Provost’s Office announces 1999-2000 diversity-grant recipients

Each fall, the Office of the Provost issues a call for proposals for the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Series. The fund, as in past years, provides up to $500 to supplement departmental or college funds in support of guest lecturers and performances from women and minorities.

The purpose of the program is to increase the diversity of perspectives and creative expression available on campus and to increase the number of women and minority role models for our students. Award recipients for the 1999-2000 year are listed below.

Recipient: Aniaa Pakett, coordinator, Appalachian Studies Program. Program: Angels of DeBord, Virginia Commission for the Arts touring artist. Oral History expression available on campus and to supplement departmental or college funds in support of guest lecturers and performances from women and minorities.


Recipient: Jeff Contass, assistant professor, Political Science. Program: Woodrow Kipp, assistant professor, State Gleska University (Rosebud Indian Reservation) “The Eagles I Fed Who Did Not Love Me, An American Indian Veteran reflects on the Siege of Wounded Knee.” Proposed date: November 9, 7 p.m.


Recipient: Trudy Harrington Becker, instructor, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Program: Judith deLace, professor, Department of English.

President assesses state of the university

By John Ashby

President Paul Torgersen presented his last state-of-the-university message Tuesday.

In his remarks, Torgersen noted areas in which the university is doing well, such as improving national rankings, funding and research. On the negative side of the assessment, Torgersen said, was the relative inactivity in the academic achievements, including the increase in the number of highly qualified high school students. The academic achievement was the increase in the number of highly qualified high school students, applying for admission to the university. “These numbers are really quite remarkable, and the slope is positive. One can anticipate further improvements in the years to come,” Torgersen said.

Improved national research rankings, continued state funding support, and the successful completion of the capital campaign were other positive signs for the state of the university, Torgersen said.

Torgersen said that to achieve greater diversity at Tech, Torgersen said the university would continue its commitment to affirmative action. He said the university needs to actively recruit African-American faculty members and establish scholarships designed for African-American students. “We are not typical of the population base outside of Blacksburg, and we need to make some effort to achieve that goal.”

Excellence in Education Conference scheduled

By Joan Elliott

Philip Bigler, the 1998 National Teach of the Year, will be the keynote speaker for the 16th Annual Excellence in Education Conference November 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC) auditorium.

Bigler’s address is titled “Thoughts on Teaching and Learning.” The public is invited to attend, free of charge. Presentation of the award-winning programs will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 5, in the DBHCC. Reservations for the awards banquet can be made through the DBHCC.

For 20 years, Bigler has awakened his students to the excitement of learning through history. After being recognized by President Bill Clinton in a White House ceremony, Bigler spent last year as a spokesman for education to the nation and the world. He is now back at his teaching position at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria.

“My greatest satisfaction as a teacher has been helping young people learn to love history and instilling in them a personal desire to seek knowledge,” Bigler said. “My students soon appreciate that civilization rests upon the foundations of the past and realize they are inheritors of a rich, intellectual legacy.”

Teaching represents for Bigler the facilitation of student learning toward a life-long quest for knowledge, guiding in young people the spark of enlightenment, motivation, and the cultivation of their minds. He is an author of four historical books and has received other teaching honors, including the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award and the Classics, Miami University, Ohio “Helpful Women and Ungrateful Heroes in Greek and Roman Folklore.” Proposed date: December 3.


Recipient: April Payne, interim volunteer coordinator, Women’s Center Program. Promotional ad: “Drumming.” Proposed date: March (Contact department for exact date).

Recipient: College of Human Resources and Education Diversity Committee Program: Janet Wong, author-poetry readings. Proposed date: March (Contact department for exact date).

Recipient: Anna Faziello, associate professor, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. Program: Chair, Southeast Region African-American Preservation Alliance “Preservation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Historically Black Institutions. Proposed date: April (Contact department for exact date).

Recipient: Marjor Lederma, associate professor, biology and women’s studies Program: Catherine Middelcamp, director, Chemistry Learning Center University of Wisconsin, Madison, “Feminist Pedagogy for the Sciences.” Proposed date: April 27.

Recipient: Ingrid Banks, assistant professor, Black Studies Program Program: Maria Franklin, assistant professor, University of Texas at Austin Proposed date: March/April (Contact department for exact date).

