability to lift 30 pounds and a valid driver’s license is required. Employment in this job is currently restricted to two years and will be renewed annually. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Preferred starting date: May 25. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 1999 or until the position is filled. Submit a letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references to Lynda Bailey, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 104 Burruss Hall (0202), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Classified Positions**

Housekeeping Worker, 1175G, Grade 1, University Unions and Student Activities.
Institutional Technology Systems Manager, 2122G, Grade 16, Educational Technologies.
Laboratory Manager A, 7419J, Grade 4, Materials Science and Engineering.
Licensing and Trademark Director (Business Manager B), 2105D, Grade 12, Trademark and Licensing.
Medical Technologist, 2637S, Grade 8, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Office Services Specialist, 6841T, Grade 5, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence.
Office Services Specialist, W010359D, Grade, Test Scoring Services.
Programmer Analyst, 6990T, Grade 12, Budget and Financial Planning.
Programmer, 7405D, Grade 10, Administrative Information Systems.
Programmer, 7289M, Grade 10, Animal and Poultry Sciences.
Programmer/Analyst, 7433D, Grade 12, Administrative Information Systems—User Services.
Public Relations Assistant Specialist, LC076D, Grade 8, Alumni Relations.
Research Specialist, 7412M, Grade 8, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences.
Senior Programmer Analyst, 6896D, Grade 14, Information Technology Acquisitions.
Senior Programmer/Analyst, 7328D, Grade 14, Administrative Information Systems.
Storekeeper Senior, 2968D, Grade 6, Communications Network Services.

**Part Time**

Electronic Technician Senior, W022588J, Grade 10, Engineering Science and Mechanics.
Enrollment Services Assistant (Academic Adviser), W022613T, Grade 7, Computer Science.
Fire Extinguisher Trainer (Security Officer Senior), W022637T, Grade 7, Environmental Health and Safety Services.

**Faculty Positions**

Institutional Research and Planning Analysis. Virginia Tech seeks an experienced professional for this position. The Office of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis (IRPA), which consists of six professional staff members, conducts its mission of providing institutional and educational subjects to inform senior administrative staff on trends and projection within the university, across higher education in Virginia, and in higher education generally. The office advises senior administrators on compliance with university, state, and federal reporting requirements. The director reports to the vice provost for, and interest in, the position along with three references to Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost, Search Committee for IRPA Director, 129 Smyth Hall (0433), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. Review begins May 1 and continues until a successful applicant is found.

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Markham goes on line to research Internet book

By Sally Harris

Annette N. Markham felt as if she were in the dark when she decided to go on line to try to understand people who spend a great deal of time in virtual space. She had no idea what she might find. But now she has a book. Life Online can serve as an eye opener to the uninitiated as well as an in-depth sociological study.

Markham, assistant professor of communication studies, conducted her ethnography of cyberspace by using chat rooms and other virtual spaces to meet on-line users and to conduct synchronous interviews by computer. She met with people who thought nothing of spending as much as 16 hours a day on line. She talked to students, professionals, hackers and an on-line personality who let Markham use her own virtual room in which to do her interviews. She toured virtual places with virtual people, opening doors to find others “sleeping” or “standing” in virtual rooms. She played frisbee on line.

Markham, who earned a Ph.D. at Purdue University in 1974, became involved in cyberculture and communication when she went on line to conduct this ethnography because she “wanted to learn how heavy users make sense of their on-line experiences. The popular press talks a lot about Internet addiction,” she said. “I wanted to know what it felt like from the user’s perspective.”

To fully engage the context of her study, Markham spent a great deal of time on line, interacting with users and learning their language. She lost herself in on-line life so much that she wondered if it was as real as her life in her physical body. ‘When I spend a lot of time in disembodied spaces, I forget my body,’ she wrote. “Often I don’t remember it until the physical person appears. I then resent my body’s intrusion on my life on line, and my on-line life’s impact on my body.”

Markham details the process of doing research in virtual contexts and also presents the dialogues of several interviews to illustrate how these users frame their experiences on line. The interviewees conceptualized the Internet in many different ways, from a tool with which to communicate to a real place to exist to a way of being with others.

Some of them separated their “real” selves from their on-line selves, but others saw their Internet personality as an extension of their bodily personality. Some saw the computer as a way to get closer to others, whereas others saw it as a constant reminder that they were not with the person joining them in conversation. While some used it to reach out and touch other people, some used it to limit others’ access to themselves physically and psychologically.

While on-line communities gave some people a support they needed, Markham ultimately discovered that “an on-line hug can satisfy for only so long” and that even the most constant users of the Internet felt the need for a real touch.

She discovered that on-line people were not always who they thought they were. For example, when she encountered with one person, she explained the language and reactions that she saw, but not what she identified herself as a male. Markham had no way to verify either as a more valid label. She, too, encountered different aspects of the on-line “line.” Once engaged in conversations on-line, I realized I could act out a number of personalities, “she said. “Every time I described myself differently, others responded to me in particular ways, based on innumerable stereotypes and preconceptions.”

