Building construction celebrates 50 years

By Sandy Broughton

The Building Construction Department at Tech has been graduating construction professionals for the past 50 years. The department will celebrate the anniversary with an alumni reunion celebration on October 16.

Courses in building construction were first offered at Virginia Tech as an option in 1947 in the Architecture Department. The first bachelor's degree in building construction was offered a year later in 1948.

William Lewis Favaro, head of the program from its inception until his death in 1977, credited with establishing the program with firm connections to the building construction industry. A member of American Institute of Constructors, National Association of Home Builders, Home Builders Association of Virginia, Home Builders Association of Suburban Virginia, and Sigma Lambda Chi, Favaro was a founding member and organizer of the Associated Schools of Construction. In 1972 he received the Wine Award, the university's top honor for teaching.

Under his leadership an advisory board was established, a census of women in construction was taken, money and supplies were raised for students to build Virginia Tech's first airport building, and Sigma Lambda Chi, a national scholastic honorary society for construction, installed the Beta Chapter at Virginia Tech. In 1955, the Associated General Contractors chartered the Virginia Tech chapter of the organization, the first collegiate chapter in the South.

In 1982 Vince Cilimberg, a 1950 Tech student, became the director of the Building Construction Department. In 1994 he was named chair of the program.

The Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS), established in 1995, brings together interdisciplinary programs in the humanities and social sciences that serve the teaching, research, and public-service missions of Virginia Tech. The center aims to create an opportunity for students and faculty members to explore, and question, traditional areas of knowledge through the application of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives. The curriculum encourages students to consider aesthetic, ethical, political, scientific, and technical dimensions of human experience and culture and to recognize the community and diversity of human experience, beliefs, and practices.

CIS emphasizes global and environmental interdependence and social responsibility as part of its effort to prepare students for a lifetime of cultural, social, environmental, and technological change.

Barbara Cline, who has been serving as interim chair of CIS, has been named chair. Carlisle has spent 30 years working in professional and university theater and 20 in university teaching. She has been the Diggs teaching scholar and is a playwright whose work is published and produced around the country.

Terry Kershaw, formerly of Antioch College, became the new director of black studies in CIS July 1. Kershaw came to Virginia Tech because he liked "the idea for the potential for growth here." He wants the program to become nationally known. "I want to start a journal, have conferences on a consistent basis, and expand the program so that it becomes a major one," Kershaw said.

Kershaw had served as an associate professor and director of African/African American Studies at Antioch College since 1997. He also was director of two off-campus study programs, one to Cape Verde, West Africa, and one cross-cultural field program in the United States South. He taught African American studies at Temple University, 1993-1997. He also has taught at Rowan College, the College of Wooster, Wheaton College, Eastern Washington University, and Elizabethtown College.

Elizabeth C. Fine, assistant professor, is director of the Humanities Programs in CIS. She holds a joint appointment in CIS and the Department of Communication Studies. Her book "The Folklore Text: From Performance to Print was selected by Choice as an Outstanding Academic Book of 1985 and was awarded a Chicago Folklore Prize. She is co-author, with Jean Sperr, of "Performance, Culture, and Society." She is completing a book to be published by the University of Illinois Press, entitled "Selfstepping Development and Transformation of African American Step Shows." In 1993, she received the Lilla A. Heston Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Interpretation and Performance Studies.

Fine's research interests include cultural studies, African American literature, performance studies, and Appalachian Studies. She is an associate editor of Text and Performance Quarterly (See DIRECTORS on 3)

Pending Big East affiliation announced

Pending expected approval by the presidents of the member institutions of the Big East Conference, Virginia Tech will become a full member of the athletic conference next summer.

Terms of the arrangement have been negotiated during the past few months. Tech had committed to accept an invitation to join the conference, but wanted to wait until the 2001-2002 academic year to gauge whether the University of Miami would continue to be a member. While no assurance is yet in hand from Miami that it will remain in the Big East, Commissioner Mike Tranghese has indicated such a commitment from Miami is expected soon.

Moving from the Atlantic-10 to the Big East in all sports except wrestling (which is not a conference sport in the Big East) will cost the athletic department $2.5 million, spread over 10 years. During the first five seasons, Tech will pay $200,000 and will not (See BIG EAST on 4)

University receives $200,000 Pew grant

By Sally Harris

The Pew Grant Program in Course Redesign has named Virginia Tech to receive a $200,000 grant designed to "encourage colleagues and universities to redesign their instructional approaches using technology to achieve cost savings as well as quality enhancements."

