Veterinary College establishes endowed professorship in veterinary informatics

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The first endowed professorship ever established on the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Blacksburg campus will support a professor who is exploring and defining the new field of veterinary medical informatics.

Jeffrey Wilcke, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology who has been working in the emerging field for the past 15 years, has been named the Metcalf Endowed Professor in Veterinary Medical Informatics.

“I’m extremely honored by this appointment,” said Wilcke, a veterinary pharmacologist. “Personally and professionally, this is a very gratifying opportunity.” He continued. “But in a larger sense, this move goes a long way toward underscoring the legitimacy of this new discipline on a national scale.”

Veterinary informatics is a scientific discipline that involves the application of modern information technology to manage vast amounts of medical data.

The professorship has been made possible as a result of a $2-million gift from philanthropist Dorothy A. Metcalf of the Eastern Shore of Maryland through her private foundation. Half of Metcalf’s gift will be used to support the professorship, and another half will support other new initiatives under development in the college.

“We’re extremely grateful for both the spirit of philanthropy and the foresight which is demonstrated by Mrs. Metcalf’s gift,” said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre. “It seems especially appropriate that our first Blacksburg-based endowed professorship be placed in such an exciting and innovative area of inquiry.”

Wilcke has led the college’s Drug Information Laboratory for most of the past decade. The lab manages the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine’s electronic Animal Drug Database and several similar initiatives. Following passage of the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act in 1986, the laboratory began publishing the FDA “Greenbook” in 1989 and has published it annually ever since. The reference guide includes information concerning animal drugs’ trade and generic names, label indications, patent information, and other related facts. The laboratory soon thereafter developed and began maintaining the expanded electronic version known as the FDA-Approved Animal Drug Information Database System.

Wilcke serves as director of the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Secretariat to SNOMED International. That international system of medical nomenclature, which was established by the American College of Pathology, serves as a unifying standard for electronic medical record systems in human and veterinary medicine.

Looking ahead, Wilcke describes the opportunity:

Crittenden receives national engineering award

By Liz Crumbley

Barry Crittenden, associate professor of engineering fundamentals, received the Distinguished Service Award of the Engineering Design Graphics Division (EDGD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) during the society’s annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in June.

The award is the highest honor that can be presented to a member of EDGD. Crittenden is only the second Virginia Tech faculty member to receive the award since its inception in 1979. Recipients must demonstrate success in improving their teaching methods and tools through a variety of professional activities. The award also recognizes other significant honors, scholarly contributions, and service to EDGD.

Hokies, NASCAR team up for scholarship fund

Virginia Tech has entered into an innovative marketing relationship with NASCAR officials that will generate tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship support for deserving students.

The university has teamed up with Wood Brothers Racing, an Emporia-based organization, to create a special-edition race car bearing the Virginia Tech logo on the hood and a special Hokie Bird on each rear panel. The car will compete in a September 9 race in Richmond.

While the deal cost the university $5,000 up front, Virginia Tech will receive 8 percent of all revenues from the sale of hats, T-shirts, die-cast model cars and other merchandise bearing the Virginia Tech logo. Tech officials expect to generate $75,000 to $100,000 from these sales and other licensing agreements. The university uses its licensing revenue to support the general scholarship fund.

During the past year, the university’s licensing revenue increased from $340,000 to $540,000.
**Veterinary College to present second in symposium series**

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The many virtues of the “human-animal bond” are readily apparent. But close relationships between people and companion animals can present some hazards too, chiefly in the form of parasitic and infectious diseases that can be spread by animals to people.

These diseases, termed zoonotic, and the risks they present, will be explored by experts during a symposium entitled “Educating Physicians and Veterinarians on the Risks of Animal Interactions to Human Health and Well-being” hosted by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine on Friday, Sept. 22, from 8-5 p.m. The event will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

The event is the second in a series of three annual symposiums hosted by the Veterinary College designed to explore the linkages between human and veterinary medicine. Entitled “The Bridge between Veterinary Medicine and Human Health,” the series was created to generate increased professional and public awareness of the therapeutic aspects of human-animal interaction, human threats posed by human-animal interaction, and public-health and food-safety issues related to human-animal interaction.

The series is sponsored by the VMRCVM, the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The Virginia and the Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations (VMVA and MVMSA) Corporate sponsorship is being provided by Hill’s Pet Products and Merial, Inc.

“Physicians and veterinarians recognize the benefits of animal companionship and both are concerned with zoonotic disease threats, food-safety issues, biomedical research and the complex interdependencies between people and animals,” said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyer. “Through these symposia, we hope to create a forum in which these areas of mutual interest can be examined from a more integrated perspective.”

Speakers from around the country will make presentations on different aspects of the symposium topic.

