University supporters set new standard for private giving

By Sherry Bisbrell

Virginia Tech closed the books on fiscal year 1998-99 with another exceptionally strong year in private giving. The university received $55 million from alumni and friends compared to $71.4 million for the previous year. Excluding an extraordinary gift of $23 million in patents and equipment from DuPont to the College of Engineering in 1998-99, this year’s results mark the first time the university has reached $50 million or more in contributions from the private sector.

Among the university’s supporters, alumni were the most generous, donating more than $18 million, a $1.7-million increase over last year. Students raised their support by 65 percent over the previous year, while their parents followed their lead by giving $1.3 million, 82 percent more than last year. Virginia Tech faculty and staff members more than doubled the amount they gave in fiscal year 1998-99, contributing almost $1.2 million.

A number of colleges and programs were major beneficiaries of this generosity. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences surpassed last year’s total in private support by 89 percent with $8.3 million in gifts, while the College of Human Resources and Education jumped from $815,000 to more than $1.6 million. Donors to the College of Architecture and Urban Studies increased their contributions to $945,000, more than double what they gave during the previous 12 months. The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine recorded a 54-percent increase over the last fiscal year, and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center received $2.4 million, four times the total from last year. Intercollegiate Athletics, boosted in part by the football team’s bid for the national championship, was the recipient of a record $10 million in contributions.

The university’s endowment also saw a significant increase in private funding. The $19.7 million earmarked for endowment support was $7.3 million more than fiscal year 1998-99. Funds designated for current operations, capital facilities, and sponsored programs comprised the balance of a rising trend to which donors directed their philanthropy.

The university’s strong performance in attracting private support continues two years after the successful completion of a comprehensive fundraising campaign and during a year in which the university raised its national profile in several areas. The year’s highlights included the introduction of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute which will propel Virginia Tech into a leadership position in the field of bioinformatics; the formation of a partnership with the University of Virginia and Carilion Health System to create a biomedical institute in Roanoke; the conclusion of the first phase of the Smart Road, the nation’s first fully instrumented highway; and the culmination of an undefeated football season leading to the team playing for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl.

“Each year we establish new milestones and set new records as targets for the following year,” said Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president for Development and University Relations. “And this is made possible in large part by the continued generosity of our supporters.”

Tech entomologist deals with Africanized-bee swarm

By Stewart MacInnis

The honey bees that attacked and killed a goat in Low Moor in July were Africanized honey bees, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists who used a computer-assisted identification program to identify the bees.

Officials at USDA and at Virginia Tech are quick to caution however that the Africanized bees were probably an isolated swarm that had caught a ride into the area on a truck or rail car, and it’s unlikely there are other colonies.

“There were two ‘swarms’ at the hive near where the goat was killed. Those clustered on the front of the hive turned out to be the AHB’s,” said Richard Fell, Virginia Tech entomologist. “The bees that were inside the hive were regular European honey bees. Apparently, the Africanized bees were trying to take over the existing hive.”

Both clusters of bees were destroyed by Fell and Virginia Tech colleague Eric Day. Although there have not been any other indications or reports of aggressive actions by bees in the area, Fell said that Virginia Tech would be setting up monitoring sites near where the bees were discovered.

Kim Kaplan, an Agricultural Research Service spokesperson, said it is not possible to tell Africanized honey bees (AHB’s) from the European or feral bees by eye. Both types of honey bees look almost exactly alike and their venom is also similar. Distinguishing between AHB’s and other honey bees is done by trained specialists using a special computer program, she said.

“The behavior of all honey bees runs the<br>(See ENTOMOLOGIST on 4)

Graduate students adapting to EDT process

By Susan Trulove

A succession of surveys since 1997 of Virginia Tech graduate students who have been creating electronic theses and dissertations (EDT’s) indicate the students are adapting more easily to the requirement with each year. Students’ comments on the survey forms have gone from, “Give me a damn typewriter,” to “I laughed, I cried, it became a part of me,” and “I think the web site was great!”

