SPECTRUM

Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

http://www.vt.edu/spectrum/

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General Assembly in session; Steger addresses commission

By Ralph Rivers,
director of government relations

The Virginia General Assembly conven- ened January 12 with a Republican major- ity in both chambers for the first time in history.


The legislative year begins with a host of other questions revolving around the future of the state bud- get.

The budget bill introduced by Governor James Gilmore on December 17 contained a number of new proposals with respect to funding higher education, including the use of non-General Fund sources to support op- erating programs, and performance agree- ments to provide increased accountability for funds received by institutions.

General Fund recommendations for higher education included 2.5-percent and 2.4-percent salary increases for faculty and classified staff respectively, subject to support for the Equipment Trust Fund at the current University’s level, and funding for capital outlay maintenance reserve. Significant in- creases in Tobacco Indemnification support were provided for George Mason Univer- sity, Norfolk State University, and Virginia State University. Also recommended in

Gilmore’s budget is $20 million for matching funds to increase Virginia’s competitiveness for federal and private research funding.

Gilmore also recommended funding for certain institutions of higher education from the tobacco-settlement funds. Under legisla- tion approved last year, tobacco settlement funds are to be divided into three parts. 50 percent to be under the control of the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Committee for the purpose of supporting tobacco farmers in transition and for economic development in the tobacco growing regions; 10 percent for programs to discourage youth smoking; and 40 percent for the General Fund. Gilmore has recommended that the latter amount be used for transportation purposes.

The higher-education projects to be funded from the Tobacco Indemnification and Com- munity Revitalization funds include a program in biosciences at Virginia Tech. Gilmore recommended a total of $12 million in support of this program for the bimennium, $9.9 million in operating and $1.9 million to construct high- tech greenhouses. Gilmore’s recommendation must be approved by the Tobacco Commission. [See accompanying statement by President Charles Steger ]

In addition, funding for the Virginia Mi- croelectronics Consortium was recommended through workforce training funds in the Vir- ginia Employment Commission. If approved, the College of Engineering will receive signifi- cant additional funding for microelectronics education and research through this mecha- nism.

As noted above, the only significant Gen- eral Fund support for capital-outlay purposes recommended by Gilmore was designated for maintenance reserve. Virginia Tech also re- ceived approval from Gilmore to proceed with approximately $93 million in non-General Fund projects, including the first phase of the biosciences facility, the alumni/CIS/Hotel center construction, and the Lumen Stadium expan- sion, among other projects.

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY on 3)

STATEMENT TO TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION AND COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

The Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission is com- posed of legislators and citizens from the tobacco-dependent regions of the state. The commission is responsible for disbursement of 90 percent of the funds Virginia Tech receive from the tobacco settlement, esti- mated to be around $2 billion over 25 years.

The accompanying remarks concern- ing the proposed biosciences program at Virginia Tech were delivered to the commis- sion in Richmond by President Charles Steger on January 11.

It is an honor to be able to share with you in a very few minutes Virginia Tech’s interest in working with you to bring about the critically needed economic and educa- tional transition for our tobacco-growing regions. It is for just such purposes that the General Assembly established our institu- tion almost one hundred and thirty years ago.

Before addressing specifically the pro- gram whose funding is recommended by Governor Gilmore, I would like to provide a little background that is relevant to the work of your commission. As you may know, Virginia Tech is among the nation’s leading institutions in developing new uses for tobacco through genetic engineering. Through the help of Senator Wampeter and others, we are currently receiving about $500,000 per year for research on the use of tobacco for medicinal purposes. Our station at Blackstone, of course, has been a major supporter of the tobacco growers for many years, and we anticipate a similarly impor- tant role for this center in the transitional period ahead.

Over the past two years, in cooperation with CropTech, a company in our Corporate Research Center funded by a Virginia Tech professor, we have conducted useful field trials at our experimental stations at Blacksburg and Abingdon. It appears that tobacco is an ideal farm produce for the production of many new products through these technologies. CropTech envisions potential uses for as many as 100,000 acres of tobacco for various types of commercial products.

