**Chemistry/Physics Building design approved**

By Jean Elliott

The new chemistry/physics building moved one step closer to becoming a reality on Monday when the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Visitors conceptually approved a revised schematic design as presented by Clark Nexsen architects.

Located on West Campus Drive, the new building will be attached to Hahn Hall with a commanding view of the Duck Pond. The project, which has been approved by the state for $25,194,000, will address substantial space deficiencies, antiquated laboratories and inadequate research facilities in the chemistry and physics departments. The new four-story, 90,000-square-feet facility will house study spaces, teaching/labs, and support space. Pending the receipt in July 2000 of another $2-million authorization from non-General Fund sources, two 200-seat lecture theatres will fan off the Campus Drive side.

Working drawings should be in hand by April of 2001 with the bid date slated for July 2001. Completion is anticipated for the fall of 2003. In other matters, the committee reviewed and approved the design of the Agriculture/Forestry Research Lab Facility as rendered by Moseley Harris & McClintock. The new building will attach to Smyth Hall, provide a tunnel over Ag Quad Lane, climb the hill and connect to the northeast corner of Cheatham. Although construction of this project has not been funded yet, it is also anticipated to cost around $25 million. The firm has been asked to move ahead with design development and construction drawings as all planning money has been approved.

The committee also reviewed the initial schematic design for the Student Services Building which will be located on the north side of Washington Street to the west of Cochrane Hall.

**Carilion grant goes to Tech research center**

The Carilion Biomedical Institute (CBI) has announced its initial financial grants, totaling $2 million, to support biomedical research at its partner universities.

The grants will be used to develop more efficient and cost-effective hospital and clinical procedures in such areas as medical automation, gene therapy, laser surgery and diagnostic patch technology.

CBI, headquartered in Roanoke, will continue to provide significant funding and entrepreneurial business support to medically oriented research and product development at Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia. Over the next five years, CBI and its partner universities will work together to raise an additional $10 million for the institute from outside sources. The total institute funding from all sources (i.e., patent licensing, foundations, industry and state and local agencies) is expected to exceed $75 million over seven years.

Virginia Tech’s Optical Sciences and Engineering Research (OSER) Center is receiving $1 million for six projects dealing with innovations in laser surgery optics and diagnostic patches.

OSER is also studying the use of multispectral imaging as a diagnostic tool for human and veterinary medicine. In this context, imaging would provide non-invasive, multiple views of the human or animal body to augment information provided by other tools (i.e., x-rays) to diagnose diseases such as cancer.

Laser energy has revolutionized surgical practice, and OSER is working on the medical uses of laser technology to provide deeper, more precise incisions than has traditionally been possible, and is currently developing techniques that will allow surgeons to safely and precisely cut within delicate and sensitive human tissue.

**Ambrose to speak March 23 on campus**

By Sookhan Ho

Best-selling author and distinguished historian Stephen E. Ambrose will give a talk at Virginia Tech on Thursday, March 23, as the featured speaker in this spring’s Cutchins Lecture Series, presented by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business.

His talk is titled “Citizen Soldiers,” which is also the title of his 1997 New York Times bestseller. The book chronicles the combat experiences of ordinary American soldiers during the final months of World War II. The talk begins at 7:30 p.m. in Burruss auditorium. It is free and open to the public.

Ambrose earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1963. He is the retired Boyd professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ambrose has written 20-plus books, including the best-sellers Undaunted Courage, about the Lewis and Clark expedition and the opening of the American West, and D-Day June 6, 1944, about the climatic battle of World War II. He has written other books about World War II (including Band of Brothers and Pegasus Bridge), multi-volume biographies of Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon, and a book on the parallel events in the 1914 campaigns in Flanders and France.

According to the Science Museum of Virginia, Castagnoli is one of two scientists to be named Virginia’s Outstanding Scientist of 2000. Top honors are made each year by the Science Museum of Virginia and the state of Virginia.

Castagnoli, who recently won Virginia Tech’s Alumni Award for Excellence in Research for his chemotaxonomic studies on the molecular mechanisms of neurodegenerative processes, came to Virginia Tech in 1986 as the Harvey W. Peters professor of chemistry. He is co-director of the Harvey W. Peters Center for the Study of Parkinson’s Disease and Disorders of the Nervous System and an adjunct faculty member at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. He is a world-renowned researcher whose work has brought scientists one step closer to identifying the cause of Parkinson’s disease, a progressive disorder characterized by shaking and slowing of movement. The disease is associated with destruction of certain brain cells.

Castagnoli, in pursuing the “boundaries between biology and chemistry,” has “made seminal contributions to the field of neurotoxicology,” said Larry Taylor, head of the chemistry department in the College of Arts and Sciences, where the Peter’s Center is housed. Castagnoli’s research focuses on the “molecular mechanisms by which specific chemicals cause toxic effects that ultimately lead to neuronal degenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease.”

According to the Science Museum of Virginia, Castagnoli is responsible for “helping pinpoint an underlying chemical mech-
Events

Saturday, 11
Spring Break Begins.

Wednesday, 15
“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WYTV.