The first symposium in the series, which featured a presentation by Michael Blackwell, assistant surgeon general of the United States, was held in fall 1999 and focused on “Beneficial Effects of Animal Companionship on Human Health and Well-Being.”

The three-year series concludes in September, 2001, with a seminar entitled “Educating Physicians about their Joint Responsibilities in Preventing and Controlling Zoonotic Disease.”

**Wood-sciences’ traveling classroom almost ready**

By Lums Davis

The Department of Wood Sciences and Forest Products plans to launch its traveling classroom this fall. Putting its Wood Magic Show on wheels is in response to the overwhelming interest by schools. The program teaches children about the value and science of wood.

Wood Magic Show coordinator and associate professor of wood science Audrey Zink-Sharp said, “We were having to turn away students from our campus event, so we needed to come up with a way to serve more students in a cost and time effective manner. Buying a trailer and taking the show on the road seems to be the answer.”

The department is currently raising funds to complete the purchase of the pickup truck that will haul the trailer.

What have some of the past participants said about the show? “I didn’t know wood was stronger if turned on its side,” said one individual. “I was ready to see the tentacles under the electronic microscope because we do not have that equipment in our classroom.”

“Seeing the colors of leaves with the chromatograph complemented our teaching unit on plants.”

Following on the heels of the annual on-campus Wood Magic Show, the department of wood science and forest products took its well-received wood educational show on the road for the first time last fall to test the response to a traveling classroom.

“Children really learn,” noted Zink-Sharp. “It was very obvious that those young minds were captivated by the wood-sciences demonstrations and the hands-on experiments.” Students were amazed to discover that just like trees are different on the outside, different species were also different on the inside. It was hard for them to believe that they each used three pounds of sugar in their daily diet.

The instructional program was developed around the state’s Standards of Learning for third and fourth grades, so the event has become very popular with Virginia schools. Teachers are given a kit of supplemental teaching materials.

Because the department recognizes the importance of educating today’s young people about the role of wood products and the forest products industries in their everyday lives, the College of Natural Resources has hired a permanent, full-time youth educator.
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EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position-closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services website at http://www.pms.vt.edu. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with an “A” 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. Monday. An/E/O/A employer committed to diversity.

Full Time

Account Animal Care Supervisor, 9690, Grade 9, Animal Care Technical C, 2639, Grade 8, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Applications Analyst, 2145L, Grade 7, Web Application Development.

Applications Analyst, 1226L, Grade 6, Web Application Development.

Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager, Food Service Operations), 1118G, Grade 11, Food Service Operations.

Boiler Operator, 056G, Grade 6, Power Plant.

Boiler Operator Assistant, 338G, Grade 4, Power Plant.

Bookkeeper/Technical Typist (Program Support Technician), 1896T, Grade 6, Statistical.

Budget Analyst, 6927T, Grade 10, Budget.

Business Researcher, 7614D, Grade 11, VA.

Communications Account Assistant (Program Support Tech Sr, 0204A, Grade 7, CNS), 8303, Grade 5, Media.

Computer Support Technician Senior, 3402U, Grade 10, SHS.


Computer Systems Engineer, 0180T, Grade 14, Computer Science.


Desktop Computer Support Technician, 1893A, Grade 8, CND.

Electrician, 7565Q, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

Enrollment Services Assistant (Administrative Assistant), 7618T, Grade 7, Biology, Executive Secretary, 5127M, Grade 8, CALS/JH.

Executive Secretary, 0098, Grade 7, Industrial Systems Engineering.

Ten full-time food operations positions available, live part-time positions.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 054H, Grade 9, Residential/Dining Programs/Queen’s Court.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 2820H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Shultz Dining Center.

Food Operations Manager B/Executive Director, 0025H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Shultz Dining Center.

Food Production Worker A/Food Production Superintendant, 0549, Grade 7, Residential/Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.

Front Desk Clerk (Office Services Assistant), 25030, Grade 4, DBHC.

Gardener, 3752J, Grade 8, Horticultural Science.

Laboratory Technician C, 7608T, Grade 9, Physical Plant.

Laboratory Specialist, 447HM, Grade 8, Animal Pathology Sciences.

Laboratory Specialist, 7624T, Grade 8, Chemical Engineering.

Laboratory Specialist, 2650L, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine (VME).

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7614T, Grade 9, Biology.

Learning Technologies System Integrator, 7618Q, Grade 15, Educational Technologies.

Manufacturing Processes Laboratory Supervisor, 00977, Grade 11, Industrial Systems Engineering.

Medical Technologist, 2673T, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Assistant, LC287F, Grade 4, Human Resources.

Office Services Specialist, 3078T, Grade 7, Statistiques.

Office Services Specialist, 7201J, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine (VME).

