E-commerce center for research and education formed

By Sookhan Hiv

A recently formed research center at Virginia Tech will help businesses develop expertise in electronic commerce and to promote research and education in this rapidly growing field.

The Center for Global Electronic Commerce comprises a diverse group of faculty members at the university’s Pamplin College of Business. Its mission is to bring together expertise in electronic commerce and to promote inter-disciplinary research on business and the Internet, and to design a curriculum for e-commerce education.

The center, she said, brings together experts with business as well as information-technology knowledge and skills. It will hold regular seminars for businesses, conduct customized strategic planning and plan implementations, and promote the education of students.

“Any organization that expects to facilitate rapid adoption of advanced electronic-commerce innovations must have at least as much business expertise as information-technology expertise,” Hiller said.

The center has a threefold mission: to respond to the need for training in implementing and managing e-commerce businesses; to promote interdisciplinary research on business and the Internet; and to design a curriculum for e-commerce education.

His work is leading to the ability to predict water qualities that are susceptible to problems and to the development of specific steps that may mitigate problems when they occur. In fact, Edwards recently developed a software program to help guide utilities when considering options for corrosion control.

The Virginia Tech researcher has also developed some innovative corrosion-testing techniques. Conventional corrosion testing is time-consuming and expensive since it requires months or years of exposure before reliable results are obtained. Edwards designed a test that circumvents some of these limitations. By applying a corrosion-accelerating current to the metal, he can force a rapid aging process to take place, producing pipe samples in five days that are similar to those obtained after months or years of conventional testing. In some cases, results can be obtained at a fraction of conventional test costs.

As an engineer, Edwards is attempting to merge the science with the technology to mitigate excessive corrosion problems and the associated release of copper into water. Preliminary experiments illustrate that a wide range of factors are involved, including natural organic matter (NOM), pH, alkalinity, sulfides and other dissolved materials in water, he said. “In some cases, particularly bad combinations of these components can cause a new copper pipe to leak in as little as two weeks, compared to the normally expected pipe lifetimes of hundreds or thousands of years.”

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Saturday, 22
Men’s Basketball, 4 p.m. At Temple.

Sunday, 23
Women’s Basketball, noon. At St. Joseph’s.

Monday, 24
A construction team for the new University Mall, registration required. Detailed workshop descriptions and on-line registration information are at http://www.fdi.vt.edu/Library/2000spring/spring2000.html.

Tuesday, 25
Bloodmobile, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.

Support the Shanks Hall renovation. The handicap parking spaces will be moved to the eastern-side of Shults. Be aware of construction traffic when leaving and entering the Shults Dinning Center.

Thruout the semester for curbing and utility work in preparation for student housing.

Seminar on Web page, including strategies for paired learning, tips for promoting group structures that enable student involvement will be explained, and ready-to-use instructions will be provided. A web-based registration will be available.

RDP seeks nominees for Baird award

The Department of Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) is seeking nominations for the 1999-2000 A. Alan Baird Award. The award honors the student who has contributed the most to the residence hall program during or culminating in the current academic year. All students are eligible for the award, including those not affiliated with RDP. Nomination forms are available in 199J, Eggleston, the Hokie Passport office (41 Owens Hall), and at the Area Offices (Payne Hall, West Ambler Johnson, Newman Hall, Lee Hall, and New Residence Hall West). Nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 18, at 5 p.m. Nominations are to be turned into: 43 Owens Hall, c/o Lori Greiner (mail code 0223). A web-based nomination is also available at www.rdp.vt.edu/baird. For more information, call 1-8081 or e-mail lgreiner@vt.edu.

RDP offers free lunches

Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) is introducing a new dining opportunity called the Dine With Faculty Program. This program allows students an opportunity to take Virginia Tech faculty members to breakfast, lunch or dinner, free of charge, in one of RDP’s designated dining centers. Dine with Faculty was created to encourage student and faculty interaction outside the classroom.

Students will be encouraged to initiate the invitation with faculty members, but faculty members can also use the program to get to know students. For more information, call 1-8888 or e-mail lgreiner@vt.edu.