The program for which Governor Gilmore has recommended support from the Tobacco Indemnification Fund represents the next step in the discovery of new and therapeutic products through both plants and animals. You may have seen the recent Na- tional Geographic magazine with a picture on the cover—that is a Virginia Tech piglet.

(See STATEMENT on 3)

Transportation Meeting Today

The university’s Transportation and Parking Committee will hold an open meet- ing today from noon to 1 p.m. in 315 Cleatham Hall to discuss transportation-demand management (alternative transportation) plans for Fall Semester, 2000. For more information, contact Debby Barbout at 1-1373 or e-mail debbybar@vt.edu

DOE funds Virginia Tech/Clemson project aimed at producing light-weight auto parts

By Liz Crumbley

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is funding a $1.8-million project at Virginia Tech and Clemson University aimed at developing low-cost carbon fiber for use in making light- weight automotive parts.

Professors Don Baur and Garth Wilkes of chemical engineering and Jim McGlothlin of chem- istry are directing the project at Virginia Tech. The program is a combined effort of the Mater- ials Institute, Center for Composite Materials and Structures, and Polymer Materials and In- terfaces Laboratory at Tech, and the Center for Fiber and Film at Clemson.

The DOE is interested in conserving fuel by finding ways to produce automotive body parts that weigh less than steel parts.

One solution is to use plastics reinforced with carbon fiber. Baur said Plastics are much lighter than steel, but must be reinforced with carbon fiber to have strength and stiffness comparable to steel.

The goal of the Virginia Tech/Clemson project is to substantially reduce the costs of carbon fibers, Baur said. Currently, carbon fiber suitable for automotive use costs about $50 per pound. The Virginia Tech and Clemson researchers hope to develop a carbon fiber that

(See DOE on 2)

Kiran to head Department of Chemical Engineering

By Liz Crumbley

Erdogan Kiran, formerly the Gottschald research professor of chemical engineering at the University of Maine, is now head of the Department of Chemical Engineering (ChE) at Virginia Tech.

Kiran, a native of Turkey, received his undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his master’s from Cornell University, and his Ph.D. in 1974 from Princeton University. All of his degrees are in chemical engineering.

After conducting research in Turkey for the pulpy and paper industry and teaching at Istanbul Technical University and Bogazici University in Istanbul, Kiran joined the Uni- versity of Maine faculty in 1981. Virginia acade- mic specialties include polymer science and engineering, microelectronics, supercritical fluids and high-pressure processes, and thermal and optical techniques.

In 1987, he became the founding editor of The Journal of Supercritical Fluids. He has served as director of two NATO- sponsored Advanced Study Institutes on Supercritical Fluids and as an organizer of numerous symposia and workshops in the field of chemical engineering. He currently serves as international monitor of The Journal of Chemical Engineering of Japan and an editor of Advances in Supercritical Fluid Science and Technology, a series of advanced monographs under preparation.

In 1995 he received the University of Maine’s Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award.

Kiran assumed his post at Virginia Tech at the beginning of spring semester. Bill Conger, who has served as ChE department head since 1982 and is returning to teaching full time, will continue to lend his expertise to departmental operations, Kiran said.

(See ONE on 2)
Events

Friday, 4

- OWF Coffee Hour, 8-9 a.m., The Easy Chair.
- Black History Program, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Women’s Center: Prejudice Reduction Workshop
- Benefit Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Rebecca Orr Memorial Concert.

Saturday, 5

- Men’s Basketball, 2 p.m., LaSalle.
- Faculty/Guest Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: David Whitley and Robert Trent.

Sunday, 6

- Women’s Basketball, 1 p.m., At Fordham.
- YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Cascades.

Monday, 7

- University Council, 3:55 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
- Black History Quiz Bowl, 7:30 p.m., Black Cultural Center.
- Men’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: ODU.

Tuesday, 8

- Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC room: G. Debbie Campbell, BHS.
- CEUT, 1:30-4 p.m., Hilcrest: “Informal Assessment of Learning,” by Margaret Hable.
- Black Journal Jam, 6 p.m., Black Cultural Center: Claudia Whitworth, Roanoke Tribune.

