Carilion, Virginia Tech, U.Va. form Biomedical Institute

By Susan Trudel

Carilion Health System announced yesterday that it is forming a biomedical institute in Roanoke in partnership with Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia. The Carilion Biomedical Institute will be a biomedical-science, engineering, and technology organization devoted to research, development, and the commercial application of health-related products. Goals for the institute are to improve health care worldwide and to improve economic development opportunities in Virginia, particularly southwest Virginia.

The institute will be located in Roanoke. Construction will start next year on a 50,000-square-foot headquarters that will include a business incubator, 20-30 employees, including scientists, will be hired.

Carilion will contribute $20 million in start-up funds for the institute. The universities and Carilion have agreed to raise an additional $10 million from outside sources within five years, when the institute will become self-supporting.

Dennis G. Fisher is president and CEO of the institute, which will be primarily responsible for prototype development, commercialization, and spin-off of technology created by research centers at the universities. Fisher, a former Virginia Tech professor and technical director of the Center for Power Electronic Systems, founded the CIST Gallarium Arnside Technology Center in Roanoke.

The initial university centers are the Medical Automation Research Center at the University of Virginia and the Optical Sciences and Engineering Research Center at Virginia Tech. Richard Claus is director and William B. Spillman Jr. is associate director of the OSER center.

Discussion with Carilion regarding a partnership has been under way since early 1998, said Leni Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Spillman, who has been a chief scientist with BF Goodrich, joined the university three months ago to work on the project. Claus is a professor in electrical and computer engineering and director of the Fiber and Electro-Optics Research Center.

The OSER center will conduct research and engineering activities involving optics and other disciplines to create knowledge and technology that will benefit the medical, biomedical, and veterinary disciplines while supporting the practical goals of improving the services of the Carilion Health System and reducing their cost. Research areas will be selected by the OSER director in coordination with the staff and then reviewed and approved by the institute, institute, and several deans at Virginia Tech. The institute and the Carilion Health System will provide up to $10 million in start-up funds, and particular research areas should be addressed, based upon the goals of the institute and on Carilion's analysis of its patients' needs, costs, and future projections. This analysis will be used to determine which areas would benefit the most from focused research.

“Research will absolutely include basic inquiries as well as more applied. In fact, Spillman told a Research and Graduate Students meeting recently.

He said the OSER center will be an incubator for inter-disciplinary programs. Individual programs will be funded for six months at $50,000 to help researchers gather information or purchase equipment that will enable them to submit proposals to external funding sources. The center will then offer to

Saffle earns Fulbright post in Finland

By Sally Harris

Michael Saffle has always preferred interdisciplinary teaching, so he earned two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s in five different subjects before getting joint doctorate in music and humanities. His subsequent teaching and research, which have received numerous awards, have been similarly interdisciplinary.

As a result, his “impressive academic accomplishments” have now earned him distinguished lecturer for the academic year 2000-2001, an award given by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Fellowship Board. The Fulbright Post is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries,” according to Alan Schechter, chairman of the board, in the letter announcing Saffle’s selection.

As part of the Fulbright award, Saffle, a professor in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS), will hold the Bicentennial Chair of American Studies at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The award is one of the top Fulbright European lectureships. He will teach a general course in American culture and a graduate seminar on the topic of his choice, American music and film.

To get from a music student to a Fulbright lecture in American studies, Saffle took several byways. During his undergraduate years, he earned a bachelor’s degree in piano and music history and literature and another bachelor’s degree in English and philosophy. He also earned a master of theatrical studies in church history from the Harvard Divinity School and then to Stanford for a Ph.D. in music and humanities.

He taught as a graduate student in 1973-1974 and 1975-1977 and as an instructor for Stanford’s Undergraduate Honors Program in Humanities and with the year-long residence-based program in Structured Liberal Education in 1977-78.

When he came to Virginia Tech in 1978, he said, “I pursued musicology mostly on my own time while I taught general courses in the Department of Music and with the Center for Programs in the Humanities.” He left the music department in 1996 to become professor of music and humanities in the new Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS). After moving to CISE, Saffle taught a course in fiction and music, American Music that he hopes will become a regular part of the curriculum.

“During the last 10 years, however, I’ve been more and more drawn to American music and cultural studies,” Saffle said. With James Heinze of American University in Washington, D.C., he has edited and published a four-volume series called Essays in American Music (1994-1999). In 1992, he was appointed American editor for Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart (Music Past and Present), the most important European music encyclopedia. He wrote much of the general article on “Music in the United States” as well as other articles on American composers and places. When completed, the encyclopedia will run to 22 volumes, each more than 1,000 pages long.

Saffle also has contributed articles to the International Dictionary of Black Composers, published this year in New York. Saffle won a Certificate of Teaching Excellence as well as music and another in CIS in 1999. He has done a great deal of teaching for the University Honors Program, including music courses.

