Hokies expected to challenge Seminoles

The Virginia Tech football team appears to be headed for a Sugar Bowl showdown with Florida State to determine the national championship. While official pairings will not be announced until Sunday, published news reports indicate Tech has an insurmountable lead in the Bowl Championship Series standings over third-place Nebraska.

Friday’s 38-14 romp over Boston College in the final regular-season game of the year meant Tech finished undefeated for the first time since 1954, when the team went 8-0-1 and did not get a bowl bid. In 1918, Tech was 7-0.

While bowl tickets are sure to sell out, this marks the first time every home game of the season sold out. A record 23,816 season tickets were sold in 1997. That record is expected to fall next season.

Additional photo coverage of the football game is available on the Spectrum web site at http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum.

By Catherine Doss

A nationally known institutional researcher from Indiana has joined Virginia Tech as director of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis (IRPA).

Deborah Oien, who has been with Indiana University Bloomington’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) for 12 years, works with faculty and staff in areas such as statistical research in animal sensory behavior, has accepted a position beginning March 1 as associate professor in the Department of Biology here.

“Deborah is well known and highly respected in the field of institutional research,” said Dixon Hanna, associate provost for academic planning, research, and space. “We are fortunate to have her with her credentials and expertise join the university.”

Oien received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Cornell University in 1984 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University in 1987. She joined Indiana University in 1997 as a project director of the university’s Institute for Social Research. She served most recently as assistant vice chancellor and director of institutional research. She also held an associate professorship in educational leadership and policy studies.

Oien has 20 publications to her name and dozens of internal reports and external presentations. During her tenure at Indiana University, she served on a number of committees and was a reviewer for several prestigious journals and associations. She also served on the accreditation team for two universities and will serve in that role for a third university this spring.

Oien’s research interests include administrative and educational subjects to inform senior administrative and educational staff members on trends and projections within the university, across higher education in Virginia, and in higher education generally. She also advises senior administrators on compliance with university, state, and federal reporting requirements.

As IRPA director, Oien will provide leadership and vision for the collection, analysis, interpretation, use, and dissemination of university data; manage the IRPA office, coordinate and supervise the preparation of reports; work with Administrative Information Systems to achieve compatibility of systems and consistency of data; coordinate the flow or key information among units; initiate and conduct studies to show implications and consequences of existing and proposed policies; and respond to internal and external requests for informational data.

Oien succeeds Gerry McLaughlin who left Virginia Tech last spring to take a similar position at DePaul University.

“Gerry ran a top-notch department,” Hanna said. “We are confident Deborah will continue that excellence in her new role.”

Squibb commissioner to commemorate donation of mass spectrometer

By Sally Harris

A research seminar December 3 will mark the gift of a used JEOL-HX110 mass spectrometer to Virginia Tech’s Department of Chemistry from Bristol-Myers Squibb.

A mass spectrometer determines the molecular weight of molecules, according to David Kingston, professor of chemistry. It is important for determining the structure of any molecule and will be used to enhance the capabilities for biomedical research, veterinary medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, and biochemistry, he said.

The JEOL-HX110 mass spectrometer is a high-resolution instrument that can tell the elemental composition as well as the mass of the molecule, so researchers can determine the different compositions of molecules of the same weight, Kingston said. The instrument is a wide-mass-range instrument combining a high-resolution high-sensitivity mass spectrometer developed on the basis of a double-focusing optical system devised by H. Matsuda at Osaka University and a UNIS-based 32-bit engineering workstation. New, the instrument would cost $622,000.

Since the instrument features superb ion-focusing capability and high ion transmission, its ion optical system is most suited to accepting wide-angle ion beams from fast-atom bombardment. Therefore, organic high-mass compounds can be measured at high sensitivity and high resolution using fast-atom bombardment and cesium ion sources.

A plaque commemorating the gift will be unveiled at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in Davidson.

After the unveiling, scientist Dinesh Vyas of Bristol-Myers Squibb will talk on the chemistry of Taxol®. The event is open to the public.

Tech study examines welfare policy

By Stewart MacInnis

Low-skilled female workers in rural areas are likely to lead a return to welfare roles in a future economic downturn, an eventuality for which social-service agencies should prepare, according to a Virginia Tech study.

“We need to closely monitor this group,” said Bradford Mills, one of the authors of the study. “They are very vulnerable to changes in the economy. They struggled to get off welfare even when the economy was booming. When the economy turns down—which it will do eventually—they can be expected to be the first affected.”

