Realignments made within university administrative units

Several divisions reporting to Executive Vice President Minnis Reidmeyer have been reorganized. With the recent announcement that Lenwood McCoy, university controller, will retire effective June, 2000, a number of realignments have been made to more adequately reflect financial and administrative operations. McCoy has during his 35 years of service at Virginia Tech, continued to emphasize his commitment and dedication to the university. His outstanding leadership and support have helped the university move forward with many initiatives, most recently the implementation of the Banner computing system.

As part of the realignments, the University Controller’s Office has been moved to M. Dwight Shelton Jr., who serves as the associate vice president for finance and budget. Shelton will also continue to provide leadership to the functions of the Budget Office and will provide oversight for the Hokie Passport Office, now directed by Jean Eversole. Brea Mahan, director of financial planning and analysis, and Tim Hodges, director of budget operations, will handle the daily functions of the Budget Office.

Raymond D. Smoot Jr., vice president for administration and treasurer, will continue to provide oversight for facilities management and will assume responsibility for the departments of Environmental Health and Safety Services, University Police, Records Management, and Transportation. Smoot will also continue his work with the Virginia Tech Foundation and the university’s related corporations.

Linda Woodard will serve as the assistant vice president for personnel. Woodard will continue to provide oversight to the offices of Personnel Services, University Leadership Development, and Family Support. Woodard is also active at the state level. She is providing leadership to the job classes and pay structure Technical Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Commission on Reform of the Classified Compensation Plan. Woodard was also appointed to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) Advisory Council which is working to restructure the CVC.

Laurnie Coble, director of business management and analysis, will assume responsibility for ensuring sound business practices and internal controls are in place in all areas of the university, with specific attention given to the auxiliary enterprises, ancillary support operations, and centers. She will also be responsible for coordinating, developing, and analyzing business plans in support of major university initiatives and will ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are implemented for university academic and business operations.

Lisa Wilkes, assistant to the executive vice president and director of special projects and studies, will continue to provide oversight for the administrative and financial operations of the Office of the Executive Vice President and coordination of special projects for the executive vice president. Additionally, Wilkes will work with the assistant vice president for personnel on matters related to personnel policies, compensation studies, and training and development programs.

Mobile chemistry lab open house today

By Sally Harris

In a few months, the Virginia Tech Mobile Chemistry Laboratory will be bringing top-level chemistry experiences to students in rural Southwest Virginia where resources for up-to-date chemistry laboratories are insufficient.

The university will hold a press conference and open house for the Mobile Chemistry Lab in front of Burruss Hall today at 2 p.m. The lab will be open throughout the afternoon.

The William O. Chilhowie High School, for example, considers her situation as a chemistry teacher in a rural area of Southwest Virginia. Her chemistry labs were built in 1957 and have never been renovated. She only has an outlet for more than four hot plates, the fine blowers. She has taught nearly 2,000 students in 30 years, and estimates that over the past 10 years about 200 of them have attended college. But she guesses only about six, maybe fewer, majored in chemistry.

Virginia recently mandated that students pass Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, including those in the sciences, before they can graduate. Barbara Bunn, assistant professor of chemistry at Virginia Tech, started thinking about schools like Chilhowie High School, which would have to pass the SOL’s, but whose teachers, like Ort, did not have the laboratories to do the same type experiments that more affluent schools had. Bunn knew that there were van-style mobile units that took various kinds of educational experiences to rural schools, so she came up with a project.

Bunn called Tom Murphy, vice president of manufacturing for Volvo Trucks North America Inc., and asked if Volvo had a small U-haul type truck available for an outreach program. After all, Bunn reasoned, one of Virginia Tech’s three functions was outreach, and the university had long history of serving the community and state.

Volvo, a global manufacturer of commercial trucks, thought even bigger than a mobile van. The result is the Virginia Tech Mobile Chemistry Laboratory, a 53-foot trailer with a specially designed, top-level chemistry laboratory inside. A premier Volvo 770 tractor built at Volvo’s New River Valley plant, with contributions from numerous vendors, pulls the laboratory. Virginia Tech chemists and engineers from Featherlite Manufacturing, the leading producer of custom-engineered trailers, designed the lab to contain the most modern instrumentation. The laboratory will visit public high schools in rural Southwest Virginia to introduce students and teachers to hands-on chemistry experiments.

Although Volvo and the vendors it recruited provided the tractor to pull the facility, the Virginia Tech Foundation advanced money for the discounted trailer and equipment, which was specially built as a laboratory, and for the equipment to furnish it. The university must raise $150,000 to repay the loan from the foundation.