As a result of a survey of more than 500 graduates who submitted EDT’s between January and May 9, 2000, Gail McMillan, director of the Virginia Tech Digital Library and Archives, reports that more than 75 percent plan to publish some aspect of their work in the next two years. Of 166 graduate-level alumni who responded (50 percent return rate) to two surveys sent since November 1998, 58 report they have published some part of their final research. None report resistance from publishers because the work had already been on line, which was an early concern regarding EDT’s.

Although library databases indicate thousands of viewings of the EDT’s, only 20 percent of the survey responders report actually being directly contacted. Most of the alumni had no idea their work had been downloaded as many times as the library reported. A frequent request was that the authors be informed of who was downloading their research.

Seventeen alumni said being contacted about downloading their electronic document helped advance their research interest; 10 said it helped them locate a job; 13 said the contacts expanded their network of research colleagues. One alumna commented, “It really helped in job interviews to let prospective employers see examples of my research and writing skills.”

Fifty alumni said they received positive comments and three received negative comments. One person wrote, “I have not been contacted, but I have run into a few people at conferences who have said they read and enjoyed my work.”

Ninety-six percent of the graduate alumni responding to the survey report they are satisfied that their work is more widely known and appreciated as a result of EDT’s being accessible.

Find 2,610 EDT’s at http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/.

Summer orientation receives high marks from students

By Kimberly Richards-Thomas

Virginia Tech hosted approximately 4,500 students and 7,500 parents during this year’s summer-orientation program held July 5 through July 28. The program consisted of 14 day-and-a-half sessions.

“Our mission is to help students feel more comfortable and confident about their decision to come here in August,” said Greg Wolcott, orientation administrator. According to Wolcott, Tech’s orientation program consistently receives high evaluations from attendants, and this year

(See SUMMER on 4)
Dubnoff Awarded to McNair Researcher

By Susan Tralove

Marilyn Kershaw, a higher-education administrator with more than 10 years of experience in student and academic affairs, has been named director of graduate-student recruiting, according to Eugene Brown, associate provost for program development in Research and Graduate Studies.

Kershaw, who has been with the Academic Resource Center at Temple University for three years, most recently as assistant director, began her duties at Virginia Tech on July 17.

"Marilyn has worked with a variety of constituencies to build successful programs that increase student opportunities and successes," Brown said. "She will help the university achieve its research and graduate-education goals."

Kershaw received her Ph.D. in health and science education in 1976 from the State University of New York at Cortland. "I've always been interested in education. I love the changing, challenging, questioning atmosphere and I like to work with students," she said.

In the early 1980s she worked in student recruitment at Eastern Washington University in Cheney and earned a master of education degree in guidance and counseling from Whitworth College in Spokane.

Kershaw held administrative positions at Oberlin College and the College of Wooster before joining Temple University in 1994. She also began doctoral studies in higher-education administration at Temple.

At Oberlin, she worked with the community and with the faculty to increase the numbers of students who enrolled and to make sure they graduated.

(See KERSHAW on 4)
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://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 1-888-VTPROF. 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 of posted positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EOAA employer committed to diversity.

Full Time

Accountant, N/A, Grade 9, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Animal Care Supervisor, 6989J, Grade 11, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Animal Care Technician C, 3693J, Grade 7, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Applications Analyst, 2145L, Grade 0, Web Application Research and Development.

Architect Senior, 7643G, Grade 13, Office of University Architect.

Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant), 1118G, Grade 6, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Boiler Operator, 050G, Grade 6, Power Plant.

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

Bookkeeper/Technical Typist (Program Support Technician), 1886T, Grade 6, Statistics.

Budget Analyst, 6922T, Grade 10, Budget/Financial Planning.

Business Researcher, 7616D, Grade 11, VTIC.

Computer Network Support Technician, 3949G, Grade 10, EHS.

Computer Network Support Technician, Senior, 6510G, Grade 10, Philosophy.

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

Data Warehouse Architect, 6701L, Grade 0, Information Systems/Computing.

Electrician, 7565G, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

Electronic Technician Supervisor, 7632J, Grade 11, VTIC.

Executive Secretary, 7473T, Grade 6, Provost.

Executive Secretary, 5127M, Grade 6, CALS-H.

Executive Secretary, 2870G, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 0395, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Owens Dining Center.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 0849G, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/ Southgate Bake Shop.

Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef, 0266H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/ Loyalty Center.

