Avery named senior associate dean of Graduate School

By Susan Treadlove

Roger Avery, professor and chairman of the microbiology and immunology department at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has accepted the position of senior associate dean of the Graduate School, announced Dr. Pete Peterson, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School. Avery will arrive at Tech just after the beginning of the fall semester on September 1.

Dr. Avery has had a distinguished and productive career on the graduate faculty at universities in the United Kingdom and the United States. He has trained many graduate students and been a productive researcher and scholar, as well as an effective administrator. We are confident that Virginia Tech’s faculty members and students will benefit from his experience.

Avery will be responsible for expanded campus graduate programs. In addition to offering graduate degrees and courses using electronic media, Virginia Tech offers graduate degrees at campuses in Falls Church, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, and Abingdon.

Under Avery’s stewardship, faculty numbers more than doubled in the microbiology and immunology department at Cornell, competitive research grants grew to about $30 million, and graduate-student enrollment increased significantly. He was there 13 years.

Avery’s research laboratory at Cornell is investigating retroviruses, especially feline immunodeficiency virus, which not only causes of an important disease in cats, but is a model for human immunodeficiency virus and AIDS. The work is supported by a $31.5 million grant from NIH (1997-2002).

In addition to his administrative duties and research, Avery was teaching several courses. Avery stated: “I am delighted to have the opportunity to join a progressive institution like Virginia Tech. My new position is both challenging and exciting and I look forward to becoming a member of Dr. Peter’s team.”

Avery earned his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Leeds in 1966, and his doctoral degree from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1969. He was a post doctoral research fellow at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C. for two years.

For 11 years, Avery was an assistant and associate professor at the University of Warwick, at Coventry, UK. While there, he served on department committees, built a research group, and organized an international workshop on RNA tumor viruses for the Society of General Microbiology. As one of the first faculty members at a new department, he organized courses in three degree programs. During that time he was also a visiting medical research council fellow in cancer studies at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, and a visiting fellow of the Amos Treadwell Laceral Sclerosis Foundation, Inc. at the Torrey Pines Research Center in San Diego.

In 1983, he joined Montana State University as professor and director of the virology section in the veterinary molecular biology department. He also led the graduate core committee in a revision of the department’s graduate programs.

Web site offers research opportunities

By Catherine Doon

A new web site, being developed by the Office of the Provost, will make it easier for undergraduates at Virginia Tech to locate research opportunities. The site (scheduled to be operational by August) includes a listing of undergraduate research opportunities available in each of the colleges, including information on the nature of the positions such as undergraduate assistantships, an internship, a fellowship, and part-time wage positions.

“This is a collaborative effort to link undergraduate instruction with the research mission of the university.” (See WEB on 2)

Library displays Collins collection

By Clara C. Cox

Thirty years ago this month, as the Apollo 11 spaceship swung behind the moon and Michael Collins watched the Earth disappear from his window, he felt some apprehension that “if only one digit got slipped in our computer, we could be turned around backwards and be about to blast ourselves off into an orbit around the sun, instead of the moon, and thereby become a planet which future generations might only discover as the last one discovered Pluto.”

Collins, pilot of the command module Columbia during the historic July 20, 1969, moon-landing expedition, later penned his reflections on the transcriptions of Apollo 11’s air-to-ground voice transmissions and included it in his autobiography Carrying the Fire.

In 1989 he donated those transcriptions, notes and drafts for the book he has written, and other personal papers and memorabilia from his two outer-space experiences to the Archives of American Aerospace Exploration, housed in the Special Collections Department of Virginia Tech’s University Libraries.

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the historic flight, which carried men to the moon for the first time, the department has filled three display cases with materials from the Collins collection. Included in the collection is a letter written by Charles A. Lindbergh, whose record-setting non-stop solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927 created as much hoopla at the time as the first moon landing 42 years later. Lindbergh’s 33-hour, 28-minute flight later drew him to Collins’ experience of circling the moon alone for 22 hours while astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin touched down and walked on the lunar surface.