If she logged on as Annette, she said, “I was often called and pestered by self-described male users wanting me to talk dirty with them, or wanting to know what I looked like and if I had the capacity to transmit audio or, preferably, video. When I logged in as Markham, many users mistook me for a male. Once, after working my nerve for several hours, I logged in as ‘Markham’ [Internet Relay Chat handle]. Within two minutes, I had several requests for private conversations.” One of those requests stated, “wanna cybersex?”

Markham began to question truth. “Truth is an elusive term in any context,” she wrote. “However, because truth is always tentative on-line, and even the most constant users of the Internet felt the need for a real touch.”

Knowing that her own feelings about the Internet affected the way she asked questions, she also realized that the answers she received began to change the questions, her methods, and the project as a whole. It was a project in which she was both researcher and participant. The result is a book that discusses research methodology as much as it did the study itself and that is a contribution not only to the field, but also of Markham as a novice participant. It allows the reader to see virtual life from many perspectives.

While on-line communities give some people needed support, Markham advocates for a greater understanding of the Internet and its impacts on people’s lives. She wrote: “I don’t think it will take away our human- ity, but I think it has the capacity to take us away from a grounded, bound-to-the-earth sort of understanding of what it means to live a full and healthy life. … As much as technology connects us, it also isolates us, with or without on-line life.”

Markham’s work has been presented at several academic conferences. She was invited to be a researcher and participant in many seminars and has published her research in several academic journals and the book Life Online.

Denton receives outreach award

By Sally Harris

Robert Denton will receive the Southern States Communication Association’s 1999 Outreach Award April 10 during the annual conven- tion in St. Louis, Mo.

Denton holds the W. Thomas Rice Chair and is professor of communication studies and director of the Center for Leader Development at Virginia Tech. The award is “to honor SSCA members who have made a significant contri- bution to the profession by facilitating the suc- cess of underrepresented populations in com- munication.” Denton will be recognized for his work mentoring young scholars and publishing the work of women in his Praeger series and in edited volumes.

Andrew King, chair of the Department of Speech Communication at Louisiana State University and chair of the SSCA Awards Commit- tee, said Denton has encouraged people to bring people into the organization who previously had not been a part of it. “He nurtures new members,” King said, adding that Denton guides them to particular meetings and encourages them to run for office. Many of those people now hold offices, he said.

Denton received more letters supporting his nomination than all other candidates combined, King said. Members of the SSCA nominate members for the award and then other members can write letters supporting the nomination. “He’s kind and welcoming to people,” King said.

Denton specializes in the presidency and political campaigns in his own research. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 11 books, including The Prime Time Presidency of Ronald

STOKES

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one overall NBA draft pick Tim Duncan, and NBA first-round picks Randolph Childress and Rodney Rogers, all of Wake Forest. In addition, Stokes also recruited McDonald’s All-American center Loren Woods and 1997-98 ACC Freshman of the Year Robert O’Kelley to American center Loren Woods and 1997-98

GRANTS

Continued from 3

the regular lecture classes, and the percent of students receiving grades of A, B, C was 78 percent and 77 percent compared with 63 per- cent in the normal lecture class. Similar results were reported for Chem1036.

“Unique aspect of this project is the use of undergraduates as facilitators for the prob- lem-solving sessions,” Amateis said. “In fact, a bonus has been the opportunity to train the facilitators in teaching.” She said many of them had expressed an interest in public-school education.

“While the university implemented the new academic eligibility policy, it didn’t just raise the bar for students,” Ford said. “It provided the means to help them clear it, and that is exactly what they are doing. It was a very proactive approach.”

The deadline for submission for the next round of Student Success grant proposals is April 15. Recipients will be announced by May 15. For more information, or to receive a copy of a previous project proposal, contact Elaine Humphrey at elaneth@vt.edu.

DENTON

Continued from 3

Solve-it Together: Mediation Techniques is a one-day course costing $65. It will be offered in Richmond, May 18, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Another one-day course is Advanced Mediation Training, which costs $65. The course will also be in Richmond, April 14, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

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DENTON

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Solve-it Together: Mediation Techniques, no cost, offered in Richmond May 4, 9 a.m.-noon; and Lynchburg, May 26, 9 a.m.- noon.

The Grievance Procedure and You will be offered at cost in Richmond, April 29, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Presenting Your Case at Hearing, no cost, will be offered at Richmond, May 6, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Solve-it Together: Mediation Training is a one-day course and costs $220. It will be offered in Richmond, March 31-April 2, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

GRANTS

Continued from 3

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Molecular modeling expands chemistry students' experiences

By Susan Trailove

How do university chemistry departments teach today’s students more without adding a class or diluting current offerings? Virginia Tech graduate student Elizabeth Bullock and her major professor Karen J. Brewer, along with postdoctoral associate Michael Jordan, are seeing an answer to that challenge using computers to help students understand the properties of molecules—“not just as an isolated computer experience,” Brewer said.