Oracle Dba, 6779D, Grade 6, Information Systems/Computing.

Personnel Assistant, 5654T, Grade 7, Personnel Services.

Program Support Technician, 7627T, Grade 6, Engineering, Program Support Technician, 1208J, Grade 6, OUS.

Program Support Technician, 2960G, Grade 6, International Programs.

Program Support Technician, 7038J, Grade 6, Military Affairs.

Program Support Technician Sr, 0365J, Grade 7, interdisciplinary Programs.

Programmer, 6565F, Grade 10, University Library.

Programmer, 1864F, Grade 10, University Library.

Programmer Analyst, 1643T, Grade 12, Budget/Financial Planning.

Programmer Analyst, 7657T, Grade 12, Engineering.

Research Software Developer, 7637T, Grade 14, Virginia Biotechnology Institute.

Senior Secretary, 2052J, Grade 6, CNS.

Security Guard, 002470G, Grade 2, Police Department.

Security Lead Guard, 1357G, Grade 3, Police Department.

Switchboard Operator (Office Services Assistant), 05684A, Grade 4, CNS.

Systems Administrator, 7638T, Grade 16, Virginia Biotechnology Institute.

Trades Utilities Senior Worker, 7115G, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

Turboine Operator, 2220G, Grade 6, Physical Plant/Power Plant.

University Records Manager, 7626G, Grade 7, Records Management Services.

Part Time

Animal Care Technician A, W02155J, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

C-print Captionist, W0230H, Grade 10, Senate Services.

Fiscal Assistant, W02397M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Housekeeping Worker, W003547G, Grade 1, DBHC.

Housekeeping Worker, W002190G, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping.

Housekeeping Worker, W022494H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Instrument/Equipment Technician, W02407T, Grade 8, Music Department.

Laboratory Technician, W022707G, Grade 4, Chemistry.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117T, Grade 5, DHSS.

Office Services Assistant, W022606J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Specialist, W02083U, Grade 5, Graduate School Support Office.

Office Services Specialist, W022329T, Grade 5, Undergraduate Admissions.

Pharmacy Assistant A, W02083J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Program Support Technician, W022617M, Grade 6, Horticulture.

Secretary Senior, 4557M, Grade 5, Natural Resources.

Security Guard, W020305Q, Grade 2, Police Department.

Switchboard Operator (Office Services Assistant), W02101A, Grade 4, CNS.

Web Content Designer, W023068T, Grade 10, Computer Science.

University Only

Office Services Specialist, U7635J, Grade 5, Health Care Center.

Off Campus

Announcer, W028000, Grade 8, University Relations/WVTF.

Executive Secretary, 9326L, Grade 6, North Carolina Virginia.

Office Services Assistant, 955J3, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 6013J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 6348J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 7631J, Grade 4, Office Services Assistant.

INFORMATION

Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial Hall (0317). Review begins September 15.

Department of Chemistry. Tenure-track Position, Inorganic Chemistry. Contact: Brian Hanson, 107 Davidson Hall (0212). Review begins November 1.


Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. Assistant Professors (2). Contact: Dean Staufer, 102 Chestnut Hall (0321). Review begins November 1.


Virginia Cooperative Extension. Child Care Research Associate. #111429, Shenandoah Co. Contact: Karen Lynn Fall, VCE, 630 N. Main St., Woodstock, VA 22664. Review begins July 24.


INFORMATION

Long-term Classified Staff Members to Receive Additional Leave

Effective July 21, 2000, the following long-term classified staff members will receive an additional six days at 15 years and an extra 12 days at service.

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‘I am pleased to announce the expansion of annual leave benefits for the commonwealth’s long-serving state employees,’ Gilmore said.

In conjunction with recommendations made by a bipartisan legislative commission studying these issues, we have carefully crafted policies that are good for state workers and good for the commonwealth,” Secretary of Administration G. Bryan Slater said.

The increased annual-leave accrual rates, maximum carry-over limits and maximum payment limits become effective with the pay period beginning July 10, 2000. The new accrual rates will be credited to employees at the completion of that pay period and available for use on July 25, 2000. The changes are expected to have minimal fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

The new benefits, which result in an additional hour accrued per pay period, mean an additional three days of annual leave may be accrued each year for employees with 15 years of service and an additional six days when an employee reaches 25 years of service. Carryover limits will increase by one day for each year of service.

The new benefits, which result in an additional hour accrued per pay period, mean an additional three days of annual leave may be accrued each year for employees with 15 years of service and an additional six days when an employee reaches 25 years of service. Carryover limits will increase by one day for each year of service.
Tech-led programs assist military with quality-of-life initiatives

By Jean Elliott
Sandi Stith, director of the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) graduate program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center, oversees one of the premiere master's and post-master's certificate programs in the country.