The study, How Welfare Reform Impacts Non-metropolitan and Metropolitan Counties in Virginia, was authored by Sarah Bosley, a graduate student, and Mills, an assistant professor, both in Virginia Tech’s Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The study was published by Virginia Tech’s Rural Economic Analysis Program.

It compared the factors that affected the ability of single females to enter the workforce in highly urbanized areas in North- east Virginia with those in rural areas of far Southwestern Virginia. Though the study looks specifically at welfare-caseload, employment, census and other data specifically for those localities, Mills said a portion of that drop can be attributed to welfare reform, but part of it is due to the strengthening of the economy during the same period.

States and the federal government began implementing welfare reform in the mid-’90s. The Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program was replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. In addition to this, Virginia’s reform program, Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare, enacts some of the strictest work-eligibility requirements in the nation. It requires most welfare recipients to begin work within 90 days of receiving benefits or lose program eligibility. They are also limited to 24 months of benefits in any five-year period, and a 60-month lifetime eligibility.

“Many single female-headed households with children, the primary recipient group of public cash-assistance payments, stand to be significantly impacted by these new eligibility requirements,” the study notes.

Single female heads of households face more barriers to entering the workforce than other groups. The study also found that transportation and the presence of children in the household of a single female create greater barriers to entering the workforce in highly urbanized areas in Northeast Virginia as compared to their counterparts in rural parts of the state.

Between 1993 and 1996, welfare roles in the state dropped from 3 percent of the population to 1.4 percent. Mills said a portion of that drop can be attributed to welfare reform, but part of it is due to the strengthening of the economy during the same period.

States and the federal government began implementing welfare reform in the mid-’90s. The Federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program was replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. In addition to this, Virginia’s reform program, Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare, re...
**New area code will affect university**

By Jeff Kidd, CNS

The Virginia Tech community has a new area code to learn. Area code 571 will “overlap” the geographic area currently served by area code 703 in Northern Virginia.

The overlay method for Northern Virginia means the same geographic area will have two area codes. All existing phone numbers will keep the 703 area code. Upon exhaustio

**Chinese biologist studies mussels here**

By Lyon Davis

As part of an exchange program, Hu Dan, a freshwater-mussel biologist working at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute in Wuzi, China, is at the College of Natural Resources to learn about mussel propagation. Hu is taking a graduate class in Endangered Species Management in F&W and assisting with mussel research at the Aquaculture Center on campus. She and fisheries professor Dick Nevers are also collaborating to translate a manual on the freshwater mussels of China into English. She will return to China in early January.

**Events**

**Friday, 3**

**Organization of Women Faculty Coffee Hour:** 8:45 a.m., The Easy Chair

**International Gift Festival:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Cranwell International Center

**Communication Studies Lecture:** 3:30-5 p.m., DBHCC

**Women's/Minority Artists/Scholars Lecture:** 4 p.m., 129 McBryde: Judith de Luce, Miami (OH).

**VTU/Lively Arts:** 7-9 p.m., Burros auditorium: Neve's Love

**Saturday, 4**

**International Gift Festival:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cranwell International Center

**Men's Basketball:** 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: UNCC

**Sunday, 5**

**YMCA Hill:** 1-3 p.m., 403 Washington St.: AltaMountainers Basketball: 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Daquesseen.

**Xerox scientist to speak**

Jenly Ross Ono, chief scientist of the Xerox Corp. and director of its Palo Alto Research Center, will be the keynote speaker for the second Ferrari Symposium, hosted by the College of Agriculture and Urban Studies, December 9 and 10. Brown, a pioneer in the field of digital culture and the anthropologist of the technological workplace, will make his presentation at 3 p.m. Friday, December 10, at the Hotel Roanoke.

The second Ferrari Symposium is titled: Convergence: A Question of Discipline. "Aims of the College of Agriculture and Urban Studies will make presentations during the two-day event.

This year's symposium is intended to be an expansion of the 1996 gathering titled: Ferrari Symposium: Architecture + Industrial Design.

