Steger selected to lead university

By Larry Mincke


“Charles Steger clearly impressed the board with his credentials and track record of success. He owns a wealth of experience as a teacher, researcher, and administrator. Moreover, he has extensive international experience and a long history of state and federal government engagement,” said James E. Turner, rector of the board. “Charles was the unanimous choice of the board. He has the energy, experience, and vision to launch Virginia Tech into the top tier of the nation's finest universities.”

Steger said, “It is an honor and a privilege to serve our fine university. I look forward to building on the significant accomplishments of 135 tradition, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and particularly the leadership of President Torgersen. Virginia Tech already is well respected around the nation, but we have the potential to be considered among the country's best institutions.

“We are at a critical point in time. Higher education is changing rapidly. We can and must adapt. This institution is poised to take a holistic approach to distance learning where all aspects of an individual's educational experience are considered, including intellectual, social, emotional, and physical needs. We need to support the development of distance-and-distributed learning technologies.

The institute will work collaboratively with the university community to electronically extend Virginia Tech's campuses to communities throughout Virginia; provide an open environment that allows individuals to engage in learning anytime, anywhere; support economic development in the state through network-assisted instruction, increase Virginia Tech's access to the world and the world's access to Virginia Tech; and research new teaching, and learning environments through the application of technology.

“We want to provide one-stop-shopping, bringing pieces of the distance-and-distributed-learning process together into a coherent whole,” said Peggy S. Messaros, senior vice president and provost, whose office assisted with formation of the institute. “Two important components of the IDDL are technical support for faculty members and charting the university’s direction in distance and distributed learning." Among other services, the IDDL will provide instructional design and development expertise; evaluation, assessment, and marketing support; course development grants, and assistance to educational technologists in each college as they work with faculty members on course development. The institute will also serve as the central information point for the university’s distance-and-distributed-learning efforts.

“A major shift is occurring in the way knowledge is represented, generated, stored, used, and circulated,” Luke said. Consequently, the IDDL is also supporting the Center for Digital Discourse and Culture (www.cddc.vt.edu) to promote the electronic publication of scholarly research, teaching materials, and professional communications.

“An increasing use of digital communications technology is changing instruction and scholarly communication practices,” Luke said. “With these facts in mind, Virginia Tech must be a major player in the distance-and-distributed-learning arena.”

The number of departments delivering distance-and-distributed-learning credit courses grew 46 last year, a 60-percent increase over the previous year, and credit-course offerings increased 48 percent to a total of 135. In addition, the university’s distance-and-distributed-learning courses had an estimated enrollment of 5,140 last year, with 95 faculty members teaching those courses. The university currently offers eleven degrees and one certificate through distance learning technologies.

Helms named to coordinate athletic advising

By Catherine Doss

Christopher Helms, former assistant director of student athlete support services at Michigan State University, has joined Virginia Tech as coordinator of the Student Athlete Office of Academic Enhancement Programs (SAOEEP).

Helms will oversee SAOEEP in building collaborations between academic affairs, athletics, and advising. Helms will supervise an associate coordinator, three assistant coordinators, and more than 50 tutors. He will also serve as the liaison to the Registrar’s Office on issues related to academic and NCAA eligibility.

“We could not have found a more capable and dynamic person to lead this office,” said Delores Scott, associate provost for retention and academic support. “Chris brings a wealth of experience and exceptional credentials in assisting student athletes achieve academic success.”

Among other duties at Michigan State, Helms supervised a freshman football
**EVENTS**

Friday, 12
PSP offers community marketing program
CATH, 3:30, 216 Newman Library: Len Hatfield, Dan Mosser, and Ernie Sullivan
Native American Heritage Program, 5:30-7 p.m., Crawfand International Center
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Stephanie Watts.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Trojan Women.

Saturday, 13
YMCAs Crafts Fair, noon-8 p.m., Squires Student Center.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Trojan Women.
University Chamber Music Series, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Hall: Lisaunia Lyons and guests.