A domestic violence researcher and former Peace Corps volunteer, Stith has, over the last six years, developed a strong partnership with the US military, cultivating more than $4.5 million in research and training grants. Her professional activities include coordinating national conventions and consulting on wide-ranging quality-of-life initiatives affecting military families.

"The military takes what goes on with the family seriously," Stith said, "because it affects mission readiness. There are very specific stressors that are specifically military-related. And now, we are experiencing the highest deployment rate in a non-war-time situation."

It used to be that military wives held the home life on the bases together—new issues cloud the scene. Now, 70 percent of military families have dual careers. There are an ever-increasing number of single military mothers. In some cases, both parents are in active-duty roles and must develop formal plans for taking care of their children in the event both are deployed at the same time. Teenagers struggle with how to reintegrate a parent into their lives after a period of absence. Instant media coverage streams images into the living room—children can actually see that daddy's ship or mommy's unit is in the midst of a difficult situation. Naturally, this is distressing for families.

One of the military projects in which Stith and her colleagues are engaged is developing new healthy parenting practices and materials that are uniquely suited to the needs of military families. The Department of Defense is engaged in a Defense initiative, which is directed by Karen Rosen, will focus on a range of military-unique family issues such as intermittent single parenting, frequent deployments, separation from extended-familysupport systems, and frequent relocation of family members. A central goal is to develop a variety of materials to complement traditional methods for delivering family support and reaching those families likely least likely to ask for help.

In another undertaking begun in 1999, the Youth Collaboration Project (YCP) partners the Air Force with Cooperative Extension to create and implement strong, sustainable youth-development programs on bases across the nation. Designed to target at-risk youth, a three-year trial is being implemented on nine bases. Ron Drum, a research faculty member, is coordinating the development and execution of the project. Youth-serving agencies both on the base and in the surrounding community are combining their unique capabilities and resources, with cohorts from each base developing the overall vision with goals, plans, and strategies. At the end of three years, the YCP model will be made available to all Air Force installations for possible inclusion in their family support efforts.

"Stith's most recent project is working with a group of Air Force and Army social workers to develop an assessment tool for military families that can help evaluate the risk of a recurrence. Social workers in both the Army and Air Force are regularly required to make predictions about the likelihood of future violence by alleged offenders. This tool could help provide better protection for victims, as well as more appropriate treatment for offenders."

As coordinator for USDA-sponsored Air Force Family Advocacy Research, Stith oversees all of the aforementioned projects. With each of these projects, Virginia Tech partners with other land-grant universities under a USDA-CSREES (U.S. Department of Agriculture–Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service) cooperative agreement. Faculty colleagues Eric McCollih, Angela Huebner, and Rosen, as well as Blackburg-based Jay Mancini and Lydia Mears, regularly contribute to these projects. Bill Gilles, a retired Coast Guard officer, helps with the management of resources. Stith also regularly involves her grad students.

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Guinness Book of World Records by breaking the world speed record during the national Human Powered Submarine Contest in San Diego, California, July 20-23.

The team of engineering undergraduates has designed and built Phantom III, a streamlined, fiber-glass, one-man submarine so sleek that the Virginia Tech students have high expectations of both breaking the speed record (6.98 knots, set in 1997 by a team from a Canadian university) and winning the competition.

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CWT announces new corporate affiliation

By Susan Trulove
Virginia Tech’s Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) has announced a new corporate affiliation with Arc Second, Inc. of Dulles.

CWT faculty and staff members and students conduct research on radio-frequency (RF) systems and components, antennas, satellite communication, wireless networks, and business and regulatory issues affecting wireless telecommunications.

Arc Second is a venture-capital-backed high-technology company that specializes in the design and development of 3-D measurement and tracking technology called 3D-Intelligence (3D-I).

“Products incorporating 3D-I technology are revolutionizing the way in which people collect, process, and apply 3D position and tracking information,” said Charles Bostian, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of CWT.

A Technology Development Center of Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology, CWT translates the resources of leading communications, field of wireless-telecommunications industry. The university center draws upon resources from national and regional groups and Virginia’s many satellite communications, telecommunications, and electronics companies.

Arc Second is currently developing a range of 3D-based products that will be released under a number of well-known brand names. These products will be marketed and manufactured through licenses, strategic partnerships, and alliances, and will be aimed at consumer, professional, and industrial applications.

CWT offers cost-effective university teams and existing laboratories to help companies leverage their resources and achieve stronger results. The center has been involved in projects ranging from space telecommunications to television marketing. CWT researchers have provided results that range from financial assessments, to antenna design and prototyping, to modern development, to the research and development necessary to take an idea through the development stages to a viable product. More information about the center is available at www.cwt.vt.edu.