**Monday, 6**

**University Council:** 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin

**Men's Basketball:** 7 p.m., At VMI

**Tuesday, 7**

**Family Support Program:** noon-1 p.m., DBHCC

**Wednesday, 8**

**Classes End:** “With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVT: Topic TBA

**Women's Basketball:** 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Duke

**Thursday, 9**

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

**Men's Basketball:** 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Radford

**Friday, 10**

**Exams Begin.**

**Bulleted**

**By Catherine Davis**

Betsy Blythe, systems development manager in Administrative Information Systems, and Bill Plymale, instructional technologies systems manager in Educational Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that underpins enterprise systems like the IMS/Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that underpins enterprise systems like the IMS/Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that underpins enterprise systems like the IMS/Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that underpins enterprise systems like the IMS/Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that 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EMPLOYMENT

Classified Chemistry.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W202910M, Grade 5, CIES.
Office Services Assistant (Data/Media/Operator), W202101C, Grade 4, CIES.
Office Services Assistant, W202249C, Grade 4, Personnel Services.
Office Services Specialist, W201010M, Grade 5, PPE.
Office Services Specialist, W201010C, Grade 5, pilesm.
5. Office Services Specialist, W201010C, Grade 5, pilesm. To improve the work environment for students and faculty, the university has implemented a number of initiatives to support diversity and inclusion. These include the creation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office, which focuses on promoting equity and inclusion across all spheres of university life. The office works closely with the students, faculty, and staff to address issues of bias, discrimination, and harassment. In addition, the university has established the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity (IDE), which is responsible for implementing policies and strategies to promote diversity and inclusion. The IDE works closely with the deans and department chairs to ensure that diversity and inclusion are integrated into all aspects of the university's operations.

The university also places a strong emphasis on access and affordability. In recent years, the university has increased its financial aid packages and expanded opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds. The university has also implemented a number of initiatives to support student success, such as the First-Year Experience Program and the Student Success Center. These programs provide academic and support services to help students achieve their academic goals.

Finally, the university is committed to sustainability. The university has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and promote environmental stewardship. These include the use of renewable energy, the implementation of energy-efficient buildings, and the promotion of sustainable practices.

In conclusion, Virginia Commonwealth University is a dynamic and diverse institution that is committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service. The university is located in Richmond, Virginia, and is home to over 25,000 students from around the world. Virginia Commonwealth University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in a variety of fields, including engineering, healthcare, business, and the arts. The university is dedicated to providing a high-quality education and creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.
Retiring WPI President Eyman noted for environmental stewardship

By Susan Trudlow

Dean Eyman, president of WPI (originally Waste Policy Institute) since October 1988 will retire December 6. “In the decade under his leadership, WPI has become a world-wide resource for environmental stewardship,” said Len Peters, vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School.

WPI is a university-affiliated, non-profit corporation that provides assessment, evaluation, planning, and management to solve or prevent pollution. It helps the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Defense, the EPA, and other federal, state, and private clients respond to environmental challenges.

WPI allowed Eyman to meet what he knew to be a critical need in environmental remediation. “It gave me the opportunity to work with federal agencies as a third-party, non-aligned, objective resource.”

“I’ve always felt strongly about the role and responsibility of society for environmental stewardship,” Eyman said. He earned degrees in environmental areas, and, after receiving his doctorate, went to work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he conducted research on the behavior of fusion products and transuranic elements in the environment and food chains. Later, as head of the Earth Sciences Research Section of the Environmental Sciences Division, he managed research on the remediation of waste-disposal areas.

“That first year at WPI, there was myself and a secretary,” Eyman said. “But Virginia Tech had a cooperative agreement with DOE and WPI and had a subcontract to support a company that DOE had contracted to provide technical support to the headquarters program managers.”

In 1992, WPI successfully bid to support the DOE’s new Office of R&D and Technology Development. “For five years, our primary emphasis was support of that client.” By 1995, annual revenue had grown from $2 million to $29 million. Several things happened that year. “We decided to move our headquarters from Gaithersburg, Md., to the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Meanwhile, the DOE delegated authority for execution of the environmental remediation programs to their regional operations offices. As a result, WPI opened offices in South Carolina, Idaho, Washington and West Virginia, and also maintained the Gaithersburg office.

The same year, WPI successfully bid to support the agency of the Air Force responsible for cleaning up AF installations, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and opened an office in San Antonio, Texas.

Not long after, WPI began providing support of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense—Environmental Security in execution of the tri-lateral agreement between Russia, Norway, and the United States to clean up nuclear contamination of the Arctic.

