Steger creates university leadership posts

By John Ashby

President Charles Steger has announced the creation of two leadership posts designed to enable the university to find ways to address emerging issues and to focus those future directions.

The new offices will report to the provost and executive vice president and will give focus to major new university-wide initiatives. Steger has appointed Leonard Ferrari, department head of electrical and computer engineering to become vice provost for special initiatives. Ferrari will work closely with Lenwood McCoy, who has been named associate vice president for special initiatives. Steger said both appointments are for one year.

“Our challenge is to take full advantage of new opportunities while keeping a clear focus on our academic mission and ensure the vitality of our teaching, research and Extension/public-service missions,” Steger said.

The positions, in conjunction with a Strategic Initiatives Council, will oversee the embryonic and startup phases of new ventures. Later the venture may pass to a college as a center or department or become a stand-alone institute or some other organizational entity, Steger said.

The purpose of these administrative actions is to position the university to quickly mobilize and coordinate resources from throughout the institution. Recently, Steger said, members of the university leadership team shared with a group of management consultants elements of the university’s vision of the future, including the desire to become a leading research university, expand graduate enrollment, improve the ability to respond to needs of the educational marketplace, and further advance the environment for undergraduate teaching and learning.

Ferrari’s first task, Steger said, will be to find ways to support the information-technology community and further strengthen and coalesce the university’s many areas of excellence in information technology. “We envision the creation of an Institute for Information Technology with links to campus and the Northern Virginia IT community,” Steger said.

Ferrari and McCoy will charged to prepare a plan to create an Institute for Information Technology. “They will work in concert with deans, department heads, and faculty members to develop a thoughtful and sound proposal for consideration by the university community,” Steger said.

There will be three key objectives, Steger said. The programs must be among the best in the world. They must exist in meeting the needs of the information technology industry in Virginia, and they must explore the re-configuration of the production equation with concepts such as just-in-time learning and joint development of courseware.

“As an entrepreneurial university, we need to quickly respond to changing needs. Leadership from senior professionals with direct linkage to the provost and executive vice president is necessary to give attention to new initiatives,” Steger said.

Buikema recognized as national outstanding teacher

By Laura Templeton,

University Relations intern

The National Association of Biology Teachers and Benjamin/Cummings Publishers have awarded Arthur Buikema the Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year Award in the Four-Year College and University Division.

Buikema, professor of biology and ecology, is being recognized for his context-based learning strategy of teaching. Buikema challenges students to think critically and to construct creative solutions to problems, learning facts as needed instead of being taught them in a linear sequence.

Buikema teaches honors biology, general biology, principles of biology and ecology. He teaches upper-level courses with classes ranging in size from 20 students to the large introductory course with over 300 students. He often teaches his classes without lectures. Instead, students work in groups on experimental designs and daily writing assignments.

Students in general-biology class are given essay tests, daily writing assignments, and a group project to design an experiment. He challenges students to improve their critical-thinking skills as opposed to memorization skills. Students in his ecology class worked in groups to recreate the Serengeti, Africa’s national park and design a food web for this ecosystem.

They used a modeling software program to construct food chains and wrote research papers on the subject. Buikema is also designing a one-year introductory course in which biology students create their own learning environment.

Most students react positively to his teaching style and commented on being motivated to go beyond his regular assignments. From strong letters of recommendation, it is apparent that his colleagues react positively too. After receiving the award Buikema said, “I feel extraordinarily honored to be recognized by my colleagues for innovative teaching.”

Buikema will receive his award at the NABT convention in Orlando, Fla., on October 26. He will deliver an invited talk about context-based teaching style.

Crawford named DBHCC interim managing director

By Arleen Campbell

Steve Crawford, the director of conference services at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center (HRCC), has been named the interim managing director for the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC).

“The 21 years before coming to HRCC, Steve held management positions at the Meadows/Aspen Institute, Mobil Corporation, Marriott Corporation at IBM’s Corporate Technical Institute, Data General, Gannett/USA Today, and the Westin Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel,” said Ted Settle, director of continuing education. “His rich experience is critical to a consistent program and to a program that does help the GTA’s.”