Wednesday, 9

- CEUT, 8:30-10 a.m., Hilcrest: “Informal Assessment of Learning,” by Margaret Hable.
- CEUT, noon-1:30 p.m., Hilcrest: “Student Evaluation of Teaching,” by Margaret Hable and Marlene Preston.
- VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burress auditorium: Annie.

Thursday, 10

- YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Debra Warren.
- Black History Month Program, 7 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: The Renaissance: “Black College.”
- Men’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m., At St. Bonaventure.

Friday, 11

- Black History Month Program, noon, Squires Haymarket Theatre: Sonya Baker, JMU.

Exemplary awards nominations sought

Each year the university recognizes academic departments or programs that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in maintaining an excellent teaching and learning environment for students and faculty members. This year, the departments and programs will be recognized for their work in increasing diversity of faculty, staff, and students; and enhancing multicultural perspectives in teaching, research, and outreach programs. Special attention will be given to programs and initiatives that have demonstrated results and outcomes. The recognition includes two $10,000 awards and a $20,000 award to the departments or programs selected by a committee drawn from the university community.

Nominations are encouraged from undergraduate and graduate students, from faculty members, and from others who have benefited from the work of the department in this year’s events. The award honors the collaborative effort and successes of groups of dedicated colleagues—faculty and staff members, and students—actively performing work that is essential for sustaining an excellent academic environment.

Seminars

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- Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Matthew Tirrell, UCSB.
- Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Lilian Allesa, Roanoke.

Monday, 7

- Biomedical Engineering, 3 p.m., 114 Holden: Robert Hughes, Michigan.
- Horticulture, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: Ken Mobbly, Four Seasons Produce.

Wednesday, 9

- Industrial/Systems Engineering, 4 p.m., 349 Whittemore: Joseph Bukchin.

Thursday, 10

- Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hine: Geoff Vining.
- Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Barbara John, Wyoming.

Friday, 11

- Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Charles Han, NIST.
- Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: David W. Smith.
- ESM, 4 p.m., 116 Norris: Graham Wilks, Keele.

BULLETIN

Housing Fair scheduled

The Off Campus Housing Fair will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. Anyone needing housing in the New River Valley can attend the fair.

OWF plans coffee hour

The Organization of Women Faculty will hold its monthly coffee hour from 8-9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, in the Easy Chair at University Mall.

Ethnic Chinese dance to be performed

A Chinese ethnic-dance performance will be held from 7-9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, in the Donohoud Brown auditorium. In recognition of the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on February 5 this year, the Focus on Greater China Program will present Chinese ethnic dances. This dance performance is open to the public and is Admission for all patrons is $5. Tickets for the concert will be available one hour before the performance at the School of the Arts box office. For more information, call 1-5280.

African-American arts celebration set

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Due to present concert

The Virginia Tech School of the Arts and Department of Music present David Jacobson, flutist, and Robert Trent, guitarist, in concert Saturday, Feb. 5, at 6 p.m. in Squires Recital Salon.

A “tapestry of sights and sounds” makes up a series of satellite programs titled “If I’ll Make Me a World: A Century of African-American Arts,” available to the public Friday, Feb. 11. The series, part of PBS’s Adult Learning Service of the PBS series Race & Diversity curriculum-enrichment programs, will be shown at the Donaldson Brown auditorium, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. It will cover “100 tumultuous years of struggle for identity, equality, and self-expression.—and the creation of a miraculous artistic legacy,” according to PBS. The programs are designed to raise awareness of the way American attitudes were forever changed by the accomplishments of African-Americans in the 20th century.

The Freedom You Will Take looks at the contemporary cultural landscape transformed by the power of African-American film, performance, dance, rap music, and the spoken word.

The viewing of “If I’ll Make Me a World” is free to the university community at no charge. Sign-in sheets for students completing special projects and extra-credit assignments for class will be available.

For more information, call Myra Gordon at 1-4374 or Brenda Hendricks at 1-4780.
EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

1. Residential/Dining Programs. Housekeeping Worker, 7261G, Grade 1, Recreational Sports.

Housekeeping Worker, 5711H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 1021H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 6870C, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Buildings.