“Dean Eyman has given visionary leadership over the past 10 years to the formation and expansion of WPI into a respected provider of environmental policy expertise,” said Ray Smoot, university vice president for administration andtreasurer, and a member of WPI’s board.

Virginia Tech President Paul Torgersen agreed. “At the right moment, Dean Eyman and several insightful people at Virginia Tech shared a vision. They saw that the nation was ready to invest in environmental remediation and better planning. Virginia Tech was confident that we could marshal the technical and management knowhow to provide environmental service. Dean provided the leadership that has made WPI a resource for this nation and world wide.”

His commitment to environmental stewardship is reflected in student alcohol-awareness campaign

By Katherine Dox

Rather than harping on the negative repercussions of excessive alcohol use, a new awareness campaign launched by Virginia Tech’s Office of Student Affairs this fall focuses on positive statistics regarding alcohol use in moderation.

“We find that negative approaches and scare tactics generally don’t work,” said Steve Clarke, coordinator of alcohol-prevention programs. “The idea is to reinforce what is the norm. Students generally tend to underestimate alcohol abuse on campus and its related negative behaviors.”

The beginnings of the program, called ‘Reality Check,’ were put in place last spring with a random survey of 1,045 Virginia Tech students. Out of these findings came four messages that will be used throughout the campaign to bring students’ perceptions of alcohol use closer to reality and eventually to marginalize alcohol abuse and binge drinking.

The survey found that of those VT students who drink, most (55%) have four or fewer drinks when they party. Most VT students (72%) never perform poorly in school because of their drinking. Of those VT students who drink, most (56%) drink six or fewer drinks per week. Most VT students (68%) have one of their four or fewer classes because of their drinking.

“Contrary to what many believe, we do not have a serious drinking problem at Tech,” Clarke said. “Most of our students are already making low-risk drinking choices.”

Last spring’s survey revealed that 80 percent of students were responsible for only 40 percent of the alcohol consumption at Virginia Tech. Another survey, designed by Southern Illinois University and implemented at Virginia Tech in April 1998 and again in April 1999 showed significant increases in student awareness of alcohol policies, student involvement in prevention activities, and the belief that the university is concerned about alcohol abuse and enforcing alcohol policies.

The multi-faceted campaign began in earnest this fall with posts in residence halls and banners in conspicuous student gathering places such as Squires and Johnston Student Centers, inside the Blacksburg Transit buses, and at several football games. Ads appear in the personals section of every issue of the Collegiate Times.

Messages like: “Party Girls—One beer feeling cheer, another beer head still clear, three beers a few less tears, four beers like my peers. Thanks for the nice time,—Party Man”

“Our survey research found that the personalities were the most widely read section of the student newspaper,” Clarke said. “We have a creative force of students and other sponsors who are committed to making this campaign a success.”

These sponsors include Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) and the wellness-promotion team from Schiffert Health Center.

Staring in the spring, a prize patrol will be out and about on campus looking for students who are displaying Reality Check buttons. When stopped by a prize-patrol volunteer, students will be asked to state one of the campaign’s four main messages. Prizes will be awarded to those who are successful. Clarke also hopes to work with local bars to display the campaign posters, each bearing one of the four messages.

“It’s an all-out effort to use positive social norms to reduce the myths about student alcohol consumption,” Clarke said.

The Reality Check campaign is part of a larger patrol action approved by the University’s Board of Visitors in November 1998 to address the issue of student drinking at Virginia Tech. The plan of action was mandated for all schools by a state task force that was formed after six alcohol-related deaths at four Virginia colleges and universities in 1997. Although Tech already had one of the state’s most stringent policies on student alcohol consumption, administrators determined that the university had to do more to ensure the safety of its students. In addition to the awareness campaign, the university tightened its alcohol policy and also distributed 4,000 copies of “Alcohol 101: an interactive CD-ROM developed by the University of Illinois in cooperation with The Century Council. First-year students were shown a new video during orientation that included alcohol-related issues, and the university provided additional hours of alcohol-free activities for students, especially on Thursday and Friday nights.

Will the tougher policy and additional programs reduce the upward spiral of binge drinking by students? Vice President for Student Affairs Landrum L. Cross, who oversees the effort, believes they will, but the process will not be easy.

“The drinking problem is bigger than our campus,” Cross said. “The extent to which it exists in our society makes it difficult for us to make as much progress as we would like to make. But we’re being guided by some of the best national literature on what works and what doesn’t work. I think we can have an impact.”