Recipient: Amy Bell, assistant professor, electrical and computer engineering Program: Anita Jones, professor of computer science and university professor, University of Virginia, former director of defense research and engineering at U. S. Department of Defense. Proposed date (Contact department for exact date).


TODAY’S EDITION
See retirement-reception information below.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

The vice presidents and deans will host a retirement reception for President Paul T. Torgersen on Thursday, Nov. 4 in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom from 4-6:30 p.m. The university community is invited. All employees were sent a formal invitation to attend. To RSVP, contact the Special Events Office at 1- 2190.
Henrickson to promote leadership

Virginia Tech Women’s Basketball Coach Bonnie Henrickson will give a talk, “Leading Individuals to Achieve Team Success” on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 1:35 p.m. in 150 Squires. The talk is free and open to the public. It will be the keynote speech at the first annual Pampilon Student Leadership Conference, organized by students of the Pamplin College of Business, and sponsored by the Business Leadership Center of the Department of Management.

Henrickson was selected 1999 Atlantic 10 Conference women’s basketball coach of the year.

Internet consultant will speak at NOVA forum

Michael M. Roberts, interim president and CEO of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), will be the featured speaker at the first Virginia Tech Executive Forum in Information Technology Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 17, beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the McLean Hilton Hotel. The topic of Roberts’ remarks will be “What’s Next for Internet Domain Names.”

Roberts is a policy consultant in the field of Internet technology, services and product development, recently retired as vice president of EDUCOM, a consortium of 600 universities and colleges with interests in information technology. In addition, he has served as an organizer and the first director of Internet Domain Names.

The general public can reserve a seat by calling 1-5182 visiting www.conted.vt.edu/itexecforum-reg.htm. A $50 registration fee, which includes lunch, will be charged.

African political scientist here Saturday

Ali Mazuri, a leading social and political scientist in Africa, will discuss “The Trials and Triumphs of Africa,” on Saturday, Oct. 30, at 5 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. The author of more than 20 books and host of the television show The Africans, Mazuri is widely consulted by African nations on issues of constitutional changes and educational reform. He has served as a special advisor to the United Nations and the Organization for African Unity.

CISO plans international dance night

The CISO (Council of International Students Organization) is sponsoring an international dance night Friday, Nov. 5, in Squires Commons/Earth Ballroom. Supported and funded by the Alcohol Free Fund of Virginia Tech, this event, Dances Of Nations, will present five groups of dancers and musicians from all over the world including Latin and Armenian music, Celtic dancers, an African drummer, Brazilian dancers, and Moroccan pop music.

The dance begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Nadia Oubechou, at 951-7267 or e-mail ciso@vt.edu.

Annual mineral, fossil sale set

The Museum of Geological Sciences is holding its annual Mineral, Fossil, and Gift Sale Saturday, Nov. 6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in 2062 Dering. Minerals and fossils range from beginning and study specimens to fine minerals for the seasoned collector. This year, alumni and friends will provide two exhibits of minerals for sale with proceeds going to support the museum.

Proceeds from this sale provide funds for educational programming and museum operations. For more information, call 1-6029.

Holocaust Museum official to speak

Joan Ringelheim, director of the Oral History Department of the Research Institute of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will speak on “Gender and the Holocaust,” Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m., in Squires Haymarket Theatre.

BULLETINS

Free seminar focuses on industry, product development

By Susan Tatrope

“Research and Technology Transfer: Moving from Research to Business” is the title of a free seminar that includes lunch, sponsored by Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Donaldson Brown Center beginning at 9 a.m. The seminar will explain how the university and industry can work together and how technologies developed at universities can help drive the product development process.

“Industry is actively seeking university technology and its assistance in developing new businesses,” said Mike Martin, executive vice president at VTI, Inc., which sponsors the annual program.

There will be separate sessions on engineering and physical science, life science, and software and electronic media, each with a panel of industry and university representatives to discuss choices and opportunities created by intellectual properties.

Industry representatives will include Randolph Ginsoli of DuPont Company, Michael Whitham and Marshall Curtis of Whitham, Curtis and Whitham, Ron Blum of The Egg Factory, Jeff Lloyd of Saliwanchik, Lloyd and Saliwanchik, Charles Linn Haslam of U.S. Transmecna, Lee Kump, French Slaughter, and J. Michael Martinez of McGuire, Woods, Battle and Boothe, and Steve Buchanan of Kitty Hawk Capital. Kent Murphy of Luna Innovations will be the guest speaker during a luncheon provided by VTI and its sponsors.