Information Technology Recruiter, 99999G, Grade 10, Personal Services.

Installation and Repair Technician, 1899G, Grade 6, CNS.

institutional Traffic and Parking Supervisor, 1111T, Grade 9, Parking Services.

Office Services Specialist, 4689, Grade 5, University Library.

Office Services Specialist, 2093C, Grade 5, Office of University Bursar.

Operating Systems Analyzer, 1244D, Grade 0, AIS.

Plumber/Steamfitter, 7279C, Grade 7, Residential/Dining Programs/Buildings.

Program Support Technician, 0209, Grade 6, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Program Support Technician Senior, 7547T, Grade 7, Physical Plant/Buildings.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist, 4492J, Grade 8, Center for Transportation Research.

Public Relations Specialist, 7549J, Grade 10, Center for Transportation Research.

Recreation Center Supervisor (Recreation Sup B), 6965G, Grade 7, University Union/Student Activities.

Security Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), W02415G, Grade 2, Parking Services.

Senior Development Associate Of Annual Giving, 6698D, Grade 10, University Development.

Student Programs Coordinators.

LC063D, Grade 12, Alumni Relations.

Animal Care Technician A, W022970M, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Cashier/Hostess/Dining Room Supervisor, W022981G, Grade 2, DBHCC.

Executive Secretary, W022847T, Grade 6, University Leadership Development.

Fiscal Assistant, W022977M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Fiscal Technician, W022835G, Grade 6, Bursar’s Office.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Laboratory Specialist, W022972M, Grade 8, Dairy Science.

Office Services Assistant, W022982G, Grade 4, Physical Plant.

Office Services Assistant, W022978, Grade 4, University Library.

Office Services Specialist, W022983, Grade 5, University Registrar.

Office Services Specialist, W022170, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist/ Web Designer, W022200G, Grade 6, Residential/Dining Programs/Marketing/Conference Services.

Radiologic Technician, W022238G, Grade 7, Health Center.

Secretary Part Time, W020618M, Grade 5, CMV.

Teams/Utilities Worker (Trades Helper), W022966G, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Buildings.

University Only, Program Support Technician, U2960G, Grade 6, Office of International Programs.

Technical Lead, Alumni Development Team, 1379D, Grade 6, AIS.

Off Campus.

Evening Announcer, 1626D, Grade 8, WVTF.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Executive Secretary Senior, 6199M, Grade 7, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Southern District.

Office Services Assistant, 6605, Grade 4, HRN.

Program Support Technician, 5792M, Grade 6, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Southern Hampton County.

Program Support Technician, 7543J, Grade 6, NVC—Computer Science.

Secretary Senior, 5148M, Grade 5, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Henry County.

FACILITY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Mathematics, Assistant Associate Professor, Contact: Numerical Analysis Search Committee, 460 McBryde (0123). Review begins immediately; continue.

Department of Geologic Sciences, Instructor, Electron Microprobe-SEM-XRD Facility, Contact: Robert Tracy, 4844 Dorming (0420). Review begins February 15.

Institute for Distributed and Distributed Learning, Instructor/Online Specialist, Contact: Tom Wilkinson, Old Security Building (0445). Review begins March 15.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Associate Director, 4-H (re-advertised), Blacksburg campus. Contact: Judith Jones, 10581Hutchison (0437). Revises begins March 1.

Residential and Dining Programs, Area Coordinator of Residence Education (re-advertised). Contact: Gail Kirby, 109 E. Eggleston (0428). Review begins February 17.

CAREER SERVICES

Career Advisor and/or Assistant Director, Contact: Amy McPherson, Top Floor Henderson Hall (0128), Open until filled.


The third Annual Diversity Summit held January 17 in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday attracted 110 participants, according to Barbara Pendegras, dean of students.

The summit began with a progress report by Benjamin Dixon, vice president for multicultural affairs. The report, “Steps on the Journey to Inclusion,” highlighted achievements of the university since the 1999 summit.

For a full report on the summit, and other diversity-related information, see the insert in today’s issue of Spectrum.