In his July 27, 1969, letter to Collins, Lindbergh expressed his own sympathy with the Columbia pilot. “I watched every minute of the walk-out, and certainly it was of indescribable interest. But it seems to me you had an experience of some way greater profundity — the hours you spent orbiting the moon alone, and with more time for contemplation.”

“What a fantastic experience it must have been — the first man alone looking down on another celestial body, like a god of space! There is a quality to loneliness that those who have not experienced it can not know — to be alone and then to return to one’s fellow men once more. You have experienced an loneliness unknown to man before. I believe you will find that it lets you think and sense with greater clarity.”

Also included among the 25-cubit-feet of materials donated by Collins are his Presidential Medal of Freedom, designed for the White House by Virginia Tech alumna Col. Harry D. Temple; his training notebooks for both his Apollo 11- and Gemini 10-flights; a decree from King Baudouin of Belgium bestowing the decoration of Officer of the Order of Leopold on him; the flight plan for Apollo 11, and numerous letters, articles, certificates, medals, and artifacts from the space program.

Selected minority doctoral students have completed all degree requirements except the dissertation and plan a career in academia as faculty members. When vacancies exist, fellows may be considered for faculty positions.

(See ABT PROGRAM on 4)

ABD program aids minority recruiting effort

By Julie Kane

To support Virginia Tech’s goal of developing a racially diverse faculty, the Graduate School offers the Minority Faculty Mentoring Program, also known as the All But Dissertation (ABD) Fellows program. Its purpose is to help departments recruit minority faculty members by providing a summer teaching and research experience. Selected minority doctoral students have completed all degree requirements except the dissertation and the university and provides a chance for them to form new bonds with mentors and other Virginia Tech faculty members and students.

Fellows for this summer are Tiffany Hughes, a doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of Illinois; Nikol Alexander, a doctoral student in political science from Rutgers University; Rosa Mayorga, a Ph.D. student in philosophy from the University of Miami; and Bernard Scott Luseon, a doctoral student in English from the University of Florida.

(See ABD PROGRAM on 4)
The American Cancer Society has funded an Institutional Research Grant to Virginia Tech. Applications are invited from junior faculty members for two grants of $20,000 each for one year to perform studies on basic, clinical (including cancer control, health services and psychosocial/behavioral cancer research), pre-clinical, epidemiologic and health policy/outcomes research. The institutional research grant is intended for new investigators (within eight years of first independent academic appointment) without an active national or foundation research grant (i.e., NIH, NSF, ACS). The details on policies, list of committee members who may be contacted, and application forms for the Individual Allocation of the Institutional Research Grant are available at www.vtmed.vt.edu/Colleges/teachlaunch/grantsforms.html. Junior faculty members from the various departments are encouraged to apply. Submit a hard copy of the application to Minita Nagarkatti, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and an electronic copy to mnagarka@vt.edu. Hard copy of the application to Mitzi Nagarkatti, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and an electronic copy to mnagarka@vt.edu. Submit a hard copy of the application to Mitzi Nagarkatti, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, and an electronic copy to mnagarka@vt.edu.

Awards to students

There are employees in the areas of continuing education and athletics who have requested leave donations. There are also employees in the areas of continuing education and athletics who have requested leave donations. Any salaried classified employee or 12-month regular faculty member may participate by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours. There is no maximum donation, nor is there a minimum balance that must be maintained. Leave donations received after the employee’s eligibility status changes (such as return to work, disability retirement, retirement, etc.) will be returned to the donor in accordance with established personnel procedures. In order to protect recipients, the names and details of the medical condition will remain confidential. However, donated leave must be to a specific individual or area. A donor form may be obtained from any department administrative office or from Personnel Services department at 1-9331. Return the completed form to Mary Chapman Gearheart, leave administrator, Personnel Services 0138, 1-5304, fax, 1-2352, e-mail: m Chapman@vt.edu.