The students are introduced to specific molecules and explore their characteristics on the computer. They then critique their findings in the laboratory and compare the results with the computer model. “We use the web and hyperlinked tutorials in the lab as well as the classroom,” Brewer said. “The computer is important but the lessons mean more if they are not isolated computer exercises.”

Bullock and Brewer began to use molecular modeling two years ago with senior chemistry majors in inorganic chemistry, “Then Professors James Taniko and Harry Gibson expressed interest in our assistance to expand to larger sections of organic chemistry for sophomores,” Brewer said.

Bullock took a graduate course in educational research and designed an evaluation tool for the instructional technique. “The students love it,” says Brewer. “It is one of the most positive student responses I’ve ever had.”

What the students like is the freedom to explore their own interests. “Projects differ from student to student and they work much harder on these experiments. The students get new modeling results and often make compounds no one has ever made before.”

Molecular modeling in the undergraduate courses began as a somewhat structured set of exercises, but evolved to a more student-driven learning tool as the students worked at a more advanced level than anticipated.

After the first year, Bullock received a DuPont Fellowship to teach courses in molecular modeling to students and faculty members at Sweet Briar College, where she saw her students use the modeling not only in the weekly exercises assigned, but in their biochemistry and biology labs.

Bullock presented a paper on “Incorporation and evaluation of molecular modeling as a component of the undergraduate curriculum,” at the 27th American Chemical Society (ACS) national meeting in Anaheim March 24. She described the results of her evaluations at Virginia Tech and Sweet Briar and related how to extend molecular modeling as a lab teaching tool in different areas of chemistry and chemical systems. The paper by Bullock, Jordan, and Brewer was part of the ACS chemical-education—division seminar on molecular modeling in the classroom. The work is funded by the National Science Foundation (DUE-9750680) and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Virginia Tech.

Zimbabwe poet visiting campus this semester

By Sally Harris

Musaemura Zimunya, a poet and academic from the University of Zimbabwe, is visiting Virginia Tech for the Spring 1999 semester.

Zimunya is teaching in black studies and in English. He will also give readings, which will be announced later, work with public schools in Blacksburg and Giles County, and serve as a curricular consultant for black studies.

Zimunya has published five books of poetry and one volume of short fiction. He has been included as one of the new voices in African poetry in a recent article in Research in African Literatures, one of the most prominent U.S. journals. Zimunya is the subject of “The Poetry of Musaemura Zimunya” included in Heinemann’s New Writing from Southern Africa. A 1992 collection, Talking with African Writers, contains a long interview with him.

He has been teaching at the University of Zimbabwe since 1981. He was chairman of the Department of English for three years and now serves as chair of theatre arts. He has been a visiting professor in the U.S. at the University of Washington, Macalaster College, and Lawrence University.

Fred Carlisle, interim director of black studies, said: “Zimunya brings to Virginia Tech an important perspective on African arts, culture, and politics. Africa has long had cultural and artistic importance for the West. It has played an important part in 20th-century history as one party in the dynamic between the West and colonized peoples. Its current political as one party in the dynamic between the and artistic importance for the West. It has

Equine acupuncture program introduced

Jeffrey S. Douglas

An equine acupuncture program has been introduced in Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine by Harry T. Peters, Jr. Large Animal Clinic. Acupuncture can be a useful diagnostic and therapeutic approach for dealing with a variety of equine health disorders, according to Mark Crisman, associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Crisman, who has completed training and is in the process of obtaining formal certification from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, says there is growing interest among clients in the use of “alternative” veterinary therapies, just as there is in human medicine.

“I use acupuncture as an additional tool,” said Crisman, a board-certified diploma in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. “We’re not saying this approach is better than stethoscopes and endoscopes. But we do think there is a time and a place for it.”

It makes sense to consider the merits of a therapeutic approach thousands of years in development, Crisman said, particularly in cases that respond poorly to conventional surgical and medical management.

Nationally, acupuncture is commonly used to manage musculo-skeletal problems affecting performance horses, he says, though it is also a useful approach for managing a variety of other disorders.

Crisman deals with both orthopedic and soft-tissue problems in the cases he manages with acupuncture. He is using it on a case by case basis.

In treating a case, Crisman might use between one and 30 strategically placed needles to redirect energy flows among well-documented energy meridians. Altering those patterns can frequently restore the patient to health, Crisman said.

“The whole theory of acupuncture is based upon an eastern philosophy of energy flow through meridians or channels,” Crisman said.

“In the ‘Eastern’ approach to medicine, everything is very circular and connected, as opposed to western medicine which is very linear approach including clinical signs, diagnostics and treatments.”