University dedicates high-tech Torgersen Hall

By David Nutter
Paul E. Torgersen Hall, Virginia Tech’s newest and most technologically advanced building, was officially dedicated last Friday.

Some 500 invited guests turned out for the occasion that took place in the area inside the bridge that spans the Mall connecting Torgersen Hall to Newman Library.

Keynoting the dedication ceremony was John Morgridge, chairman of the board of Cisco Systems Inc. Morgridge praised Virginia Tech for its innovative approach in applying information technology across the campus.

Comparing the changes in society brought about by the Industrial Revolution and the changes under way as a component of the Internet Revolution, Morgridge applauded Virginia Tech and its land-grant mission of teaching and research, and its commitment to share that knowledge with the American people through outreach.

Morgridge also praised Virginia Tech’s leadership in creating the Math Emporium. “The beauty of this technology is that it will allow us as a society to master the material,” he said.

During his tenure, Morgridge grew the Internet infrastructure company that makes networks and switching equipment from 34 employees with $5 million in sales to over $1 billion with some 2,260 employees. He teaches part-time at Stanford University’s Graduate School.

The dedication ceremony also allowed President Charles Steger to reveal the identity of an alumnus who helped make the construction of the building a reality. At the time of an anonymous donor who helped make the construction of the building a reality. At the time of construction, half of the funding for the building had to come from private sources.

Responding to that need, an anonymous donor gave $7 million toward its completion. For the first time, Steger revealed and publicly thanked William H. Goodwin, a 1962 mechanical-engineering graduate and chairman of CCA Industries Inc. of Richmond, for the multi-million dollar gift. To date, Goodwin has given over $10 million to the university.

Torgersen Hall, home of the Advanced Communications and Information Technology Center, provides a high-tech environment in which researchers, teachers, and students can interact in innovative and effective ways. At 150,000 square feet, the facility will be a hotbed for cross-disciplinary research and collaboration to help Virginia Tech harness the potential of communications, information, and instructional technologies.

The building contains 30 miles of fiber-optic cable and 75 miles of copper cable. There are 3,000 Ethernet jacks in the building for faculty and staff members, as well as an electronic study court in the atrium with Ethernet connections for students.

Other features of the building include wired presentation the forum Reinventing the Human: The Choices and Challenges forum examines national organ shortage

By Sally Harris
Among the most dramatic achievements in modern medicine is the ability to replace body parts. Kidneys, hearts, livers can all be transplanted from one human to another. Artificial joints, bones, or heart valves can substitute for the real thing. These procedures have been used to promote the quality of life and extend the lives of the recipients.

Such remarkable advances are providing many new treatment choices. But they are also very expensive. How do we balance the costs against other urgent medical needs? And how do we decide?

Research currently under way—exploring the use of animal organs or of organs derived from stem cells—is raising still more challenges, Zallen said. “Are these acceptable sources of organs? Are there limits to what should be done to extend an individual’s life? Is medicine changing what it means to be human?”

The Choices and Challenges Project will present the forum Reimagining the Human. The forum includes national organ shortage

Vet Med scientists investigate Gulf War illness

By Jeffrey Douglas
Scientists in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Laboratory for Neurotoxicity Studies (LNS) and the ImmunoToxicity Risk Assessment Laboratory (IRAL) are well under way on a nearly $1-million research contract from the U.S. Army designed to assess how stress and various organophosphate compounds may affect health.

Awarded in late 1999 by the United States Army Medical Research and Materials Command, the program is helping researchers examine the individual and interactive effects of stress and two chemical compounds on neurological and immunological well-being.

Those chemical compounds include chlorpyrifos, which is commonly used in insecticides, and triorthotolylphosphate, commonly used as an additive in everything from jet fuel to plastics and lubricants.

The work is directly related to efforts undertaken by military, government, and medical officials to critically examine what has been referred to in the media as Gulf War Illness. Victims of Gulf War Illness report a number of maladies, ranging from malaise to suppression as a result of their experiences. Some of their maladies include (See MENTORNET on 4)

Students participating in MentorNet

By Liz Crumbley
Virginia Tech is participating in MentorNet, an innovative electronic mentoring service for women pursuing careers in engineering and the sciences. The non-profit program, believed to be the first of its kind offered nation wide, expects to link at least 2,200 female engineering and science majors from 64 colleges and universities with volunteer mentors working in private industry and government labs.

Sandra Griffith, enrollment specialist for the Office of Minority Engineering Programs and campus representative for MentorNet, said about 64 Virginia Tech students in engineering, computer science, and mathematics already have signed up for the program.

MentorNet uses cyberspace to link students and mentors, who communicate via e-mail. Other support services are offered through the program’s web site. MentorNet links students with professionals who can help them overcome gender-related obstacles women face in college and later in the work force.

“There is compelling evidence that mentoring can make a big difference in a student’s success while completing a degree program as well as after graduation,” said Carol Muller, MentorNet founder and executive director. “MentorNet helps level the playing field between women and men planning for careers in engineering and other sciences. Although women account for nearly 50 percent of the U.S. work force, they are seriously under-represented in many
Friday, 13
Last Day to Resign.
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Video Discussion, noon, Women’s Center.
Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: David Jacobsen.

Sunday, 15
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.