Sunday, 14
YMCAs Crafts Fair, noon-5 p.m., Squires Student Center.
TA-UT, 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Trojan Women.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Veeresh Popat.

Monday, 15
University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Theatre Arts Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: Whirilieg/Tongues.
Tuesday, 16
Salary and Wage Paydate.
Bloomobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.

**SEMINARS**

Friday, 12
Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m. 3 Davidson: Peter Mackenzie, Eastman Chemical.
MCBR, noon, 102 Fralin: Sydne Kosta, Cal-Berkley.
Communications, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Wat Hopkins.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Deriving: Glen Stevens.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whitemore: TBA.

Monday, 15
Biomedical Engineering, 3-4 p.m., 114 Holden: T.C. Poon.
Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Stephen Mayo, Cal Tech.
CSES, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: John Freeborn, Joshua Whittaker.
Theatre Arts Workshop, 4-5 p.m., 290 Sanders: Ilah Ismail.

Wednesday, 17
PPWS, 4 p.m., 102 Fralin: Myoung-Hui Yun.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 5:15 p.m., 300 Whitemore: B.M. Song.

Thursday, 18
Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Robin Stuart, Rutgers.

Friday, 19
MCBR, noon, 102 Fralin: Myra Katz, Merck Research Labs.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 1 p.m., 261 NEB: L. Guido.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Deriving: Catherine Gatenby.

**ACTIVITIES**

**SPEECH**

**BULLETINS**

BT will observe break schedule
Blackburg Transit will be operating on break schedule during the period of November 20 through November 27. The break schedule will run Saturday through Wednesday. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, there will be no transit service. On Friday, Nov. 26, the schedule is 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. with additional buses in service two hours before and two hours after the home football game. Oak Lane service will operate on that Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 27 and 28.

Minnesota dean to speak at Tech
Thomas Fisher, professor and dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, will present a lecture Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Hancock auditorium. An expert in communication and architectural criticism, Fisher will speak on “The Author as Architect: Writing as a Form of Design.” The presentation is open to the public.

Fisher has served as the historical architect for Connecticut’s State Historic Preservation Office, as a designer and project manager for architectural firms in Ohio and Connecticut, and as the editorial director of Progressive Architecture and Building Renovation magazines. Fisher has written and lectured widely on theories of design, practice, and technology and has given numerous seminars on architectural criticism.

**PSP offers community marketing program**

By Catherine Doss
Virginia Tech’s Public Service Programs (PSP), a unit of the university’s Outreach Division, along with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), American Electric Power, and the Virginia Economic Development Association, will offer a new one-day program designed to help economic developers gain a comprehensive perspective of marketing techniques available for community development. The program is Tuesday, Nov. 16 at the VEDP presentation center in Richmond.

“This program will develop knowledge of how to combine various marketing strategies to accomplish specific business-development objectives,” said Ellen Ager, economic-development specialist with PSP. “Participants will gain an understanding of how local, regional, and state marketing programs can work together for enhanced impact.”

Program topics will include organizing and implementing a comprehensive marketing plan, research tools, direct-mail marketing, advertising and promotion, web-site management, and electronic marketing. The course will showcase some of Virginia’s best practices in marketing campaigns and present multi-media promotional packages. Both urban and rural community marketing campaigns will be highlighted.

The American Economic Development Council has certified the program for re-certification credits for licensed economic developers.

For more information, call 1-6638, or e-mail eneager@vt.edu.

**Game to change traffic patterns**

PSP, 4 p.m., Squires Student Center
Game to change traffic patterns to accomplish specific business-development center in Richmond.
Tuesday, Nov. 16 at the VEDP presentation developers gain a comprehensive perspective.

**EVENTS**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1999
Choices and Challenges honored by humanities group

By Sally Harris

Doris Zallen saw that while scientific discoveries were being used to promote human health, security, and comfort, they also were creating ethical and social concerns. She started the Choices and Challenges public forums project at Virginia Tech to “explore the humanistic components of science and technology.”