"Redesign projects will focus on large-enrollment, introductory courses, which have the potential of impacting significant student numbers and generating substantial cost savings, according to the grant description. Ten universities nationwide received $200,000 each in the first of three rounds of grant awards, according to Carol A. Twigg, executive director of the Center for Academic Transformation, which conducts the grant program. Virginia Tech received the grant to continue course development begun at the Mathematics Emporium, according to Robert Glun, head of the mathematics department.

"Virginia Tech is in the midst of redesigning its Linear Algebra course to improve learning, success rates and increase retention of material for later use by offering more options for self-directed study than are possible in traditional lecture-and-lab-based courses," Twigg wrote. "The course redesign involves replacing the 40-student section model with one large course structure in VT's Math Emporium, a 500-station computer lab, staffed by faculty members, teaching assistants and undergraduate peer tutors who provide one-to-one on-site help."

"Through the grant, Virginia Tech is well poised to explore the potential of online instruction and take advantage of emerging technologies to create innovative learning environments," Glun said.

Mellon grant funds orchestra forums here

By Sally Harris

Orchestra leaders from several cities are coming to Virginia Tech and other sites nationwide through a $593,450 grant to Virginia Tech from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Through the grant, Virginia Tech will facilitate a series of forums that will convene constituents from orchestras receiving grants from the Mellon Foundation to discuss the work the orchestras are doing.

In 1963, Congress enacted enabling legislation to create the National Endowment for the Arts to provide money to the states (See MELLON on 4)
## EVENTS

**Friday, 8**
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *American Gothic.*

**Saturday, 9**
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *American Gothic.*
Football, 6 p.m., at Rutgers.

**Sunday, 10**
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Narratives Mill Creek.
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *American Gothic.*

**Monday, 11**
Faculty Development Workshop, 3:5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Adobe PageMaker, Part 2.

**Tuesday, 12**
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, NMC, Newman Library: Distance and Distributed Learning.

**Wednesday, 13**
Faculty Development Workshop, noon-1 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Course Transformation.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3:5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Overview of Tools, Part 1.
Sexual Assault Prevention Summit, 7 p.m., DBHCC. "With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Wind, Water and Weather.

New toll-free area code in the works
In response to the increased demand by businesses for toll-free telephone numbers, customers will soon be able to place toll-free calls by dialing 1-866—according to Communication Network Services. The new 886 area code will be active October 31, and will be dialed as are the existing toll-free telephone numbers, 1-800 followed by the seven-digit area code.

For more information, call CNS at 1-6460. More information about area code additions, cancellations, and toll-free telephone numbers, customers will soon be able to place toll-free calls by dialing 1-866, according to www.areacode-info.com.

**Thursday, 14**
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, NMC, Newman Library: Adobe Acrobat 4, Part 2.
Off-Campus Housing Fair, 10 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: "English Gardens."
CEUT, 12:30-2 p.m., Hildercrest dining room: Preparation for Teaching.
CSTS Lunch Discussion Series: 12:30-1:30 p.m., 132 Lane.

**Friday, 15**
Salary and Wage Paydate.
Last Day to Resign.
CPA Roundtable, 3-4 p.m., Thomas Corrier House.

**SEMINARS**

**Friday, 8**
Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Martin E. Newcomb, Wayne State.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 1 p.m., 261 NERB: TBA Materials/Science/Engineering, 3 p.m., 114Holden: TBA Economics, 3:30 p.m., 508 Pamplin: Deborah Mayo.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Joseph Scott and Sharon Broadwater, William and Mary

**Saturday, 9**
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Tawmone: V. Rabin.

**Monday, 11**
Economics, 3:30 p.m., 2002 Pamplin: Pamela Vandenbrouck, Oregon.

**BULLETINS**

Research director to speak
Business and design speaker Jack Tantis, director of user and field research for Steelcase, Inc., will present a lecture on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 5 p.m. in Hancock auditorium. He will speak on 'Changes in Business Conditions and the Design Response.'