Virginia Tech faculty members will also share information about how to succeed, including Leonard Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School, who will open the morning session University Attorney Kay Headle.

Henleider will discuss conflict of interest and will participate in an open panel discussion along with Tom Hund, director of Sponsored Programs, Rick Claus, and Willis Worchester, professor of engineering, will discuss working with industry.

Representatives from the event’s sponsors, DuPont Company, Kitty Hawk Capital, McGuire, Woods, Battle and Boothe, and Whitham, Curtis and Whitham, will provide additional information. For more information, call Debbi Lucas at VTI, Inc., 951-9374, or register at www.vtip.org.
Researchers to be recognized on WWT

Fifty Virginia Tech researchers will be highlighted on WVT Radio beginning November 19. This will be the beginning of the third year of a public-recognition program sponsored by Research and Graduate Studies.

Each faculty member will receive week-long recognition for his or her outstanding research. There will be 14 20-word announcements. Individuals are nominated by their department heads. The list is then voted on by university and alumnus distinguished professors and Len Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

“Even though there are limitations to the 20-word format, this is an opportunity to learn what we are doing and credit those who are leaders in their fields,” he says.

The spots begin with the words “Supports

Rebecca — a faculty-staff staffed, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of various holidays, and the last edition is on Friday. No advertising is accepted.

Steve — a non-profit publication of the Office of Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs. To order, contact: William Ducker, Department of Chemistry. Assistant/Associate Professor of Chemistry. Contact: William Ducker, Department of Chemistry. Assistant/Associate Professor of Chemistry.

Horror movies may sabotage social life

The lead paragraph of the Ingersoll-Rand gift story on page one in last week’s Spectrum was electronically garbled. The correct lead paragraph is repeated below. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

Ingersoll-Rand makes $250,000 gift to College of Engineering

By I. Cumasley

In an unusual corporate/employee match effort, the New Jersey manufacturer of industrial machinery and air-compression systems, has announced a gift of $250,000 to the Virginia Tech College of Engineering to support graduate fellowships and programs in leadership and minority fellowships.

(See RESEARCHERS on 4)

Correction

The lead paragraph of the Ingersoll-Rand gift story on page one in last week’s Spectrum was electronically garbled. The correct lead paragraph is repeated below. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

Ingersoll-Rand makes $250,000 gift to College of Engineering

By I. Cumasley

In an unusual corporate/employee match effort, the New Jersey manufacturer of industrial machinery and air-compression systems, has announced a gift of $250,000 to the Virginia Tech College of Engineering to support graduate fellowships and programs in leadership and minority fellowships.
Landscape architecture students to aid project

By Sandy Broughton

For two and one half days this fall, 30 students from the Landscape Architecture program at Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland will be in Warrenton for an intense educational design, studio-based project.

Their task is to provide site-planning and garden-design concepts and ideas for the just-completed Fairouq County Family Shelter. The facility is located in Old Town Warrenton, provides emergency shelter to homeless families, and individuals in Fairouq County. According to Bruce Jameson, executive director of Fairouq Family Services, Inc., the non-profit corporation which owns and operates the Family Shelter, “the design effort by Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland will be a very meaningful contribution to future shelter residents and to the neighborhood.”

Students and faculty members will arrive in Warrenton November 7. The project will begin with a site visit and interviews with representatives of Family Shelter staff early the next morning. Students will work on their proposals through the afternoon and evening. Proposals will be presented the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 9, to representatives of the Shelter Board and staff. Neighbors, community gardening groups, and local officials will also participate in review of the landscape design proposals.

According to Associate Professor Ron Kagawa, a member of the Landscape Architecture faculty at Virginia Tech’s Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, the two-day intensive project—“charette”—serves a number of purposes. For the Family Shelter, the student proposals will provide several options for creating landscape plans that will complement the shelter with gardens, recreation areas, and inviting places to sit and relax.

Students gain experience collaborating with colleagues of another institution and a client who has specific needs. They learn to work in groups. The 30 students, both graduate and undergraduate, will develop their design proposals in groups of five or six, each producing a proposal that may be adapted for use by the Family Shelter. It is expected that an independent contractor will ultimately construct the work, which will most likely be completed in phases over the coming years. “We are honored to be a part of the process and eager to work with the community on the Family Shelter,” Kagawa said. “These types of endeavors give students a chance to provide outreach beyond our institutions and provide public service. It is just a pleasure to participate in this type of project. At the same time, the students gain experience in working in a forum of critical inquiry seated in a real-world context.”