On a 4.0 scale, the students gave the program a 3.66 for its organization, a 3.52 for its scope, a 3.39 for its depth of coverage, and a 3.41 for overall usefulness. The program rated a 3.18 for having increased students’ confidence. One student wrote, “It was helpful, even inspiring. Maybe I’ll make it after all.” And another said, “It demonstrated Virginia Tech’s commitment to education. I’m better prepared now.”

Based on comments gleaned from student evaluations, students praised sessions on how to grade, use of technology, the honor system, and working with students with disabilities. Many students praised the sessions with experienced GTA’s. Comments indicated that students appreciated the information on resources and services available. Students suggested more interaction, more hands-on small-group sessions, and either concurrent sessions on speci-
Applications are now open for the Third Hammond Lecture on Religious Ethics, scheduled for October. The Religious Studies Program in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities is conducting a two-day event that will feature a seminar and a public lecture by Dr. Reva Siegel of the Center for Theological Studies. The seminar will focus on the role of religious institutions in the work of reconciliation and will address the current challenges faced by religious organizations in promoting social justice and equality. The public lecture, titled "Opening Up Space: The Role of Religious Institutions in the Work of Reconciliation," will take place on October 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillcrest Honors Conference Room. Dr. Siegel is an esteemed scholar in the field of religious studies and has made significant contributions to the study of religious institutions and their role in promoting social justice. The event is free and open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to register in advance to ensure their seats. For more information, please visit the Religious Studies Program's website at http://gusa.usa.vt.edu/ or contact the event coordinator at 1-6995.
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.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 1-5300. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Jobs are advertised using both the old job title and pay grade as well as the new role and pay grade; situations 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 the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME

Administrative/Research Assistant, 007674T, Grade 0, Electrical/Computer Engineering.

Administrative Associate, 007161L, Grade 0, University Development.

Animal Care Supervisor, 6998L, Grade 11, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician B, 496J, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Applications Analyst, 002145L, Grade 0, Web Application Research/Development.

Applications Analyst, 001226L, Grade 0, Web Application Research/Development.

Assistant Manager, 6522H, Grade 6, Residential/Dining Programs/Dietrick Express.

Assistant Manager, 1033H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Dietrick Dining Center.

Assistant to Director of Annual Giving, 002226L, Grade 6, University Development.

Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant), 1118G, Grade 6, DBHCC.

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

Computer Systems Engineer, 006981J, Grade 14, Research/Graduate Studies.

Development Associate, 2179L, Grade 6, University Development.

Development Associate, 002102L, Grade 0, University Development.

Electronics Technician, 007656J, Grade 9, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

Executive Assistant, 007672T, Grade 0, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.

Executive Assistant, 004001T, Grade 7, Center for Power Electronics Systems.

Executive Chef, 0266H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Shultz Dining Center.

Facility Manager, 007240J, Grade 8, Recreational Sports.

Grounds Worker Senior, 003030G, Grade 3, Physical Plant/Grounds/Recycling/Solid Waste.

Grounds Worker Senior, 001546G, Grade 3, Physical Plant.

Highway Equipment Operator A, 000843G, Grade 0, Physical Plant/Grounds.


Housekeeping Supervisor, 000824H, Grade 4, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 002108C, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping.

Housekeeping Worker, 0278H, Grade 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, 1631G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 6926H, Grade 3, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 2745H, Grade 3, RDP.

Interpreter for Deaf, 7472J, Grade 8, Dean of Students.

Lab Specialist, 001972M, Grade 0, Veterinary Medicine/MLD—Academic Affairs.

Laboratory Specialist, 007031M, Grade 8, Veterinary Medicine.

Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 003068M, Grade 11, BSE.

Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 003373M, Grade 11, BSE.

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7302M, Grade 8, Biochemistry.

Medical Technologist, 2596J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Medical Technologist (Surgical Ward Technician), 2837J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Oracle DBA, 002250D, Grade 0, ISC.