LSMP to be deactivated

Virginia Tech’s Low Speed Modem Pool (LSMP) is not Year-2000 compliant. Based on the declining usage, the LSMP will be de-activated by November 17. Anyone accessing the Internet from off campus using the LSMP as the current means of access, should set up an Internet account with an alternate source. Virginia Tech faculty or staff members may set up an account for Virginia Tech’s High Speed Modem Pool (HNSP) 56K service by contacting their department’s Communications Liaison. Virginia Tech students with LSMP service may stop by Student Telecommunications in 128 Burruss, from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to set up access to the HSMP. Faculty or staff members may also request personal HSMP accounts at TechConnect on the second floor of Newman Library (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.).

The annual CHRE awards to recognize, reward and pay tribute to classified staff members within the college for outstanding and exemplary contributions promoting pride, cooperation and continuity were presented to Reese Chandler and Leslie Robertson. Chandler works in the Center for Gerontology while Robertson, who served as president of CHRESA this past year, works in HNFE.

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences has named Sharon M. (Shelly) Nichols-Richardson a recipient of the New Achievers Award. This is an award for individuals under 30 who have made extraordinary contributions as an emerging professional. Nichols-Richardson is honored at the Fasuett’s Diner at the annual meeting in Seattle in late June. Nichols-Richardson, an assistant professor in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise, was also recently awarded a Kappa Omicron Nu National Alumni Chapter Grant in the amount of $1,000 for her research, “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors Regarding Herbs and Phytomedicinals of Students.”

Scholarship to fund research on “What Makes a Passenger Ship Legand. Visual Impression of Passenger Ship Profiles.” The $1,100 research grant was awarded by the ASTA Foundation, a non-profit subsidiary of the American Society of Travel Agents. In the fall 1999 Marriott Foundation Hospitality and Tourism Management Minority Scholarship for $2,000. A Ph.D. candidate, Coggins is a retired U.S. Navy commander who earned his B.A. in politics from New York University in 1971 and an M.S. degree from Boston University in 1994.

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**E**mployment

**Classified Positions**

**Non-INon-located**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension, Executive Director,** Virginia A-H Foundation, 4-H Youth Development (re-advertisement), Position #11010. Submit letter of interest, complete resume, official undergraduate and graduate transcripts (copies are acceptable), and three letters of reference. Review begins July 26 and continues until position is filled. Send to John Dooley, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 119th Hutchison Hall (0419), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Inquiries: 1-7619; TDD: 1-800-828-1130; fax: 1-540-458-5465. e-mail: cosworev@vt.edu.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development (re-advertisement), Position #11010. Submit letter of interest, complete resume, official undergraduate and graduate transcripts (copies are acceptable), and three letters of reference. Review begins August 16 and continues until position is filled. Send to John Dooley, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutchison Hall (0437), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Inquiries: 1-7619; TDD: 1-800-828-1130; fax: 1-540-458-5465. e-mail: cosworev@vt.edu.

**Fiber/Electro-optics Research Center, College of Engineering, Research Scientist:** Review begins July 16, 1999 and continues until position is filled. Contact Linda M. Jones, Business Manager, Fiber/Electro-Optic Research Center, College of Engineering, 7408A Foster Avenue, Blacksburg, VA 24061; phone: 1-7203; fax: 1-458-4961.

**Department of Near Environments, Department Chair (re-advertisement):** Chair cover letter, resume, and names of five references to Dianne Yardley, Search Committee Chair, Near Environments, College of Human Resources and Education, Virginia Tech, 103 War Memorial Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061 or call (540) 231-5313. Review begins July 26 and continues until position is filled.

**Office of Minority Engineering Programs, Coordinator of Student Support Services:** Applicants should submit cover letter, resume, and names of three references to Dr. Barbara Whiteside, Chair, Search Committee, Office of Minority Engineering Programs, 5121 Passey Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Review begins August 1 and continues until position is filled.