Thursday, 16
Salary and Wage Paydays.
Forest Products Marketing Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC.
Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Ligon-Reaves.

Friday, 17
Forest Products Marketing Workshop, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC.

Monday, 20
Classes Resume.
University Council, 3:55 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Small Business Support Program, noon 1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G: Scott Johnson.

Tuesday, 21
Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

The Case Against Competition educational issues. His book address is free and open to the public.

Take Back the Night Rally set
The 11th annual “Take Back the Night Rally and March” in Blacksburg will be held Thursday, March 23. The purpose of this rally and candlelight march is to bring our community together to protest violence against women and to remove awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate this violence.
The rally, which will include speakers and musicians, will be held between 7:30 and 8 p.m. on the Drillfield. Beginning at 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield for a closing celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons. (In case of rain, participants will gather in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium.
Women and men of all ages are encouraged to join in the event, which is part of Women’s Month 2000.
For more information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or 951-2013, or Megan Mecom at 3-1771.

Clothesline Project display scheduled
The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise awareness of violence against women.
On a clothesline the shirts are hung side-by-side, as though the survivors were standing there themselves, shoul-der-to-shoulder, bearing witness to the violence committed against them on a daily basis. The project encourages survi-vors to come forward to “break the silence” by creating shirts against women on a daily basis. The project encourages survi-vor-to-shoulder, bearing witness to the violence committed
The clothesline is an open invitation to make a statement against violence.

Women's Month activities highlighted

The Women’s Center at Virginia Tech will sponsor activities throughout March in observance of Women’s Month.
In addition to the Take Back the Night Rally and the Clothesline Project (see Bulletins), there will be a Brown Bag Lunch from noon to 1 p.m on March 16 titled “Coming Full Circle—Working Parents.” The lunch will be in the Women’s Center conference room.
On March 21 at 6:30 p.m., the Wesley Foundation will host An Evening with Nikki Giovanni. Giovanni, university distinguished professor in English, is the author of 29 books of poetry and essays and has been known internationally since the 1960s. In 1996, she received the Langston Hughes Award.
The Women’s Month Programming Committee will sponsor “Yes to Life-Your Appreciating the Feminine and Who You Are” at 6 p.m. on March 22 in the Women’s Center conference room. This seminar will encourage women to affirm their gifts of intuition, inclusiveness, and caring when operating in top-down, highly structured environments. Phyllis Albright and Wanda Smith will emphasize balance in management styles. The discussion will be highly interactive.
A panel discussion will be held March 24 at 10 to 11:30 a.m., in 1045 Pamplin titled “Glass Ceilings and Beyond: Unmasking Women’s Leadership in Higher Education.” The moderator will be Katherine Allen, of the department of Human Development. Panelists will be Provost Peggy Mexaros, Marie McDemmond, president of Norfolk State University; and Patricia A. Sullivan, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The panelists will address challenges, dilemmas, and contributions of women’s leadership in higher education. Each will describe her own career trajectory and provide insight about what it takes for women to succeed at the top levels of academic administration.

Women's Center activities
Women's Center continues with the theme “Women's Leadership in Higher Education.”

Thursday, 23
Women's Month Project, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: Clothesline Display.
“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WYTV: Topic TBA.

Friday, 24
Women's Month Project, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women's Center: Clothesline Display.
Women's Month Project, 10-11:30 a.m., 1045 Pamplin: Panel Discussion, “Glass Ceilings and Beyond: Unmasking Women’s Leadership In Higher Education.”

Seminars
Friday, 10
ISK, 9:30 a.m., 260 NE: Peter Sandham.
Employment

Classified Positions

Web for Employees: Personnel Information On Line

By Rosie Higdon

Web for Employees provides web access to information traditionally kept in the Personnel Services Department, and makes it available on line 24 hours a day, seven days a week. University employees can access their own personnel information currently available through the twgkwbis.P_WWWLogin directly. The person-information currently available through the site is divided into two components for more efficient access.

Training for any university employee who wants to attend will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the Donovan Brown Hotel Conference center, in the front auditorium. Two one-hour classes will be offered, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Hokie PLUS is the first component of Web for Employees. Hokie PLUS offers viewing access to employee addresses, e-mail addresses, emergency contact information, name change information, PIN tool information, and social-security-number change information. Users can also update their emergency contact information. In the future, other information will be able to be updated as well.

Please note when viewing the permanent address that it is often inaccurate as it dates back to the permanent address used during school. On and after March 21, users may correct that information on line.

Hokie TEAM is the second component of Web for Employees. Hokie TEAM offers viewing access to information about benefits, job history, pay stubs, W-2 earnings and W-4 exceptions or allowances.

Web for Employees is a closed system accessible only by the university community. University employees can access the system using their PID and password wherever they have web access.

For questions or problems concerning Web for Employees contact 4-Help.

Couch appointed Pamplin development director

By Sookhan Ho

The Pamplin College of Business has appointed James Robert Couch Jr. as its new director of development.

Couch, who joined the college at the start of spring semester, earned a B.A. in accounting from Wofford College in 1999. He was formerly director of major gifts at the Greenville Hospital System Foundation in Greenville, S.C., where he has worked since November 1997.