NTSO offering grad students a voice
To assist the graduate-student representative to the Board of Visitors, the Non-Traditional Student Organization is offering a forum for student representatives to discuss issues important to them.

## DIRECTIONS

**Director Continued from 1**

**Performance Quarterly.**

David Barzilai is the new director of the Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in CIS, a program he initiated as a research director. He was raised in the United States at an early age and has been working in Israel for many years.

Barzilai’s work focuses on the philosophy of Martin Buber. Currently, Barzilai is working on the introduction of a new existential phenomenology titled The Economy of Friendship. His upcoming book on Buber will be published by Magnes Press, the Hebrew University publishing house.

Jewett E. McNeil has been appointed director of the Rhodes Homestead and assistant professor in CIS. McNeil earned her B.A. from Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., where her double major was music and education and her double minor art and drama.

She has worked for a number of different colleges and universities, including 10 years at Adelphi University. She earned her master’s in educational administration in 1982. Her doctoral research focused on women artists of the far north of Canada in the Western Arctic. She won a Getty Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for her scholarship and received her Ph.D. from UBC in Vancouver, B.C., in 1997.

Laura Golffle, formerly intern director of Women’s Studies, has been hired as the director. She teaches Spanish and Women’s Studies, and Hispanic women writers and the Spanish-American and U.S. She is author of two books and numerous papers and books.

Margulis is among the most vocal scientific supporters of the Gaia hypothesis, a planetary perspective on the co-evolution of life and environment. The Gaia hypothesis is the scientific proposal that living organisms modify environmental conditions so as to make those conditions viable for the maintenance and continuation of life on the planet. This view has been a subject of much debate within science. The originator of the Gaia hypothesis, James Lovelock, often refers to Gaia as the idea that “the Earth is alive.”

This sort of formulation has made the Gaia hypothesis controversial in scientific arenas and widely known in popular culture.

Margulis will discuss evidence for Gaia in the early evolution of life on the planet. Her lecture will be complemented with visual materials. There will be time for discussion and questions after her presentation.

Margulis is honorary president of Gaia: The Society for Research and Education in Earth System Science. She is author of the recently published book Symbolic Planet: A New View of Evolution.

For more information, contact Eileen Crist by e-mail at ecrist@vt.edu or by phone at 1-515-323-4626.

## Tech hosts writers’ conference

By Sally Harris

Award-winning Virginia Tech author and Civil War historian James I. Robertson Jr. will be the keynote speaker for the Fifteenth Annual Blue Ridge Writers Conference at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center Saturday, Oct. 9.

Robertson has written several books, including award winners Stonewall Jackson, Soldiers Blue and Gray, and Civil War/ America Becomes One Nation. His Civil War history course at Virginia Tech, with 250 students, is believed to be the largest in the country. He is an alumnus distinguished professor and director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War.

In addition to keynote Robertson, 1999 workshop speakers include Pickney Benedict, Craig Challenger, Monty S. Leitch, and Charlotte Morgan.

One of last year’s conference speakers, award-winning poet Katherine Soniat, called BWRC “one of the most respected writers’ conferences in Virginia.” An associate professor of English at Virginia Tech, Soniat said, “It’s a wonderful opportunity to display the fine writing in this area to an interested community.”

This year marks the second year for the relationship between Virginia Tech and the conference. Last year’s conference was held at Virginia Tech’s Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center and was a success. For the first 13 years, the annual fall gathering of writers had been held at Roanoke College in (See TECH on j)
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 web site at http://ps.vt.edu. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. Office: (540) 231-5911. Technical: (540) 231-5910. Full-time positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. Office: (540) 231-5911. Technical: (540) 231-5910.

Full Time

Benefits Analyst Personal Practices Analyst Senior 2, 2501GT, Grade 7, Personnel Services.

Bolster Operator 1612P, Grade 6, Power Plant.

Building and Grounds Supervisor B 8007F, Grade 9, 10, Residential and Dining Programs/Janitorial Services.

Database/Web Designer 7510D, Grade, CNT.

Electrician Supervisor 1369P, Grade 9, Physical Plant.

Fire Safety Officer 74887, Grade 12, EHHS.

Fiscal Assistant 2224F, Grade 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Residential/Classroom/Utilities.

Fiscal Technician 2522M, Grade 6, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Full-time food-operations positions available:

Part-time positions are also available.


FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Assistant/Associate Professor, Human Factors Engineering. Contact: Search Committee Chair, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, 250 New Engineering Building (0118). Application deadline: Jan. 7, 2000.

Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering.


Complete information regarding faculty positions can be found on http://www.vt.edu/alc/coe/evac/index.html.

BUILDING

Continued from 1

Education, was ranked among the top 25 building-construction programs nationally by Engineering News Record, and was chosen by the National Research Center of the National Association of Home Builders as one of 13 housing-research centers located at universities throughout the nation to coordinate research in residential and light construction. "It has been a program from its inception," Cilimberg said. "It's been a close program, with faculty members and students developing close relationships with the years. The construction industry has maintained a keen interest in the program and has employed many of our graduates."

In 1998, the Department of Building Construction was named the Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham Department of Civil Engineering for nine years, as the National Association of Home Builders, and the National Association of Women in Construction. "The BC department has been fortunate to have an important bond with its students," Beliveau said. "This relationship carries forward, as they become alumni with the construction industry. It has led us to demand of our curricula, in the education of all students, the employment of graduates, financial, and management industries."

There are currently six full-time faculty members in the Department of Building Construction, including Lyn J. Acrey, Brian Cornish, Rachel Veenstra, and Donald E. Hallock.

In 1999, the Department of Building Construction was selected for one of three exemplary Deans’ Awards, by the American Institute of Architects, for working collaboratively across departmental boundaries to fulfill common goals.

The Department of Building Construction has established a graduate program at Tech’s Northern Virginia Campus to support the construction industry.

TECH

Continued from 2

Salem.

Founded in 1984, the conference has featured presentations by such figures as Henry Taylor, B.T. Smith, and Tom O’Day, as well as Jeannie Lessen, Mary Clark, and Lee Swanson. Keynote speakers have included Donald McCabe, Brent Staples and Peter Svenson.

Persons interested in attending the conference should call the conference registrar at 1-518-2. More information is available on line at http://ps.vt.edu/conted/brw.htm; or call Beverly Turner at 1-218; e-mail: beaver3@vt.edu.

Continued from 1

per-student reduction from $577 to $24, resulting in a projected annual operating cost reduction of $97,400,” Twigg said.

Other universities receiving the grant included Penn State, State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The Pew Grant Program in Course Redesign is a three-year, $6 million program conducted by the Center for Academic Transformation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. The course-redesign program is part of the Pew Learning and Technology Program, an $8.8 million, four-year effort to place the national discussion about the impact that new technologies are having on the nation’s campuses in the context of student learning and ways to achieve this learning cost effectively.

BIG EAST

Continued from 1

share in basketball revenue, which pays each school about $35 million annually. After the fifth season, Tech will pay $300,000 to the league, but will then share in basketball revenue.

In an effort to recover the costs of joining the Big East, football ticket prices are expected to be increased, but no finalized figures have been announced.

The regulations to exit the Atlantic-10 and join the Big East have been a priority for Jim Weaver, Tech’s athletic director. President Paul Torgersen rewarded Weaver for his efforts earlier this week, announcing a five-year contract extension for Weaver that can be renewed annually.

Office Services Assistant, 2527C, Grade 4, Controller’s Office.

Office Services Specialist, 1987C, Grade 5, CNS.

Parking Services Manager (Business Manager B), 7079T, Grade 12, Residential Services.

Photolithographer, 4330F, Grade 7, Police Department.

Plumber Steamfitter, 2253F, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

Police Officer, P0200ST, Grade, Police Department.

Power Plant Mechanic, 7311P, Grade 7, Power Plant.

Program Support Technician, 1746L, Grade 6, PHS.

Program Support Technician, 66995P, Grade 6, University Library.

Program Support Technician, 44437T, Grade 6, IAM.

Program Analyst, 2917D, Grade 12, Computing Center.

Research Associate, 7580M, Grade 5, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

Senior Programmer Analyst, 14599M, Grade 14, CALS/229 Distance Education.

Television/Video Producer/Director Senior, 2253P, Grade 12, University Relations.

Television/Video Producer/Director, 53620P, Grade 11, University Relations.

Training and Documentation Coordinator, 7518D, Grade 8, University Development.

Part-Time

Animal Care Tech B 9, W022491M, Grade 5, Animal Care.