**Presidential Search Committee**

Virginia is important to the university’s governing board to receive comments about qualifications of Virginia Tech’s next president,” said Tom Rust, chair of the Presidential Search Committee and a member of the university Board of Visitors. Rust said that he hopes all of the members of the search committee will be present at the meeting. “This is an opportunity to advise the search committee on issues important in determining how the next president is selected,” he added.

Individuals interested in speaking at the forum send to sign-up at 10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Rust will contact the search committee office at 1-7203 or e-mail rustin@vt.edu. Each speaker will be given five minutes. The search committee will also continue to receive written comments from the public. Comments can be delivered to the committee on July 31, or mailed to the following address: Virginia Tech Search Committee, Mail Code 0472, Blacksburg, VA 24661.
Tech, Hotel Roanoke host conference

By Catherine Dixon

“Techno-Tourism: from Woodstock to Warped” was the theme of the annual Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations (ETSO) held earlier this month at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The conference featured nationally known speakers from both within and outside the tourism industry. More than 300 participants representing state travel and tourism agencies, directors of convention and visitor bureaus, and state and regional welcome centers from across the nation attended.

Public Service Programs, a unit of the university’s Outreach Division, organized an entire day of the conference, which was held on the Virginia Tech campus and showcased technology research and development that was relevant to or impacting the travel and tourism industry.

Participants toured and/or heard presentations on the CAVE, the Smart Highway site, the Math Emporium, and Net.Work.Virginia. University colleges, departments, and centers involved in the tour included the Center for Transportation Research, the College of Engineering, Computer Network Services, the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the Division of Continuing Education, the Department of Mathematics, and the Virginia Tech Police Department.

“This was an outstanding opportunity for Virginia Tech to demonstrate its technology niche to the tourism industry,” said Charlotte Reed, economic-development specialist with Public Service Programs. “The exposure enhanced Virginia Tech’s research reputation and hopefully facilitated new research opportunities for numerous colleges and departments.”

Participants in the ETSO conference represented major industry and technology leaders such as Microsoft and American Express in addition to major travel magazines such as American Heritage, Architectural Digest, Gourmet Magazine, and National Geographic Traveler.

This year’s closing banquet celebrated the 50th anniversary of the promotional slogan “Virginia is for Lovers,” one of the oldest and most familiar destination brands in the country.

WEB

Continued from 1

mission of the university,” said David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs. “It is a way of bridging the gap between research and teaching and is directly related to the research component of the university’s Academic Agenda.”

For Research and Graduate Studies, the effort to link undergraduates with research opportunities has the potential to assist in graduate-student recruitment.

“Many graduate students report that the most important factor that led them to pursue graduate study was participation in undergraduate research,” said Gene Brown, associate provost for program development.

Examples of research opportunities listed on the site include a summer fellowship program at the Fralin Biotechnology Center, undergraduate research assistantships at the Center for Applied Behavior Systems, an NSF-funded undergraduate research opportunity in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, research opportunities at the Reynolds Home- stead, and undergraduate laboratory research at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

“The nature of research enhances students’ intellectual inquiry, problem solving, and written and verbal communication skills,” Ford said. “There are all things employees tell us are important part of a student’s college education.”

The site also provides information and links to research opportunities outside the university as well as links to other resources for undergraduates interested in gaining research experience.

Departments or colleges offering undergraduate research opportunities that they would like to see posted on the site may contact Elaine Humphrey at 1-9958 or by e-mail at eumphrey@vt.edu.

Oduyoye named undergraduate BOV member

By Sally Harris

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors has appointed rising senior Darin Oduyoye the undergraduate student representative to the board. Oduyoye will serve as the voice of 21,000 undergraduate students at the university. Though this is a non-voting position, he will be looked upon to seek and provide student input on issues such as tuition, classes, university development, and student programming.

Oduyoye’s appointment came during the April BOV meeting. His one-year term began July 1. However, he was included in the quarterly board meeting held in April.