SPECTRUM

3 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2000
Pavement research presents unique opportunity for engineer

By Lynn Systrom

For three months this year, Virginia Tech engineering alumnus Imad Al-Qadi was on the job by 6 a.m., at least six and sometimes seven days a week. The intensity of his work kept him each evening until about 8 or 8:30, and once in awhile, midnight. He went for almost an entire month without eating a meal after work and three days without sleep. But for Al-Qadi, his labor was for a dream come true. He was involved in a once-in-a-lifetime event, and the sometimes sacrifice, sometimes best time of his life was well worth the exhaustion.

Initially simply as the Smart Road by Virginia’s Department of Transportation, it is a full-scale research facility for pavement research and evaluation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) concepts, technologies, and products. ITS technologies are all about improving communications between drivers, vehicles, and the highways by using sophisticated computers, electronics, and satellites.

To instrument the road with sensors and monitoring equipment, Al-Qadi had to stay several steps ahead of the contractor and not delay the job. Hence, the very long hours were necessary. “He (the contractor) never waited even a day for us,” Al-Qadi said. All of the instruments were buried inside the pavement as the road was being built.

Nine graduate students, one female undergraduate, and Gerardo Flutsch, also a faculty member in civil engineering, shared the time on the project with Al-Qadi. A timetable was developed to accommodate each student’s class schedule, as well as Al-Qadi’s classes.

The infrastructure that “we built with the Smart Road is unique,” according to Al-Qadi. A Control Center, allowing remote monitoring and control of the instruments that are embedded in the road, is currently under construction. Also, an underground conduit network, accessible via manhole covers, provides for the installation of a power and fiber optics data network without creating a safety hazard to vehicles that may leave the normal roadway. The road is also equipped to generate or simulate different types of weather conditions, including rain and snow.

In creating these testing areas as the road was under construction, Al-Qadi said the true challenge was working without electricity except what he could manufacture from four generators, “It was a nightmare, especially when working after dark.”

He has divided his road test portion into 12 different flexible pavement designs. Each section is approximately 108 meters long. Seven of the 12 sections are on flat areas, while the other five sections are in a cut through the existing terrain. All 12 sections have a complex array of sensors embedded beneath the road’s surface.

“Each section was designed differently to obtain the desired experimental surface and structural capacity, and the pavement drainage is also different. Special sections included a newly developed geocomposite to prevent cracking and penetration by moisture. One surface design has an open graded friction course that will improve vehicular traction and reduce splashes, especially from trucks,” Al-Qadi said.

Al-Qadi is using a pavement material called SuperPave™ for testing purposes. “Virginia is moving to the use of SuperPave™ by the beginning of the new century in most of our roads. We are one of the leading states in using SuperPave™ in our roads as trial sections. The expected benefit is that we will have a better pavement with greater service life and fewer pot holes will occur,” Al-Qadi said.

As Al-Qadi evaluates the different types of pavement materials and designs and the response of the various materials to different weight loads and to the environment through his array of sensors, his task will be made somewhat easier since the traffic will be monitored through the use of a satellite. The data will have prerecorded information such as tire pressure, axle loads, speed, and mismatch of dual tire pressures. Conventional traffic will be prevented from using the test bed area of the Smart Road for the present time.

Al-Qadi is looking forward to the next stage of his work. “Professionally for me, this work is truly exciting. We have a lot to prove in the testing and design of pavements and in introducing new technologies to increase their service life at the least possible cost with the least amount of downtime for maintenance. This is always a challenge.”

Achievers

(Edition’s note: The Achievers section will be published two to three times per semester in Spectrum.)

Raymond H. Myers was granted the Shrewsbury Award by the American Society for Quality Assurance for his efforts to give to the individual who has demonstrated leadership in the field of modern quality control. Myers holds a PhD in economics, received the award at ASQ’s Annual Quality Congress in Anaheim, Calif. He was cited for “leadership on the improvement of process and product quality through groundbreaking advances in the use of designed experiments and response-surface methodology and for clear communication of these ideas to industrial and academic audiences through numerous publications, books, courses, and presentations.”