Food Production Worker A/Food Production Supervisor, 0558H, Grade 3, Residential and Dining Programs/Commissary.

Grants Specialist (Fiscal Manager), 7613T, Grade 9, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Housekeeping Supervisor, 0824, Grade 4, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 1631G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, 7605C, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 1025H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 6924H, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs.

Instructional Technologist (Programmer/ Analyst), 7509, Grade 12, Agricultural, Natural/ Human Resources Information Technology.

Interpreter for the Deaf, 7477J, Grade 8, Dean of Students.

Instructor, Laboratory Instrument Maker, 1005T, Grade 10, ISE.

Instructor, Laboratory Mechanic C, 7608T, Grade 6, CPES.

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

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

Instructor, Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7645M, Grade 9, PPWS.


Instructor, Library Specialist, 1043F, Grade 9, University Libraries/Technical Services.

Medical Technologist, 2637J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

New Media Center Operations Assistant, 7647L, Grade 9, Instructional Services.

Office Services Specialist, 1719T, Grade 5, University Registrar.

Office Services Specialist, 1310T, Grade 5, University Registrar.

Office Services Specialist, LC068F, Grade 5, Hokie Passport.

Oracle DbA, 6779D, Grade 0, ISC.

Photocopy Technician, 7783A, Grade 4, Printing Services.


Program Support Technician, 1410J, Grade 6, Systems Research Center.

Program Support Technician, 3078T, Grade 6, Office Services.

Program Support Technician, 1583T, Grade 6, Sociology.

Program Support Technician, 2690G, Grade 6, Office Services.

Program Support Technician, 2718T, Grade 6, Personnel Services.

Program Support Technician, 7627T, Grade 6, Engineering.

Program Support Technician (Asst. Mgr. for Guest Services), 0685G, Grade 6, DBHCC.

Program Support Technician Sr, 7634J, Grade 7, VCERR.

Programmer, 6656F, Grade 10, University Libraries.

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

Programmer Analyst, 7367T, Grade 12, Engineering.

Programmer Analyst, N/A, Grade 13, Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist, LC076L, Grade 8, Alumni Relations.

Research Software Developer, 7637T, Grade 14, Information Technology/Security.

Security Guard, W020470G, Grade 2, Police Department.

Senior Software Specialist, 7648T, Grade 8, University Honors — Provost.

Systems Administrator, 7636T, Grade 16, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.

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

Turbine Operator, 2220G, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

University Records Manager, 7626G, Grade 11, Records Management Services.

Veterinary Technologist B, W022020J, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Financial Assistant, W022979T, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Fiscal Assistant, W023088T, Grade 5, Women’s Center.

Programme Support Worker, W020190C, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping Services.

Programme Support Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Programme Support Worker, W022495H, Grade 4, Residential/Dining Programs.

Installation/Repair Technician, W020343T, Grade 8, Music Department.

Instructor, Laboratory Technician, W024433M, Grade 4, PPWS.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020627T, Grade 5, Chemistry.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117T, Grade 5, EHS.

Office Services Assistant, W022260J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Assistant, W022356G, Grade 4, DBHCC.

Office Services Assistant, W022904F, Grade 4, University Libraries, Circulation/Reserve Desk.

Office Services Specialist, W024044J, Grade 5, Dean of Students.

Pharmacy Assistant A, W020839J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Program Support Technician, W023083J, Grade 6, Alzheimer’s.

Program Support Technician, W023092F, Grade 6, University Libraries/Digital Library and Archives.

Program Support Technician, W022506J, Grade 6, Athletics.

Radiologic Technologist, W022283J, Grade 7, Health Center.

Recreation Supervisor A, W022916J, Grade 5, Adult Day Services.

Research Specialist, W020395M, Grade 8, WSPF.

Security Guard, W023055G, Grade 2, Police Department.

Storekeeper Helper (Pick-up/Delivery Driver), W020391A, Grade 2, Printing Services.

Utilities Utility Worker, W023093J, Grade 3, VTJ.

Trades/Utilities Worker, W022966H, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities.

Virtual Learning Environment Designer, W023068T, Grade 10, Computer Science.

Off Campus Announcer, W020800L, Grade 8, University Relations/WVTF.