For the landscape architecture programs of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland the project also represents the beginning of an on-going partnership. “We are very excited about the opportunity to have our programs capitalize on opportunities such as this. We feel that it is very important for our institutions to provide resources, which can jointly assist organizations such as the Family Shelter and communities such as Warrenton. This is also a great opportunity to share projects while providing our students and faculty the chance to collaborate.” Kagawa said.

Virginia Tech’s Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center is located in Alexandria, Virginia, and is the urban extension of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Graduate degree programs at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center seek to explore and expand the design processes related to urban environments and include landscape architecture and architecture.

Base service to transfer students, although most do provide an on-line Transfer Guide for the Virginia Community College System, as does Tech.

For students who prefer paper versions, the Virginia Tech Office of Admissions still publishes a Transfer Guide complete with Virginia community college courses that will transfer to Tech.

TED can be viewed and used by selecting it on the transfer section of the admissions homepage at www.admiss.vt.edu.

RESEARCHERS

Continued from 3

sires of Eastern Virginia and minimized chemical pollution of the Chesapeake Bay.

January 9: Electrical Engineering Professor Arun Phadke, whose research has advanced digital techniques controlling power systems has helped scientists and engineers solve real-world problems.

January 16: Veterinary college Professor Thomas Inzana, whose research involves genetic engineering technology to create powerful vaccines that protect livestock from infectious diseases.

January 23: Biochemistry Professor Robert White, who has discovered key pathways to vitamin biosynthesis in organisms that live in extreme environments.

January 30: Communication studies Professor James B. Weaver III, whose research on the effects of audience’s exposure to pornography and horror films has been used to develop public policy.

During the two weeks of fundraising, a general announcement of support will be read: “Support for WVTX is provided by Research and Graduate Studies at Virginia Tech. Research is vital to Virginia Tech’s mission to seek, teach, and share creative solutions to problems.”

The remainder of the listing will be printed in January.

by Laura Sewell

Virginia Tech has made great strides toward easing the transition for potential transfer students. The tool: Tech’s new web-based Transfer Equivalency Database (TED). In the past, students wishing to transfer to Virginia Tech would write or phone the admissions office, a dean or a faculty member armed with a list of classes for which they needed to check transferability. The process was not only tedious for the student, but also took the evaluators away from helping other students—potentially for a long time.

Now, transfer students can simply access TED on the transfer section of the admissions website, click on the name of their current college, and look at a list of transferable classes. Or, they can enter a specific course abbreviation and number and see if there is an equivalent course at Tech.

Currently, TED contains transferability information only for Virginia community colleges. However, Tech soon plans to add Virginia’s four-year institutions, and finally, two- and four-year schools in other states. Few other Virginia institutions provide this data.

Electronic Spectrum

FORESTRY ROLE MODEL FOR CHINESE

By Lynn Davis

A delegation of forestry higher-education officials from the People’s Republic of China visited the College of Natural Resources recently.

Invited by Paul Mou, ecologist and assistant forestry professor, the delegation was led by the director of the department of personnel and education at China’s National Forestry Bureau (formerly the Ministry of Forestry) and consisted of the directors of graduate studies from the major Chinese forestry universities and forestry academy.

Read the complete story in the on-line edition of Spectrum at [www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/](http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/).

Life made little easier for transfer students

by Sandy Broughton

For two and one half days this fall, 30 students from the Landscape Architecture program at Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland will be in Warrenton for an intense educational design, studio-based project.

Their task is to provide site-planning and garden-design concepts and ideas for the just-completed Fairouq County Family Shelter. The facility, located in Old Town Warrenton, provides emergency shelter to homeless families and individuals in Fairouq County. According to Bruce Jameson, executive director of Fairouq Family Services, Inc., the non-profit corporation which owns and operates the Family Shelter, “the design effort by Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland will be a very meaningful contribution to future shelter residents and to the neighborhood.”

Students and faculty members will arrive in Warrenton November 7. The project will begin with a site visit and interviews with representatives of Family Shelter staff early the next morning. Students will work on their proposals through the afternoon and evening. Proposals will be presented the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 9, to representatives of the Shelter Board and staff. Neighbors, community gardening groups, and local officials will also participate in review of the landscape design proposals.