He has lectured at Oxford University, Emory University in Atlanta, and the University of Calgary. This past summer he served as visiting professor of history at the American University of Bulgaria in Blagoevgrad. He has received three...
EVENTS

Friday, 19
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: The Trojan Women.

Saturday, 20
Football, noon: At Temple, ESPN2.

Monday, 22
Men’s Basketball, 7 p.m., at William & Mary.

Tuesday, 23
Multicultural Diversity Forum, 9 a.m., Squires Brush Mountain

Wednesday, 24
With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTM: Topic: “It’s a Math. Math World.”

Thursday, 25
Thanksgiving Holiday for Faculty and Staff.

Friday, 26
Thanksgiving Holiday for Faculty and Staff.

Football, 2:30 p.m., Lane Stadium: Boston College.

Women’s Basketball, time TBA, Eugene, Oregon: Southern Utah.

Saturday, 27
Women’s Basketball, time TBA, Eugene, Oregon: Opponent TBA.

Sunday, 28
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Indian Run.

Activities

Monday, 29
Men’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m., at UNC Asheville.

Tuesday, Nov. 30
Women’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Appalachian State.

DECEMBER

Wednesday, 1
Salary and Wage Pardy.

“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTM: “Runaways Revealed.”

Thursday, 2
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Crumwell Center.

CSTS Lunch Discussion Series: 12:30-1:30 p.m., 132 Lane.

Communication Studies Lecture, 3:30-5 p.m., Fralin auditorium: William K. Rawlins, Purdue.

Men’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m., At East Tennessee State.

Women’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m., At JMU.

Friday, 3
Communication Studies Lecture, 3:30-5 p.m., DBHCC conference room: C. William K. Rawlins, Purdue.

VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss Auditorium: Here’s Love.

SEMINARS

Friday, 19

MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Myra Kurtz, Merck Research Labs.

Saturday, 20
CASA sponsors blood and food drives.

The College of Arts and Sciences Staff Association (CASSA) Thanksgiving Blood Drive will be held November 23, from 8:30 to 11 a.m., and 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. Contact Brenda Hoover at 1-6878 or e-mail hooverb9@vt.edu to sign up, or go to http://www.cas.vt.edu/cassa/blood/. CASSA is also collecting food for the Food Pantry during the Blood Drive. All persons who donate blood or food will be entered to win door prizes.

DBHCC has new website.

The Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference center has a new webpage—http://www.dbhcc.vt.edu—which features information about a variety of topics in the center, including upcoming special events, closings, limited lunch seatings.

Film culminates Focus on Greater China.

The last event in the 1999 Focus on Greater China will show a Chinese film The Monkey Kid at the Lyric Theatre on November 30. The Monkey Kid is a film of a nine-year-old girl’s daily life in China against the backdrop of the Cultural Revolution. The Monkey Kid was an Official Selection of the 1995 Cannes International Film Festival. In addition to seeing the film, the campus community will also have the opportunity to meet its director, Xiao-Yen Wang. The reception for Wang will be at the Black Cultural Center in Squires, 4-6 p.m., November 29.

Parking change benefits grad students.

Beginning November 29, graduate students will be allowed to park on the Drillfield with the faculty and staff during the extended hours of 5-8 p.m., Monday-Friday. This change is being made in recognition of the additional hours that graduate students need to spend on campus, and to better use Drillfield parking during the extended hours.

BULLETINS

Students can guarantee dorm room.

Virginia Tech’s Department of Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) has announced that for a limited time, it will once again offer current students wishing to live on campus during the 2000-2001 academic year a guaranteed-housing option. This program gives current students the opportunity to bypass the traditional lottery process and guarantees that they will be offered a housing contract to live on campus, if they are one of the first 2,500 to apply.

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Between November 28 and December 6, students interested in guaranteeing housing for the 2000-2001 academic year may log on to www.rdp.vt.edu and enter their name. The first 2,500 to do so will be offered a contract the week of December 6. The contract must be signed and returned by December 17 for the housing guarantee to be valid. By signing this contract, students acknowledge that they will be obligated to live on campus for the 2000-2001 academic year. Students who wish to enter the normal lottery process instead of the guaranteed housing sign-up may do so between December 6 and January 21.

Wakefield lecture to focus on building-construction techniques.

By Sandy Broughton

Ronald R. Wakefield will present “The Challenge of Construction: People, Processes, and Products” on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Hance. Wakefield is the William E. Jamerson professor in building construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. His illustrated lecture will reflect his work on computer simulation of construction operations as an aid in the construction of building projects and the training of equipment operators. Wakefield’s presentation is the third in a series of lectures by individuals holding endowed professorships in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Before his entry into academia, Wakefield was a professional engineer with the Electricity Commission of New South Wales in his native Australia. He earned a B.E. with honors 1 in civil engineering from the University of New South Wales in 1984, an M.S.E. in civil engineering and operations research from Princeton University in 1987, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of New South Wales in 1993. He was a senior lecturer in civil engineering in the Department of Engineering Construction and Management at the University of New South Wales and a visiting fellow at the City University of Hong Kong before joining the Virginia Tech faculty in 1998 as the Jamerson professor. Jamerson established the William E. Jamerson Endowed Professorship with the specification that the honor be awarded to a professor in the Department of Building Construction.