Another area of the existence of this completed rolling laboratory fell a great deal of hard work. Bunn had met with high-school teachers to begin planning experiments for classes and chemistry Department Head Larry Taylor had secured funding for part of the cost of the discounted trailer and equipment. They had worked with Volvo and Featherlite to determine what was needed in the mobile laboratory.

The laboratory facility will include the latest in instrumentation such as a Fourier transform infrared spectrometer, four gas chromatographs, UV-VIS spectrometers, and Geiger-Muller Computer systems. Laptop computers have been permanently loaned by Educational Technologies. The lab is built with running water, disposal and hazardous waste tanks, three furnaces, air conditioning, benches, and work space for up to 30 students, including handicapped access and work areas, and the necessary laboratory safety equipment such as escape doors and a shower.

The project includes experiments designed for various grade levels, but the teacher will have to repay the loan from the foundation.

(See MOBILE on 4)

Wireless center funded for software development

By Susan Trulove

The Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) at Virginia Tech received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) this summer to develop a suite of software tools for wireless-network-system design and layout.

The team developing the software calls their tool set GETWERS, for Geographic Engineering Tool for Wireless: Evaluation and planning of Broadband Systems. “This research is truly unique as it brings together students and faculty members from engineering, business, and the social sciences and involves both undergraduate and graduate students,” said Lawrence Carstensen, associate professor of geography and director of the project.

The three key components of the wire

(See WIRELESS on 4)

Site license enables easier Cuba travel

By Sandy Broughton

Students, faculty members, and researchers who wish to travel to Cuba for academic reasons now will have an easier time gaining official permission. In August, Virginia Tech’s Department of Urban Affairs and Planning received a site license by the Department of the Treasury for granting permission for educational travel to Cuba.

Joseph L. Scarpaci, professor of urban affairs and planning who researched in Cuba extensively, will handle all Virginia Tech requests for licenses to travel to the island, which has been under severe travel restrictions by the United States since 1961.

“It will be similar to a clearinghouse for all Virginia Tech academic activity in Cuba,” Scarpaci said. Previously, students, staff and faculty members wishing to travel to Cuba received a site license from the Department of the Treasury. Now students, staff and faculty members wishing to travel to Cuba only need to fill out a travel request form on the university wide network or the web and will receive permission more quickly.”
EVENTS

Friday, 15
- Son and Wage Paydate.
- Last Day to Resign.
- CPAP Roundtable, 3-4 p.m., Thomas Conner House.

Saturday, 16
- Football, 6 p.m., Lane Stadium: Syracuse
- University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital: Woodwind Chamber Music.

Sunday, 17
- YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St. Falls Ridge
- University Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital: Woodwind Chamber Music.

Monday, 18
- YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Introduction to StreamingAudio and Video
- University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin

Tuesday, 19
- YMCA Office, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, NMC, Newman Library: Using MacroMedia Director to Create Digital/MultiMedia Content
- YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall
- Diversity Roundtable, noon, 140 Squires
- Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DHBCC conference room C: Maureen Peters, Better Beginnings
- Multicultural Program, 4 p.m., Squires Multicultural Center: Book Club
- Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin

Activities

Wednesday, 20
- YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office
- YMCA Office, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center
- Faculty Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DHBCC conference room C: T.J. Stone, New River Valley Community Service
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Using Adobe Premier 5.0 and Apple QuickTime 3.0
- “With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTF: TBA

Thursday, 21
- YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office
- YMCA Office, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, NMC, Newman Library: Introduction to Visualization Tools for Designers
- CEUT, 12:30-2 p.m., Hilkreast dining room: Preparation for Teaching
- CTS Lunch Discussion Series, 12:30-1:30 p.m., 132 Lane
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Introduction to Visualization Tools for DataSets
- Staff Senate, 5:30 p.m., 1810 Litton-Reaves

Friday, 22
- YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office

SEMINARS

Friday, 15
- Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Neil W. Boz, Eastern Chemical
- MCBN, noon, 102 Fralin: Matthew Nugent, Boston U. Communication/Studies, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest Honors Conference Room: Beth Waggenstough
- Economics, 3:30 p.m., 3008 Pamplin Hall: Rachel Kranoten, Maryland
- Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Eric Nagy, U Va.
- Electrical Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whitemore: S. Sukumar
- Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 2044 Derring: Mike Bahorich, Apache Corp.