Reading scheduled

Lucinda Roy, alumni distinguished professor of English, has scored a third starred review in Publishers Weekly this one for her second novel, The Hotel Alleluia. Roy’s first starred review was for a book of poetry called The Hamming Book published by Eight Mountain Press, and the second was in January 1998 with her first novel, Lady Moses. Both novels were published by HarperCollins, which calls The Hotel Alleluia “a beautifully written, passionate novel about sisterhood.”

By Sally Harris

Readings for the spring have not been announced. Faculty interested in attending should e-mail James Boland at jboland@vt.edu.

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The classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services web site at http://www.ps.vt.edu. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-800-3. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with a "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. An EO/A equal opportunity employer.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**CLASSIFIED POSITIONS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Food Operations Director</td>
<td>A/Manager</td>
<td>University Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Support Technician</td>
<td>1045D</td>
<td>Office Services Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housekeeping Worker</td>
<td>1202G</td>
<td>University Library/Acquisitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housekeeping Worker</td>
<td>7261G</td>
<td>University Dining Programs</td>
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<td>Human Resource Specialist</td>
<td>1073T</td>
<td>Personnel Services</td>
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<td>Laboratory Specialist</td>
<td>799T</td>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
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<td>Laboratory Technician</td>
<td>7519T</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
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<td>Office Services Specialist</td>
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<td>IT Services</td>
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<td>University Library/LL</td>
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<td>Office Services Specialist</td>
<td>7268S</td>
<td>Grade 5, University Library/Acquisitions</td>
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<td>Office Services Specialist</td>
<td>1493C</td>
<td>Grade 5, VA-IT Service Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Systems Analyst</td>
<td>6824</td>
<td>Grade 6, Professor</td>
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<td>Program Support Technician</td>
<td>3244M</td>
<td>Grade 6, Biological Systems Engineering</td>
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<td>7345J</td>
<td>Grade 6, INR/Computer Science</td>
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**TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Virginia Tech faculty, students and staff:

In your Hilton New Orleans Riverside we have experienced such hospitable guests. Everyone at Virginia Tech made the experience a success. Our success was phenomenal solely because of you all at VT. The Virginia Tech team, coaches, staff, band, parents, fans, students and alumni won the award for “best guests in town.” You are Virginia Tech extraordinary. Our success was the result of your hard work and dedication. We look forward to future visits from the Hokies! Yours,

Paul D. Voss, vice president-general manager
Hilton New Orleans Riverside

**READING**

Continued from 2

"...Roy’s heroes try to make homes for themselves where they feel at peace, whether it seems the logical place for them to be or not," the Publishers Weekly reviewer said. "The beautifully sustained intensity of the narrative and a multi-culturally varied and delightfully authentic supporting cast keep the reader’s attention from the first chapter to the last.”

Roy will do readings and signings of The Book of Ivory throughout the Eastermonth March. They will take place at the Volume Two bookstore in Blacksburg on February 4 (signing 4 p.m., reading 6 p.m.)

In addition to being a novelist, Roy is a poet, artist, educator, and scholar. She wrote Lady Moses, which was the first debut novel published by Harper’s new imprint called Harper Flamingo, while serving as a professor of English and as dean associate of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Roy has been at Virginia Tech since 1985, first as lecturer of English. She was named assistant professor in 1991, associate professor in 1991, and professor in 1992. In 1992, she was the Margaret Bundy Smith professor of English at Miami College in Massachusetts. In 1993, she was named assistant dean for projects in Virginia Tech’s College of Arts and Sciences, and in 1994, associate dean for curriculum, outreach, and diversity, a position she left in 1997 to concentrate on writing and teaching.

**COSTUME**

Continued from 2

is that everyone must be dressed as someone who would have lived between 1919 and 1929 no matter their age at that time—and that everyone come with an attitude of fun, Giovanni said. A $50 prize will be given to the person with the best costume and the person or group that came the farthest for the ball.

"You cannot choose to come as Booker T. Washington because he died before 1939, but you can be Helen Keller or George Gershwin or Duke Ellington or Jackie Kennedy or Zora Neale Hurston," Giovanni said.