Fiscal Assistant, 7242G, Grade 5, Museum of Natural History.

Television/Video Producer/Director, W250486X, Grade 7, Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Fiscal Technician Senior, 18608H, Grade 8, Residential/Classroom/Utilities/Room Service.

Housekeeping Lead Worker ( Trades Helper .

Office Services Assistant, W2501HT, Grade 2, Residential Dining Programs/University Housing Services.

Housekeeping Worker, W22490H, Grade 1, Residential Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, W22574G, Grade 1, DHHC.

Laboratory Mechanic A, W222862H, Grade 4, University Relations.

Nursing Aide(Laboratory Aide), W22910J, Grade 2, Adult Day Services.

Nursing Assistant, W222182J, Grade 4, Adult Day Services.

Office Services Assistant, W22110ST, Grade 4, Police.

Office Services Specialist, W200106M, Grade 5, Entomology.

Office Services Specialist, W22343J, Grade 5, College of Engineering.

Photolithographer, W22293G, Grade 9, Schleifer/Health Center.

Project Supervisor A, W229116J, Grade 6, Adult Day Services.

Security Guard (Dorm Watch), W22470T, Grade 2, Police.

University Only

Program Support Technician Senior, 75115D, Grade 7, CNS.

Office

Evening Announcer, 18620D, Grade 9, WVT.

Library Assistant, 66942J, Grade 8, Northern Virginia Campus.
Advising task force makes recommendations

By Catherine Dress

After a year-long study, a 34-member task force has returned with recommendations on how to improve academic advising for undergraduate students at Virginia Tech. The group’s nine recommendations are as follows:

1. Adopt the proposed framework for advising submitted by the task force. This includes a definition, philosophy, statements of responsibilities for students, advisors, and the university, and a developmental model for advising undergraduate students.
2. Lead the cultural shift required to enhance the importance and visibility of advising.
3. Identify and implement strategies for continuous assessment of college and departmental advising structures.
4. Develop a strategy for improving the quality of advising for students who are in transition between majors.
5. Review institutional procedures that impact advising to ensure that they are administered consistently.
6. Expose the university’s expertise in technology to enhance advising.
7. Provide opportunities for professional development and recognition of exemplary advising.
8. Establish an Academy of Advising Excellence.
9. Incorporate the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (CEUT) in identifying strategies for evaluating, recognizing, and rewarding exemplary advisors.

“We feel very strongly about the importance of academic advising,” said Provost Peggy S. Mezares at a recent meeting of the task force. “Every recommendation will be seriously considered.” Mezares said she had appointed Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to chair a committee to evaluate the recommendations and devise an implementation plan, which will be completed by March 1, 2000.

In the meantime, Mezares said several strategies were already in progress, including advising seminar for academic advising; an open first-year orientation, continuing with advising forums and last year’s “Afternoon Chat” on academic advising, and developing a Provost Award for Excellence in Advising. In addition, a teleconference on academic advising will be broadcast November 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Sponsored by CEUT and the Office of the Provost, the event is free and open to anyone interested or involved in student advising.

“Academic advising affects retention and graduation rates, which are two key measures of the university’s success,” Mezares said. “But the real measure of success in our advising efforts will be whether or not they make the kind of difference we want for our students.”

Mezares complimented members of the task force on their work. Delores Scott, associate provost for retention and academic support, chaired the group. Members of the task force included Alan Beyer, Susan Bambach, Ellen Braaten, Susan Brock, Ben Davis, Don Duncan, Raines, David Ford, Elaine Humphrey, Bob Krupskie, Raymond Major, Elaine Musatcik, Matt McAllister, Greg McLaughlin, Moore, John Moore, John Muffo, Don Mullins, Marjorie Noster, Barbara Fendegggrass, Derita Ratcliffe, George Simmons, Elle Sturgis, Jerry Via, Brian Warren, Karen Watson, Robert Wheeler, and Teresa Williams.

The forums will look at the four areas of concern highlighted in the pilot forums. The groups will examine the leadership of the orchestra from the perspective of the music directors, the trustees, and the executive. The participants will also look at the potential for musicians becoming more engaged within the orchestra as an organization.

In view of the changing expectations of communities for all its organizations, the forums will look at what communities expect from their orchestras and whether the communities still see the orchestra as an organization.

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