Monday, 18
- CIS-FA, noon, 132 Lane: Rosemary Blieszner
- BiomedicalEngineering, 3-4 p.m., 114 Holden: Frances Sheahan, Catholic University
- Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Eugene Mueller, Delaware
- CSES, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: Shelley Williams
- Horticulture, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: Maurice Oguta

Wednesday, 20
- Water Science, noon, 108 Seitz: Charlene Brewster
- EMS, 4 p.m., 136 Norris: Harry Dankiwicz
- PPWS, 4 p.m., 102 Fralin: Kevin Bradley
- Electrical/Computer Engineering, 5:15 p.m., 300 Whitemore: A. U. Zu Li

Thursday, 21
- Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Alan Schoeder, USAID
- Friday, 22
- Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Mark S. Meier, Kentucky
- MCBN, noon, 102 Fralin: Kim Forsten
- Electrical/Computer Engineering, 1 p.m., 261 NEB: T. Crowe
- Materials Science/Engineering, 3 p.m., 114 Holden: Gary Word, VCU
- Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Becky Belling
- Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whitemore: H. Michiel

Bullets

Diversity roundtable discussion set
A Diversity Roundtable discussion will be held Tuesday, Oct. 19 at noon in the Multicultural Center, 140 Squires. This event is open to faculty and staff members interested in participating in serious dialogue about issues pertaining to racial, cultural, physical, and social differences.

Participants set the agenda for discussion. Diversity Roundtable is not a problem-solving or strategy-planning group. The only goal is serious dialogue.

Hammond Lecture Scheduled
The Religious Studies Program within the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS) will host the Second Hammond Lecture in Religious Ethics and Society Monday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m., in Squires Colonial Hall.

The Hammond lecturer is Katie Cannon of Temple University. Her public address is titled “Unearthing Ethical Treasures: Womanist Ways of Reading the Inscriptions of Human Archaeology.” It concerns the implications of Zora Neale Hurston’s newspaper reporting of the 1952 trial of a black woman for the murder of a white man.

Another seminar will be on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the Squires Black Cultural Center. The seminar will be based on samples of Cannon’s work, an interview, and exercises incorporated into a web site, which is available at http://

Celebration held for master’s program in area studies

By Sally Harris
A reception was held recently to celebrate the new master’s program in area studies.

Robert Bates, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, recognized returning students and welcomed new candidates into the program. Offered as an M.A. in history, the program is interdisciplinary in nature, with courses in history, foreign languages and literatures, geography, architecture, urban affairs and planning, and others.

Fred Blumgartner and Antonio Fernandez, directors, said the program has been fortunate to attract good students from the start, both nationally and internationally. “Over 70 percent of the students in the program are international students,” Fernandez said.

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- Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Alan Schoeder, USAID
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- Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whitemore: H. Michiel
Traffic Advisory

Parking and traffic changes will be in effect again this weekend for the home football game. The procedures are the same as used for Saturday games.

On Friday, parking will be prohibited after 5 p.m. in the following lots: Littton Reaves/Wallace Lots (located off Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive), Coliseum Lot (located off Washington Street and Spring Road), the gravel lot located behind the Jamerson Center, and the Stadium, Track/Soccer, and Maintenance Lot (located off Spring Road and Southgate Drive). Parking will also be prohibited on Spring Road and Washington Street (from the Coliseum to the tennis courts). Vehicles will be removed from these lots and streets after 10 p.m.

The ESPN Game Day crew will be at Virginia Tech in Lane Stadium Saturday before the 8 p.m. game. Stadium gates 1-3 at the south end will open at 1 p.m. and west breaks at 11 a.m. to noon. Additional parking for this event will be provided on a field on the western side of Tech Center Drive, near the airport. Bus transportation will be provided between the field and the stadium from 8 to 9 a.m.

At noon Saturday traffic on Washington Street, Tech Center Drive, Southgate Drive, Spring Road will become one way toward the football stadium. Traffic on Duck Pond Drive will become one way toward B-Lot. After the game the streets directions will reverse until the traffic flow returns to normal.

The public will be charged $5 for parking during football games. This only applies for vehicles not displaying a valid Tech parking permit. Lots used by the public will be: B-Lot (large commuter lots off Prices Fork Road), and Deren, Davidson, Solitude, Peace/Spartan, and Engel/Harper across all along West Campus Drive. On campus, Blacksburg Transit will run shuttles every 10 minutes from the public parking area of B-Lot (located off Perry Street) to Cassell Coliseum starting two hours before the game.

Advisories are available at 1260 AM. For more information, call Parking Services at 1-3200 or, after regular business hours, the University Police Department at 1-6411.