Oduyoye, who is majoring in public relations in the Department of Communication Studies and minoring in financial marketing in the Pamplin College of Business, recently received the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Roundtable Scholarship of $5,000 and the German Club Rising Senior Outstanding Leadership Award. He has won numerous scholarships and awards in the past, including the college’s rising junior scholarship and the Paul N. Derrig Award. He has held several service positions with the university, including president of the Student Advisory Council to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, special-events chair of the Black Student Alliance, and public-relations coordinator for Phi Sigma Pi national honor fraternity.

Oduyoye plans to pursue a master’s of business administration degree and enter the field of financial marketing.

ABD PROGRAM

Continued from 1

To complete her clinical training, Hughes is currently finishing a year-long psychological internship at the Cook Counseling Center at Virginia Tech. Through the ABD Fellows program, she plans to complete her dissertation on ethnic identity development of African-American college-aged students. In addition to providing individual counseling, she facilitates a support group for African American graduate women and provides psycho-educational outreach programs. Hughes was selected as an American Psychological Association Minority Fellow from 1992-1995.

Alexander’s dissertation is a study of the 1995 Million Man March and its relationship to various nationalistic projects that have been unfolding over the last 20 years. As a lawyer, her legal experience includes tenures with the Office of the Attorney General, Legal Aid Society of Central Texas and the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, DC. In her capacity as a political scientist, she has presented papers at academic conferences and has been a featured speaker at several major universities. Her involvement as a legal theorist and activist has led to appearances and interviews on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and National Public Radio.

Mayorga’s academic interests lie in the general area of metaphysics. The title of her dissertation is “On Universals. The Scholastic Realism of Peirce and Du Bois Scott.”. Mayorga has taught at the University of Miami as a teaching assistant and later as an adjunct professor for five years and at Florida International University as an adjunct in 1996. She was regularly rated by students and faculty members as an excellent teacher and received several teaching awards as well.

In his dissertation, “The Black Pacific: Mapping Afro-Amerikan Identities,” Lucious will attempt to rethink African-American literature and identity through Asian geopolitics. Lucious’ professors describe him as an excellent teacher. At the University of Florida, he developed several writing courses. As a professional, he has delivered papers at the National Asian-American Conference and at the International Conference on the Hidden and Sublime.

Fellows are in residence at Virginia Tech for the summer sessions, during which they teach one course first summer term and devote the other term to research, professional development, interaction with Virginia Tech faculty and students, and other faculty development activities. Fellows meet regularly with members of an advising or mentoring team.

For more information, contact Martha Johnson at 1-4356 or gjmj@vt.edu.

Performance-evaluation training set for supervisors

Personal Services is currently preparing for the 1999 Performance Evaluation Process. Supervisors may begin evaluating their employees August 1; completed performance evaluations are due in Personal Services by 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1.

Supervisory training for particular departments, including some off-c campus sites, will be available beginning mid-August. Administrators may contact the Human Resources Consultant serving the specific college or vice-president area to arrange a special training session.

In addition, open-enrollment sessions are scheduled Wednesday, Sept. 8 from 1-5 p.m., or Thursday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Interested supervisors should register for one session with Personnel Services by contacting Becky Moore at 1-9331 or e-mail RMOORE@vt.edu.

OBITUARY

Joan L. Curcio, 65

Joan L. Curcio, 65, a professor of educational leadership and policy studies and former director of education programs at Virginia Tech’s Northern Virginia Center, died July 7 following a long illness.

She began her career in the early 1970s as a teacher in Fairfax County public schools, then rose to department chairman and principal of Fairfax High School.

Before joining the Northern Virginia Center faculty about five years ago, Curcio was an associate professor of educational administration at the University of Florida.

She conducted research and wrote articles for professional journals on child-abuse law, sexual harassment and teacher performance and evaluation. Curcio was also co-editor of the Journal for a Just and Caring Education.

She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from American University and a doctorate in educational administration from Virginia Tech.