The original Opportunity Magazine event was a sit-down dinner with brilliant scholar Alain Locke as host. "The room was filled with the older, more-established, and somewhat richer white American literary lions and the younger, more-travelling black literary aspirants of The Negro Negro Movement," Giovanni said.

"There was a formal program, and many business cards were passed around." Giovanni’s re-creation event will be a stand-up dinner with stations around the room for the Opportunity to meet costumed luminaries. For example, there will be a W.E.B. DuBois station, a Langston Hughes station, a Jessie Fauset station, and a Zora Neale Hurston station.

In addition, there will be a jazz station “just to soothe our souls,” Giovanni said. Each station will feature “food, drink, and conversation.”

A special feature of the ball will be Carol Crawford Smith’s portrayal of Josephine Baker. Crawford Smith is director of the Centre of Dance in Blackpool and was a principal soloist ballerina with the internationally renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem for 10 years.

The Opportunity Reader and The Crisis Reader, both magazines that formed the backbone of the Harlem Renaissance, have recently been published in book form, Giovanni said. “There are also many new biographies and chronologies such as The Black New Yorkers, which recently have been issued,” she said.

The Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Dorothy Parker, George and Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, Mac White, among many, many others, were partners in bringing a new vitality to American life.” Giovanni, professor and poet, won the NAACP Image Award for literature for her book Love Poems and the Langston Hughes Award for her distinguished contributions to arts and letters. Giovanni published her first book of poetry, Black Feeling, Black Talk, in 1969 and the second, Black Judgment, in 1969, becoming a voice for the black-power movement. Her works also include books of essays, such as Secret Corners... and other Eddies published in 1988 and Race and Dialect published in 1994. The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni was published in 1996, Love Poems in 1997, and Blues: For All the Changes in 1999.

Giovanni’s Harlem Renaissance, poetry, and Black Aesthetics classes have held special events each year to illustrate some aspect of African-American life. “The students like doing these things, and I think they learn a lot,” Giovanni said.

For more information, call 1-3787.
Engineer uses of microorganisms to reduce pollution contamination

By Linn Nystrom

The contamination of ground water due to leaking storage tanks and pipelines has occurred for decades, and the effects of the pollution remain at hundreds of thousands of sites throughout the world. To combat this problem, experts are using in situ bioremediation, a developing technology that now accounts for nearly $870 billion in world-wide annual expenditures. A computer model for assisting engineers in cleaning up the polluted ground waters has been developed by Mark Widdowson, a Virginia Tech civil engineer.

Widdowson's efforts in this area started when he was a doctoral student at Auburn University. His thesis was on a computer-modeling project for simulating the biodegradation of contaminants in groundwater. It is now 12 years since he earned his doctorate, and he has continued improving his Sequential Electron Acceptor Model, 3 Dimensional (SEAM3D). Today, the software has been accepted for use as the preferred bioremediation code by the Waterways Experiment Station (WES) of Vicksburg, Miss. The U.S. Department of Defense placed WES in charge of the national Groundwater Modeling System (GMS).

“SEAM3D software is designed to model the distribution of contamination over space and time, including biological reactions,” Widdowson said. “It's a Fate and Transport Model.”

For example, the software will indicate how widespread and how fast a contaminated body of underground water will spread. This knowledge might be particularly important if the contaminated ground water was near a wetland, a stream, or a reservoir.

“Most plumes of contaminants in ground water never exceed a certain size because they become stable over time. However, the key word is attenuation brought about by the presence of microorganisms in the adjacent soil and/or water. We learned in the 1990s that these microorganisms are a major player in reducing the strength of the contaminated areas,” Widdowson said.

For instance, microorganisms will biodegrade, but that the presence of the microorganisms in the adjacent soil and/or water are a major player in reducing the strength of the contaminated areas,” Widdowson said.

At many sites, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) favors monitored natural attenuation of sites, letting nature take care of the problem. However, it learned that engineering the bioremediation through the addition of oxygen and other nutrients to a contaminated site would stimulate the bacteria to speed up their work.