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**Spectrum**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999**

**CVC COACH**

**RANOLD**

This week’s CVC coach is Urban Affairs and Planning Department Head and Professor John Randolph, who will be leading our homecoming charge against Syracuse. Although we beat them last year in charitable giving in terms of total dollars and average gift, they soundly beat us in participation: over 30 percent of the Syracuse employees participated compared to less than 17 percent of Tech employees.

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**IN OTHER NEWS**

**Event highlights economic-development ties**

By Catherine Driss

A recent reception hosted by Virginia Tech for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, and the Greater Richmond Economic Development Partnership enabled the university to showcase its full range of capabilities to assist the state in economic growth and development.

“The event was most beneficial,” said Mark R. Kilhiff, VEDP director. “Enabled us to learn first hand what Virginia Tech has to offer in the way of business resources and was an invaluable networking tool. I hope a similar event can take place annually.”

More than 40 state economic-development officials attended the event. In addition, 18 individuals representing nine different organizations within Virginia Tech participated. Most of those who attended brought with them display units and literature about their business resources.

“We were able to fully represent the university’s capabilities in terms of workforce training and education, business assistance, technology development, technology transfer, corporate locations, access to human resources, financing, and municipal assistance,” said John Phillips, economic-development officer, whose office hosted the event. “It was an open exchange of information and ideas in informal setting.”

“For our organization, the reception enabled us to more fully develop a number of projects on which we are working with state marketing managers,” said Joe Meredith, president of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.

“The event demonstrated top-level support from Virginia Tech for the close working relationship that our units with VEDP,” said Chad Miller, economic-development specialist with the university’s Public Service Programs. “Overall, it was extremely beneficial on both sides.”

**Studies aimed at decreasing distress after fires**

By Sally Harris

Two Virginia Tech psychology professors are studying the effects of residential fires on children’s and adolescents’ psychological distress with the goal of developing intervention strategies for fire fighters and mental-health persons.

Fires and burns rank sixth among major causes of injury and death of persons born between 1980 and 1982. According to Russell Jones and Thomas Ollendick, professors of psychology, the two have studied 105 families affected by a fire and 80 families who were not.

The researchers said that children who showed the highest degree of distress were from families with low socio-economic status.

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**ELECTRONIC SPECTRUM UPDATE**

**Bookmarking Electronic Spectrum**

While the published edition of Spectrum is now four pages each week, the electronic version is larger, often containing additional stories, full-length versions of stories space limitations prohibit in the print version, a full Achievers section and even breaking news.

Because the electronic edition of Spectrum is more informative and easy to access, readers are encouraged to bookmark the page. But some feedback has indicated bookmarking has only allowed a given issue to be recalled.

To create a bookmark that will call up the latest issue, follow these instructions:

For Netscape: Find the Edit Bookmarks section under the Bookmarks entry of the menu bar. When the list of bookmarks appears in a window, pull the menu down from the File section. Click on New Bookmark. A window should come up which asks for a name of the bookmark. After naming it Spectrum, tab to the next box and fill in http://www.unirel.vt.edu/sp/ spectrum/.

For Internet Explorer: Click on Favorites, then scroll down and click on Add Favorite. When the window pops up, make sure the filing tab at the top is set to Info. Add a name of the favorite, then add the url: http://www.unirel.vt.edu/sp/spectrum/.

By setting the bookmark without a date, the server will default the request to the index page. To set the latest issue of Spectrum to access any particular date of issue since this format was adopted on September 24, add the date (MM-DD-YY) after the last slash and add another slash, then index.html (i.e., the September 24 issue can be recalled at http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/9-24-99/ index.html).

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**President’s address set for October 26**

President Paul Torgersen will address the university community October 26, at 4 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Center auditorium. The president’s Report to the University Community will include his perspective on the state of the university, the successes and failures of the last six years, and the challenges facing the university in the coming decade. There will be a question-and-answer session following the president’s report.

**MOBILE**

Continued from 1

choose which experiments to use by accessing a web site to learn about them. A trained person will accompany the lab.

The lab is also economical. “We believe the laboratory is a cost-effective way to teach hands-on science and technology,” Bunn said. The lab will serve 15-20 schools per year, providing each with a laboratory 10 times per semester. “Then the school does not need to refurbish, renovate, or install new facilities, which would cost each school a minimum of $100,000,” Bunn said. “The laboratory, providing state-of-the-art facilities and equipment and training costs, will actually save the state money.”

Volvo presented the completed laboratory to Virginia Tech at a September 24 ceremony at the plant.

President Paul Torgersen discussed Virginia Tech’s land-grant mission and said, “The notion of offering the intellectual capital of the university campus to our communities and citizens is firmly embedded in our campus psyche.”