According to Associate Professor Ron Kagawa, a member of the Landscape Architecture faculty at Virginia Tech’s Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, the two-day intensive project—“charette”—serves a number of purposes. For the Family Shelter, the student proposals will provide several options for creating landscape plans that will complement the shelter with gardens, recreation areas, and inviting places to sit and relax.

Students gain experience collaborating with colleagues of another institution and a client who has specific needs. They learn to work in groups. The 30 students, both graduate and undergraduate, will develop their design proposals in groups of five or six, each producing a proposal that may be adapted for use by the Family Shelter. It is expected that an independent contractor will ultimately construct the work, which will most likely be completed in phases over the coming years. “We are honored to be a part of the process and eager to work with the community on the Family Shelter,” Kagawa said. “These types of endeavors give students a chance to provide outreach beyond our institutions and provide public service. It is just a pleasure to participate in this type of project. At the same time, the students gain experience in working in a forum of critical inquiry seated in a real-world context.”

For the landscape architecture programs of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland the project also represents the beginning of an on-going partnership. “We are very excited about the opportunity to have our programs capitalize on opportunities such as this. We feel that it is very important for our institutions to provide resources, which can jointly assist organizations such as the Family Shelter and communities such as Warrenton. This is also a great opportunity to share projects while providing our students and faculty the chance to collaborate.” Kagawa said.

Virginia Tech’s Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center is located in Alexandria, Virginia, and is the urban extension of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Graduate degree programs at the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center seek to explore and expand the design processes related to urban environments and include landscape architecture and architecture.

Base service to transfer students, although most do provide an on-line Transfer Guide for the Virginia Community College System, as does Tech.

For students who prefer paper versions, the Virginia Tech Office of Admissions still publishes a Transfer Guide complete with Virginia community college courses that will transfer to Tech.

TED can be viewed and used by selecting it on the transfer section of the admissions homepage at www.admiss.vt.edu.

by Laura Sewell

Virginia Tech has made great strides toward easing the transition for potential transfer students. The tool: Tech’s new web-based Transfer Equivalency Database (TED). In the past, students wishing to transfer to Virginia Tech would write or phone the admissions office, a dean or a faculty member armed with a list of classes for which they needed to check transferability. The process was not only tedious for the student, but also took the evaluators away from helping other students—potentially for a long time.

Now, transfer students can simply access TED on the transfer section of the admissions website, click on the name of their current college, and look at a list of transferable classes. Or, they can enter a specific course abbreviation and number and see if there is an equivalent course at Tech.

Currently, TED contains transferability information only for Virginia community colleges. However, Tech soon plans to add Virginia’s four-year institutions, and finally, two- and four-year schools in other states. Few other Virginia institutions provide this data.

Electron spectrum

FORESTRY ROLE MODEL FOR CHINESE

A delegation of forestry higher-education officials from the People’s Republic of China visited the College of Natural Resources recently.

Invited by Paul Mou, ecologist and assistant forestry professor, the delegation was led by the director of the department of personnel and education at China’s National Forestry Bureau (formerly the Ministry of Forestry) and consisted of the directors of graduate studies from the major Chinese forestry universities and forestry academy.

Read the complete story in the on-line edition of Spectrum at [www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/](http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/).

HORROR

Continued from 3

women are, as a group, well aware of this fact. So she’s probably watching the horror film for his sake, anyway. She just needs to know how to act.

But so does he; if she’s one who’s not the knockout. He’ll squeeze at the bloody parts, she enjoys the movie even less. He becomes less desirable. But if he’s seen so many of these gruesome movies that he has mastered this ting factor, he’s seen as stronger and protective. She not only sees him as more attractive, but she dreads him to have more of other positive traits than he likely has in reality.

Not only that. No matter if either is appealing or a loser, if the man has been brave at the movie and he and the woman then work together, she’ll more likely acquire to his statement, even if they are astonishingly erroneous as to say a five-year-old child is 11. “Playing macho while watching horror movies, then, appears to be the most benign to the appeal, sexual and otherwise, of men not equipped with an irresistible physique,” the researchers wrote.

With so much riding on one little viewing of Nymphomaniacs Fridays, the 13% may you’d better take your date to dinner and dancing instead.