The purpose of the fund campaign is to bring together members of the campus and community to protect violence against women and to promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate this violence.

Your organization has an excellent opportunity to share your collective voice during Women's Month 2000. To participate as a group and would like to bring signs or a group banner in support of Take Back the Night.

Couch, who joined the college at the start of spring semester, earned a B.A. in accounting from Wofford College in 1999. He was formerly director of major gifts at the Greenville Hospital System Foundation in Greenville, S.C., where he has worked since November 1997.

To participate as a group and would like to bring signs or a group banner in support of Take Back the Night.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist Web Designer, 262076M, Grade 8, Residential and Dining Programs/Marketing and Conference Services.

Radiologic Technologist, 222383G, Grade 11, Off Campus.

Switchboard Operator (Off-Services Assistant), 226022M, Grade 4, CVM.

University Only.

Program Support Technician, 7581M, Grade 6, CALS.

Off Campus.

Agricultural University, 7583M, Grade 5, Alson H. Smith Jr. AREC—Winchester.

Evening Announcer, 19022D, Grade 8, WYTF.

Office Services Assistant, 6868D, Grade 4, HHP.

Program Support Technician, 7543J, Grade 8, NVC—Computer Science.

Facility Position

Non-Nongovernmental

Department of Food Science and Technology. Head, 1-256, A. Swiger, 104 Hutchinson (4020), Revia Bergin May 15.

Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of Public Affairs. Spectrum is available free and to the public.

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Board of Visitors votes to merge two economics PH.D. programs

By Sally Harris

Two Virginia Tech economics PH.D. programs that have been working together for the past four years will merge beginning with the first summer session this year following a vote Monday by the Board of Visitors.

The Agricultural and Applied Economics PH.D. program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences originated in 1961 as a degree in agricultural economics. The Economics PH.D. program originated in 1968 in the College of Arts and Sciences. The two closely related disciplines, which already have histories of collaboration on graduate education and research, are being merged into a single PH.D. in economics.

The single degree will be granted by both departments and jointly administered. It will be offered in six fields of study: theory (microeconomics and macroeconomics), econometrics, public and regional/urban economics; markets and industrial organization; resource and environmental economics; and development and international economics. The single program will increase breadth in a minor area of study. Students must interact with faculty in their major, and obtain breadth in a minor area of study. Students must complete both written and oral preliminary examinations and a final oral-dissertation defense.

“Think the students will benefit by having a single degree title,” said John Eaton, associate provost for graduate studies. “I also think the economics program at the university will benefit because of the larger productivity of PH.D.’s with the same degree title and the increased recognition it will get nationally because of that.”

Students in the new PH.D. program must complete a core first-year curriculum providing training in economic theory, quantitative methods, and applied economics. They must successfully complete a qualifying examination of materials covered in those courses, which are considered essential to subsequent coursework, dissertation research, and professional employment. They must complete advanced field courses tailored to their specific interests, interact with faculty in their major, and obtain breadth in a minor area of study. Students must complete both written and oral preliminary examinations and a final oral-dissertation defense.

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The Departments of Economics and Agriculture are working together on a common curriculum that will be offered in six fields of study: theory (microeconomics and macroeconomics), econometrics, public and regional/urban economics; markets and industrial organization; resource and environmental economics; and development and international economics. The single program will increase breadth in a minor area of study. Students must interact with faculty in their major, and obtain breadth in a minor area of study. Students must complete both written and oral preliminary examinations and a final oral-dissertation defense.

“A fully integrated single PH.D. degree program is the best mechanism for continuing and strengthening the existing collaboration among the faculty members and graduate students, which will enhance graduate education and attunements and faculty 24/7 research productivity,” according to the merger proposal. “The merged degree program will draw on complementary strengths of the two departments in economics theory, quantitative research methods, and analysis of empirical problems.”

The departments have been collaborating for several years. Basic theory courses offered in economics have served as the foundation for PH.D. training in both departments. The departments have shared teaching responsibilities for cross-listed courses and collaborated on research in several areas.

The departments began the process of integrating their PH.D. programs in 1996 by expanding the common core of coursework in theory and research methods and revising degree requirements to be equivalent among the specialized fields of study offered by the two departments. In 1997, students from both departments began taking the same first-year written qualifying exam. Programs to orient new students have been offered for three years. The first-year core courses have been restructured to eliminate redundancy, strengthen shared teaching of first-year core courses, and increase complementary elements between field courses offered in the two departments.

The preliminaries to the merger have been in place for several years. Basic theory courses offered in economics have served as the foundation for PH.D. training in both departments. The departments have shared teaching responsibilities for cross-listed courses and collaborated on research in several areas. The departments began the process of integrating their PH.D. programs in 1996 by expanding the common core of coursework in theory and research methods and revising degree requirements to be equivalent among the specialized fields of study offered by the two departments. In 1997, students from both departments began taking the same first-year written qualifying exam. Programs to orient new students have been offered for three years. The first-year core courses have been restructured to eliminate redundancy, strengthen shared teaching of first-year core courses, and increase complementary elements between field courses offered in the two departments.

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