The SEAM3D computer model developed by Widdowson is too new to used to determine how well microorganisms will respond to contaminated ground water at each site and whether or not nature can handle the problem alone.

Widdowson's model is able to track each individual contaminant, such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, and the recently banned MTBE. If one might that one pollutant will biodegrade, but that the presence of the remaining ones will not, thus calling for the appropriate additional treatment.

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An expert in hydraulic systems and geo-environmental engineering, Widdowson said GMS is similar to a Windows software program for computers. “GMS serves as an interface for about a half a dozen codes for solving various ground water problems,” he said.

He has partnered with the U.S. Navy to use SEAM3D to predict the spread of chlorinated solvents at its Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach. He is also using the software to simulate a controlled release of jet fuel at an Air Force base in Mississippi. And his model simulations of a gas plume at a contaminated site near Beaufort, S.C. were instrumental in explaining why natural attenuation was ineffective.

The various projects he has conducted to date illustrate that microorganisms can help clean up some sites at a faster rate than others.

Elva Maude Redding, 94

Elva Maude Redding, 94, died Sunday, Jan. 15. She served Virginia Tech for many years as secretary to presidents Walter Newman and T. Marshall Hahn. She also served as secretary to the Board of Visitors.

HISTORY

Continued from 2

February 1: Lucinda Roy, alumni distinguished professor of English and the author of several novels and books of poetry, and the distinguished professor of English and the奕

February 2: There will be a discussion on “Learning from Out Past: A Retrospective of Black Women,” from 7-9 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center. 234 Squires.

February 4: Irene Lamb, a professional lecturer with Virginia Tech's University Academic Advising Center, will host the first Prejudice Reduction Workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

February 7: There will be a Black History Quiz Bowl at 7 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 8: Claudia Whittwher, publisher of the Roanoke Tribune, will be the featured speaker at a Black Journalism Jamboore at 6 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 9: “Black Women in the 21st Century: A Sixes-Sisters Forum” from 7-9 p.m. in the Squires. 234 Squires.

February 10: The Renaissance: “Black Collage,” featuring performances by students, members of the Student Government Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha, will be held at 7 p.m. in Squires Haymarket Theatre.

February 11: Sonya Baker, assistant professor of voice at James Madison University, will present “Remembering Marian Anderson” at noon in Squires Haymarket Theatre. The program consists of a lecture/recital based upon Anderson's 1939 Easter concert on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

February 12: Hayward Farrar, assistant professor of voice at James Madison University, will present “Remembering Marian Anderson” at 7 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 13: There will be a discussion on “Interpersonal Dating in the New Millennium: Is It More Acceptable?” at 7 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 15: The NAACP will discuss “Second Reconstruction? The Road from School Segregation to Integration to Re-segregation” from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 15: The Diversity Committee of Virginia Tech’s College of Arts and Sciences will talk about returning African American graduate students. The event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 18: Irene Lamb will host the second Prejudice Reduction Workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Women's Center.

February 19: “Christiansburg Institute: Voices from Community,” will be presented from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center. The program will feature a short video and excerpts from oral interviews conducted with faculty and alumni of Christiansburg Institute, the first high school for Blacks in Southwest Virginia.

February 22—There will be a forum, “Importance of Black Greek Sororities,” at 7 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center, and a discussion on “The Civil Rights Movement: A Past or a Present Fight?” at 8:30 p.m. in 150 Squires.

February 23: Kip Fulbeck, professor of Asian American and film studies, will give a presentation on “I Hope You Don’t Mind Me Asking... Debunking Multi-racial Stereotypes” at 7:30 p.m. in DBHCC auditorium.

February 24: The movie Black Love, followed by a discussion will be presented from 7-11 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center.

February 25: Angela Davis, community activist and poet, will talk about “Prison Reform.” The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Colonial Hall, Squares.

February 26: There will be a semi-formal banquet, Ebony Affair “Millennium/Evolution of Culture,” at 6:30 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall.

For more information, call Kimberly Philpott at 1-3787.