E. Thomas Garman, professor in near environments, and executive director of the National Institute for Personal Finance Employee Education, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). ANSI has served as administrator and coordinator of the United States’ private sector, voluntary-standardization-system for 80 years.

Howard Feirtag, a nationally known hospitality and tourism management consultant, recently received the 1999 Travel Educators Award at a ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Feirtag was honored for his personal time and effort dedicated to enhancing travel agent professionalism through education and training.

Feirtag is a certified meeting professional (CMP), a certified hospitality marketing executive (CHME), and certified hotel administrator (CHA). He coordinates hospitality sales workshops each year at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Daisy Stewart, associate professor in teaching and learning, was the recipient of the 1999 Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Arch of Fame Award. Stewart was recognized at the professional association’s annual conference for her “outstanding accomplishments and achievements that have supported the work and purposes of ACTE.” Nationally, Stewart’s accomplishments included serving on the ACTE president 1996-97, and her work on the ACTE Board of Directors from 1993-98. Her vision has contributed to the success of Virginia Tech’s vocational and technical education program, which for the past five years has been ranked from third to sixth in U.S. News and World Report’s review of graduate programs in the United States.

Lyn Gray, director of international programs; Myra Gordon, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; and John Crunkilton, associate dean, College of Architecture and Life Sciences, recently presented a panel discussion on “Study Abroad in Africa” at the conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

Gray has also been elected to the executive committee of the Virginia Council for International Education.

Christine Jarchow, assistant director for education abroad, gave a presentation on data collection in study abroad at the conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

Cathryn Turcotte, director of planning and assessment, recently participated in leading three presentations at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs conference in Louisville. The presentations were “Strategies and Programs to Gather Student Outcome Data.” “Before There was Student Affairs,” “PdF: Practicing and Publishing,” and “What Works.”

Patricia Hyer, associate provost, presented a paper titled “A Faculty Assessment of the Campus Climate for Diversity” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education held in San Antonio, November. Valerie Martin Conley, assistant director of institutional Research and Planning Analysis, was co-author of the paper.

Brian James, production manager for University Unions and Student Activities, recently presented “The Difference between Residential and Tour Productions” to the Illuminating Engineering Society at Radford University.

Rick Moosferd, economic development specialist for community preparedness with Virginia Tech’s Public Service Programs, recently served as the moderator for the 1999 Virginia Industrial Development Authorities Institute at the Roanoke and Conference Center. He also made the first formal presentation of the “Familiarization, Analysis, Prioritization, Energization, and Sales (FAFES) model” for economic development that he developed.

The Hokie Handbook, an annual publication of the Dean of Students office, was recently recognized as the outstanding student handbook during a National Orientation Directors’ Association conference in Tampa. Editors for the handbook were J. Thomas Brown, associate dean of students, and Denise Collins, doctoral student in Student Affairs.

Brown was also recognized as the outgoing regional coordinator of the National Orientation Directors Association, a role he held for two years, giving leadership to orientation directors and programs in the mid-Atlantic states.

Brown recently presented a workshop on diversity at the recent state-wide gathering of Catholic Campus Chaplains in Charlottesville.

Anne Moore, director of information technology initiatives, recently helped present “Distance Education and Institutional Restructuring: Models for Success” at the annual meeting of the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications.

Charles J. Dudley, director of the University Honors Program, was recently presented the Truman Foundation Leadership Award at the College of Arts and Sciences roundtable awards banquet. The award was presented for Dudley’s efforts in developing the Emerging Leaders Workshop, cooperative venture involving a number of historically black colleges and universities, the Truman Foundation, DuPont, and Virginia Tech.

Connie V. Sowers, program-support technician in the department of Aerospace Studies, has been selected the Air Force ROTC Southeast Region Area 4 Civilian of the Year from among nominees from eight peer universities. Sowers had already been chosen Civilian of the Quarter for the third and fourth quarters.

She has been employed in the department of Aerospace Studies two years and was hired at Virginia Tech four years. During that time, she has served as chairwoman of the Program Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Association, and a member of the University Staff Forum Committee.