Program Support Technician, 003350M, Grade 6, FWS.

Program Support Technician, 0028T, Grade 6, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Program Support Technician, 001522T, Grade 6, Political Science.

Program Support Technician Sr, 000123J, Grade 7, Military Affairs.

Receptionist, 007345T, Grade 5, Mechanical Engineering.

Recycle Coordinator, 6724H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

Research Software Developer, 7637T, Grade 14, VBI.

Security Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), W020119G, Grade 3, Parking Services.

Security Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), 007038G, Grade 3, Parking Services.

Shop Leader, 00058H, Grade 2, RDP.

Shop Manager, 00390H, Grade 4, Shop/Whittemore Market.

Shopleader/Cashier, 000552H, Grade 2, RDP.

Shopkeeper-casher, 00418H, Grade 2, RD.

Sous Chef, 0940H, Grade 8, RDP.

Southgate Bake Shop.

Special Projects/Utilities Crew, 000216H, Grade 2, RDP.

Student Services Specialist, 007648T, Grade 8, University Honors—Provost.

Systems Administrator, 007363T, Grade 16, VBI.

Telecommunications Analyst, 00157A, Grade 8, CNS.

Undergraduate Secretary, 001535T, Grade 5, ESM.

PART TIME

Agricultural Technician B, W022030J, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Tech B, W022914J, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine.

Animal Care Technician A, W022155J, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Audio/Visual Technician, W023110T, Grade 4, RDP.

Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W022143G, Grade 2, DBHCC.

Computer Operations Technician, W022848J, Grade 6, USA.

 Custodian Services Assistant, W022462T, Grade 7, Undergraduate Admissions.

Fiscal Assistant, W022977M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Fiscal Assistant, W023113J, Grade 5, VTI.

Fiscal Assistant, W023008T, Grade 5, Women’s Center.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Grade 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W022934M, Grade 5, FWS.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117G, Grade 5, EHSS.

Office Assistant, W022228T, Grade 0, Provost.

Office Services Assistant, W023015J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Assistant, W023125F, Grade 4, University Libraries.

Office Services Assistant, W023090T, Grade 4, Registrar.

Office Services Assistant, W023126F, Grade 4, University Libraries.

Office Services Specialist, W023097F, Grade 5, Busser’s Office.

Office Services Specialist, W023129F, Grade 4, University Libraries.

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


Program Support Technician, W023123H, Grade 6, RDP/Marketing/Conference Services.

Program Support Technician Sr, W023116L, Grade 7, USA.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238J, Grade 7, Health Center.

Secretary Senior, W020618M, Grade 0, Veterinary Medicine.

Storekeeper, W022291J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Truck Driver, W023114T, Grade 0, Chemistry.

WebDesigner, W022976H, Grade 8, RDP/Marketing/Conference Services.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Fiscal Technician, U003799F, Grade 6, University Controls—OFF CAMPUS.

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

Area Information Technologist, 006560L, Grade 7, AHRN Information Technology/ALS.

Development Associate, 7663L, Grade 6, EMC/University Development.

Office Services Assistant, 007233J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 006808J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant Duplic, 006617J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant Duplic, 006615J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Faculty Positions

INSTRUCTIONAL

Teaching/Learning. Assistant/Associate Professor, Science Education (2). Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins November 1.

Teaching/Learning. Assistant/Associate Professor, Elementary Education/Literacy Education (3). Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins November 1.

Teaching/Learning. Assistant Professor, English Education. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins November 1.

Teaching/Learning. Special Education (Emotional/Behavioral Disorders) Assistant Professor. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins November 1.

Educational Leadership/Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins December 1.

Educational Leadership/Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor, Educational Research/Measurement. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins December 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

President opens 2000 CVC activities

Speaking to friends, supporters, unit representatives, and participating charitable organizations at the Kickoff Luncheon on September 21, President Charles Steger welcomed the start of the annual Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC).