Zallen, a professor in the science and technology studies program in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, has directed 19 Choices and Challenges forums since 1985. The series has been chosen to receive one of six awards from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. The VFH awards dinner in Richmond. The VFH awards forums throughout the years, Zallen said.

The VFH has helped fund many of the Choices and Challenges forums over the past 14 or 15 years, according to Doug King, director of VFH.

The award focuses not only on the forums, but also on Zallen’s work in organizing them. Zallen did. “The success of the project is not just the number of exhibitors as well as Virginia Tech’s Residential and Dining Programs held a reception for its housekeeping staff recently, marking the end of International Housekeepers Week. Local donors donated more than $60 items, which were donated to the students and faculty who work in the residence halls. The Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson Laboratory, 11254, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

RDP recognizes housekeepers

By Lori Greiner

Virginia Tech’s Residential and Dining Programs held a reception for its housekeeping staff recently, marking the end of International Housekeepers Week.

The Virginia Tech’s Residential and Dining Programs, responsible for more than 1,000,000 square feet of residence hall space. Virginia Tech is one of the few institutions in the state that maintains a seven-day housekeeping service in its residence halls. The Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson Laboratory, 11254, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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International council sets goals for 99-00

By Catherine Doess

The University Council for International Programs has set nine goals for 1999-00 to help raise awareness and support of the university’s various international activities.

The goals are to create a database of international sponsored projects; update and increase the number of overseas alumni addresses; address funding issues for international undergraduate recruitment; study-abroad programs; international curriculum development, and diversity goals; increase the number of 1000- and 2000-level courses; create a core of ten evaluators for the criteria for the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Activities; establish a program for international alumni orientation before they return to their home countries; establish means of informing graduating students about internships; encourage students to pursue international exchange programs; identify countries for future exchange programs; and evaluate the support services offered to employers.

It’s a ambitious set of goals,” said Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy S. Marszalek, “but they are all ones that the committee feels very strongly about. We are committed to raising awareness of participation, in support of international activities of all kinds at Virginia Tech. Internationalizing the university experience is a key component of the Academic Agenda.”

### VIED graduates 17th class

By Catherine Doess

Forty-eight economic developers from across the state recently graduated from the 17th Virginia Institute for Economic Development (VIED) coordinated through Virginia Tech’s Public Service Programs (PSP), a unit of the university’s Outreach Division.

The annual institute provides training in the economic development process and outlines how this process is used to benefit Virginia’s cities, counties, and towns in furthering economic growth.

“The year’s group of attendees represented a variety of state agencies, localities, and private organizations interested in business recruitment for the commonwealth,” said Ellen Apgar, economic-development specialist with PSP.

### BIOGRAPHICAL

Continued from 1

The committee that developed the first core curriculum for Virginia Tech in 1981. He chaired the Committee on the Impact of Digital Technologies on the Teaching-Learning Environment, which has been described as seminal work forecasting many instructional and information technology initiatives on college campuses today.

His leadership positions include membership on the Board of Directors of Roanoke’s Center in the Square and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. He is president of the Western Virginia Endowment Foundation for the Arts. He has served on numerous other boards, including Hollins University, Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Governor’s Advisory Council on Rural Development, and the Governor’s Commission on Population Growth and Development. (Additional biographical information is available on the university’s home page.)

### HELMS

Continued from 1

counselor, academic mentors, and a cadre of tutors; oversee the advising for football players with regard to satisfactory progress, eligibility, and degree completion; and monitored the academic progress of other student athletes.

“My ultimate goal is to help each student athlete successfully complete his or her degree,” Helms said. “I will stress the importance of obtaining a degree and continually encourage and challenge each student to achieve his or her academic and athletic potential.”

SAOEEP provides academic assistance to approximately 550 undergraduate student athletes. Twenty-one sports are represented, including 11 men’s sports, 10 women’s sports, and two conferences, the Big East and Atlantic 10.