Wakefield is recognized internationally for his work on computer simulation of construction operations as an aid in the evaluation of building project costs and the training of equipment operators. His research has potential to increase the efficiency of the construction process and project management for building projects of all sizes. He is co-editor of the Journal of Project and Construction Management. Wakefield’s research includes projects sponsored by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia, the Australian Building and Construction Industry Training Board, the Australian National Training Authority and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Currently, Wakefield is working with researchers from five colleges (Architecture and Urban Studies, Forestry and Wildlife Resources, Engineering, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Human Resources and Education) of the Wind Loading Research Center at Clemson University, and the Waste Policy Institute, a Virginia Tech-affiliated non-profit company on a project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The goal of the project is to improve building technology and regulations, integrate process modeling, information technology, and advanced visualization in the construction process, and to develop and implement integrated systems for housing construction.
By Sally Harris

Back during the Fifties, F. Donald Bloss didn’t need a crystal ball to realize that his graduate student G.V. “Jerry” Gibbs would some day be one of the world’s outstanding mineralogists.

It was, as Gibbs would later note, a case of socks and penny loafers. Gibbs was in those days a student at the University of Chicago, studying geology and mineralogy under the direction of the legendary Arthur T. Gibbs, who later became Gibbs’s advisor at the University of New Hampshire.

Gibbs didn’t start out to pursue a career in mineralogy. In 1955, while majoring in glacial geology at the University of New Hampshire, he wrote a thesis on the geysers of Yellowstone. Upon completing his M.S. degree, he entered what he described as “a drift period” before deciding on a career in mineralogy. In 1968, he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, following which he spent three years as a research chemist at the University of New Mexico.

Gibbs went on to have a distinguished career in mineralogy, eventually becoming director of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) and co-founder of the Mineralogical Record, the society’s official journal.

Gibbs is known for his contributions to the field of mineralogy, particularly in the areas of crystallography and mineral chemistry. He has published over 130 papers and has been awarded numerous honors, including election to the National Academy of Sciences and the Mineralogical Society of America.

Gibbs has been a strong advocate for the importance of mineralogy in education and has worked to promote the field to a wider audience. He has been involved in the development of mineralogy courses and has served as a mentor to many young mineralogists.

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This week’s coach is the Women’s Basketball Coach Bonnie Henrickson and she’s so good she’s coaching us against two teams: Temple and Boston College. In past years, we've won both in both of these games, but he’s still determined to go for the win.

Over the past year, several Virginia Tech faculty members have participated in the Alumni Association’s Hokies Abroad Program. The Hokies Abroad Program provides an opportunity to link faculty members traveling abroad with alumni who live abroad.

The following individuals are being recognized as newsmakers: Richard Neves, Lennie Coss, Shannon Jarrett, Fred Krumpold, Bruce Zeeckobin, Eric Day, Daniel Dulan, Tom Dingus, Jimmy Martin, Marshall Fidcks, Rosemary Bloteiner, Nikil Ghanak, James Fraser, Paul Knox, Irene Leech, Marie Suthers-McCabe and Ann Hertzler.

For full information regarding their citations, refer to on-line edition of Spectrum at http://www.uniex.vt.edu/spectrum/.

CARLION
Continued from 1

Harold Gordon Becham, 77

Becham graduated from Transylvania University and received a master’s degree in library science from Columbia University. Before coming to Virginia Tech, he served as a librarian at Harvard.

Faculty members meet alums abroad

Over the past year, several Virginia Tech faculty members have participated in the Alumni Association’s Hokies Abroad Program. The Hokies Abroad Program provides an opportunity to link faculty members traveling abroad with alumni who live abroad.

Billie Lepczek, from the Department of Teaching and Learning, met with June Amallo in Madrid; John Ballyou, from the department of Sociology, met with Conosia Vallaraal in the Philippines; Tom Hammett, from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products Department, held the second annual Nicaraguan alumni event with Gabriel Pacos.

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CARLION
Continued from 1

share costs with external sponsors.

The OSER and U.Va.’s Medical School have participated in the Divisions of Medical Education and Research. The OSER has developed the Virginia Health Sciences Education Program (VHSEP) and the Virginia Health Sciences Research Program (VHSRP).

The Virginia Tech library has the distinction of having one of the leading Civil War collections in the world. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and juniors from Virginia’s organizations and individuals compete for personal-finance education in Virginia. The library has hosted two Emerging Leaders Conferences for rising sophomores and junio...