Steger commended the over 1,000 participants in last year’s campaign as a excellent example of the charitable spirit that is a hallmark of the United States. Steve Mouras, coordinator of the Virginia Tech Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC), announced the university’s 2000 goal of $220,000 and 20 percent participation. The campaign will run from October 1 through December 8.

The CVC is the state employees’ charitable campaign that provides an opportunity to contribute to a choice of over 700 participating charities providing health and human services or animal or environmental welfare. This is the only workplace campaign for state employees and it is only charitable campaign for which payroll deduction is authorized. At Virginia Tech, an employee steering committee runs the campaign.

The guest speaker this year was Paul Torgersen, former president of Virginia Tech. “CVC has made a visible and lasting impact on our communities in the NRV,” Torgersen said, and is a wonderful opportunity to help the less fortunate in our area.

Last year, Tech employees donated $218,709 with only 17 percent of employees participating. “We can only imagine what would happen if we could increase participation,” Mouras said. “Do Something Spectacular Today!” is the theme for the 2000 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. This theme says a lot about the purpose of the program. By helping others we are truly doing something spectacular,” Mouras said.

New this year is the CVC Winner of the Week feature in Spectrum. “Each week this fall,” Mouras said, “we will feature a weekly prize winner selected by random drawing from everyone who has submitted a pledge card at that time.” Prizes include a year’s parking permit, Lively Arts tickets, an airplane overnight flight of the area, overnight accommodation for two at the Hotel Roanoke, and lunch for two at the Donaldson Brown Hotel.

The Kickoff Luncheon concluded with the hope for a dramatic increase in the participation from all employees of Virginia Tech for the 1999 CVC Campaign. “The good these charitable organizations do is largely dependent on the contributions they receive from folks just like you and me,” Mouras said, “and they truly appreciate all our support.”

Virginia Tech was the only university invited to participate. The invitation recognized the university’s leading interdisciplinary teaching, research, development, and deployment activities in broadband wireless telecommunications.

The presentation is available on CWT’s web site at http://cost.vt.edu by clicking the understanding-wireless-presentation button. For more information, contact boothost@vt.edu or jhlood@vt.edu.

Faculty members, students brief Congress

By Judy Hood
Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) affiliated faculty members Lingchi Song of communications studies, Steven Smith of finance, and Charles Bostian of electrical and computer engineering (ECPE) and graduate student Christian Richard of ECPE were on Capitol Hill September 14 to help explain “how wireless works.”

The occasion was the Wireless Caucus Kickoff, sponsored by the Congressional Wireless Caucus and organized by the Cellular Telephone Industry Association. The Virginia Tech delegation presented a poster display prepared by CWT affiliate Cortney Martin of Computer Network Services and answered questions from members of Congress, their staffs, and visitors from industry and government.

CEUT
Continued from 2
the Curriculum, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m., DBHCC. This workshop by Rachel Holloway of communication studies will address many aspects of formal and informal student presentations.

• Diggs Roundtable, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 3-5 p.m., Hollcrest dining hall. Award-winning faculty members Beverly Bunch-Lyons, Jimmy Martin, and Katherine Allen will host a roundtable discussion open to all faculty members. Topics discussed will include collaborative and cooperative learning, new teaching and learning methods, and diversity.

• Learning: Development Of Concepts, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2:30-5 p.m., Hollcrest large conference room. Peter Doolittle of teaching and learning will answer common questions about the development of concepts and the process of facilitating the transfer of these concepts to various types of problems.

Register for the programs at www.ceut.vt.edu.

In Other News

TENTH
Continued from 1
specific fields or follow-ups on specific fields. While the students praised the speakers, often by name, many said overlaps in material indicated presenters had not heard what others had said.

Most students commented that the program exceeded their expectations. “The training at Virginia Tech was expanded from a one-day orientation for GTA’s into a three-day workshop in 1991, which supplemented the departmental programs. In 1992, the Full Workshop was made obligatory for all new GTA’s by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies and was accorded a one-credit status so that participation could be so indicated on their transcripts.” The workshop relies heavily on the expertise of members of Virginia Tech’s Academic Affairs in"