Executive Secretary, 2092J, Grade 6, Northern Virginia Center.

Program Support Technician, 7644J, Grade 11, CPAP.

Office Services Assistant, 6587J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 6585J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant (Ethem Program 14-T2), 5898M, Grade 4, VCE—Hampton City.
Sam Obenshain, 96

By Jean Elliott

Mehdi Addoost, 45

By Liz Crumley

Obits

Tech submarine finishes first

SAMM: Continued from 1

Mehdi Addoost, managing director of the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, died suddenly on Sunday, July 30. He was 45. Director of the on-campus hospitality facility since July 1997, Addoost was also a faculty member in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Addoost received his undergraduate degree from the College of Gazalli in industrial management and Marketing. He went on to earn a MBA at James Madison University and continued his education through hospitality programs at Holiday Inn University.

“Mehdi’s sudden death is a shock to the university community,” said Ted Settle, Tech’s director of continuing education and Addoost’s supervisor. “His warm demeanor and smiling face have greeted and welcomed visitors to the Donaldson Brown Center for several years.”

Before coming to Tech in 1996 as the hotel’s operating manager, Addoost had served in various general-management positions in the hospitality industry since 1979.

ENTOMOLOGIST

Continued from 1

continuum from docile to aggressive, depending on a number of factors including weather and the availability of nectar,” Kaplan said. “AHB’s tend to be more defensive, stinging in greater numbers with less provocation. But they sting in defense of their nest; a single honey bee out looking for nectar is not dangerous unless you are allergic to bee stings.”

The chances of being killed by honey bees of any sort is never in the hundreds of thousands, but is no exception. “A preliminary look at the chances of being hit by lightning; according to Center for Disease Control statistics.

Africanized honey bees (AHB’s) are the hybrid of African honey bees, which were brought to Brazil in 1956 and accidentally released, and honey bees referred to as feral bees or European honey bees (EHB’s), which were originally brought to the New World by European colonists. Honey bees are not native to the U.S. AHB’s spread north and south from Brazil and were first found in the U.S. in Hidalgo, TX in 1990. Since then they have spread to Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Nevada as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In addition, each year, a number of swarms are found to have hitched rides on ships, trains, and trucks, coming either from the Southwest U.S. or ships coming from South or Central America. Since January 2000, four such human-assisted transports have been identified as AHB’s: one found in West Virginia, believed to have come from Brazil, two in Illinois, and this one in Virginia. In 1996, as warm is believed to have gotten off a ship in Norfolk but wasn’t discovered until it showed up in Maine, transported there by truck. The swarm was placed outside and the bees froze.

This year, on July 5, bees attacked and killed a local goat owned by James L. Downey in Low Moor. This goat was tethered about 20 feet from an active hive on a cloudy, rainy day. Downey tried to rescue the goat during the attack but was driven off by bees. Downey, his wife, and a sheriff’s deputy had to be treated at a local hospital for bee stings. Members of the local fire department were eventually able to wash the bees off the goat but it died about 30 minutes later.

The next week, Day and Fell went to Low Moor and destroyed the hive, including the bees outside the hive. Day said the Africanized bees were most likely destroyed before they could establish a colony or reproduce with the European honey bees. Samples from the hive were then sent to an Agricultural Research Service laboratory in Beltsville for positive identification.

KERSHAW

Continued from 2

“that is something like what I will be doing at Virginia Tech,” Kershaw said. “Here, I will be working with department administrators and faculty members to help the university meet its goal to increase the number of graduate students, particularly the number of minority graduate students, and to help graduate students succeed.”

“I will also be working with other institutions and minority-run businesses to enhance and develop faculty-member and student exchange programs to promote sponsorship for research activities that involve and support students.”

At Virginia Tech, Kershaw will soon convene an ad-hoc committee for minority graduate student recruitment to look at building an effective program to improve the host institution’s ranking. The committee will participate in the Emerging Leaders’ workshop. The program hosts faculty members and students from historically black colleges and universities for workshops at the Hotel Roanoke and Virginia Tech on how to succeed in graduate school and in industry, and for visits to campus centers and departments.

Kershaw will also be a leader at the transition workshop for new graduate students this fall, and at the graduate school preview weekend in the spring.