Monday, 16
Salary and Wage Paydate.
YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall.
Family/Work/Life Resources Program, 12:15-1:45 p.m., DBHCC, conference room G.
University Council, 3:30-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

Tuesday, 17
YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall.
CEUT, 12:30-2 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: Call 1-6995 for information.
CEUT, 2:30-5 p.m., Hillcrest dining hall: Call 1-6995 for information.
Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.
WLI Lecture, 4-5 p.m., Hillcrest Hall: Lynn Gangone.

Wednesday, 18
YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office.
CommonHealth and Benefits Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom: Call 1-7810 to register.

DBHCC Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC: Call 1-5632 for reservations.
CEUT, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: Call 1-6995 for information.
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Program, 5:30 p.m., Women’s Center.
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Program, (Through 10-20): lalrich@vt.edu or krentplin@vt.edu for information.

Thursday, 19
YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office.
Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton-Reaves.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Beth Thomas.
Corps of Cadets Program, 3:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Missy Cummings.
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Program, 7 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: Michael Kimmel.
Alpine Project Event, 7:30 p.m., Cranwell Center: 1-5888 for information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2000

Friday, 20
YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office.
Alpine Project/Child and Family Development Event, 1-5 p.m., Wallace atrium: 1-4796 for information.
Sexual Assault Awareness Video Discussion, 3:30 p.m., Women’s Center.

Book donations requested
President and Mrs. Charles Steiger invite faculty members to donate copies of books they have written to the Grove library.

Funding event announced
The Association for India’s Development announces its main fund-raising event of the semester, an evening of Indian music, dance and food to be held in the Student Center Ballroom. The event is co-sponsored with the Department of Child and Family Development. Call Vicky Fu at 1-4796 for information.

By Sally Harris
Virginia Tech poet and English faculty member Jeff Mann has had two chapbooks of poetry published recently and will give a poetry reading at Volume II Bookstore Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.
Flint Shards from Sussex, a series of intense poems about love between gay men, was published by Gival Press after it won the First Annual Gival Press Chapbook Competition. Diane Wakoski, author of Argonaut Rose, wrote that, in the poems in this book, Mann “immerses himself in the dark beauty of romantic loss, grieving, and final acceptance.”

The second chapbook, Mountain Fireflies, was published by Poetic Matrix Press and was awarded by Poetic Matrix Press. These poems concern Appalachian country life, and the publisher said of them, “Music everywhere—the land, the wild—rich and beautifully written.”

Public invited to Diggs Awards presentation
The 2000 Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards and Roundtable will be held from 3:30-5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25 in Hillcrest Hall. This year’s winners, Beverly Bunch-Lyons, Jimmy Martin, and Katherine Allen, will lead a discussion on their inter-disciplinary teaching approaches. There will also be a reception from 3:30-5 p.m.

RDP holds annual Showcase of Talent
Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) will host the annual student talent show, Showcase of Talent, on November 9 at 7 p.m. in Deet’s Place. Call 558-2130 for information. The event is free, and open to the university community.

2000 Crime Report available
The 2000 Annual Crime Report is available and can be accessed through the Virginia Tech Police website at www.police.vt.edu/police. To request a hard copy of the report, call 1-8123 or e-mail phylis@vt.edu.

Alpine Project events offered
The “Focus on Switzerland and the European Alpine Region” is offering two upcoming events. Both are free and open to the public.

The “Hokies Around The World: An Intercultural Dialogue” will be held on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cranwell Center. International students and students who have traveled in western European countries will gather for an informal dialogue about a range of cross-cultural issues and experiences. Everyone attending is invited to participate. Call 1-5888 for information.

April 2014
"Studying Abroad: A Collaborative Inquiry into the Essence of Relationships in Education" will be offered on Friday, Oct. 20 from 1-5 p.m. in the Wallace atrium. Professors and students from the Department of Child and Family Development will make presentations on their curricular projects based on the Reggio Emilia approach by Italian educator Malaguzzi.

This event is co-sponsored with the Department of Child and Family Development. Call Vicky Fu at 1-4796 for information.

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Education conference focuses on collaboration
The Center for Teacher Education and the College of Human Resources and Education are sponsoring a meeting on university-school collaborations on Saturday, Oct. 21 in Owens Banquet Hall. The purpose of the conference is to share collaborative activities between public schools and universities in the New River and Roanoke Valley regions. Marilyn Cochran-Smith from Boston College will be the keynote speaker. The meeting is open to public school teachers and administrators, university faculty members, and others interested in developing university-school partnerships. There is no cost, but registration through Continuing Education is requested by October 13. For information, contact Sue Magliaro at 1-8338.

Pioneer female jet pilot gives talk
Maisy Cummings, assistant professor of engineering fundamentals, will speak to the Corps of Cadets on “Women as Leaders in the Military” at 3:30 p.m. on October 19 in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium. Cummings graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was a pioneer female fighter-jet pilot. Her account of her Naval career, Hornet’s Nest: The Experiences of One of the Navy’s First Female Fighter Pilots, was published earlier this year.

Gangone to speak on women’s leadership
The Women’s Leadership Initiative (WLI) of the College of Human Resources and Education announces a lecture by Lynn Gangone on the topic “Women’s Leadership and Women’s Advancement: Challenges and Strategies for the 21st Century.” This event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 4-5 p.m. in Hillcrest Hall.

Gangone is director of the Institute for Emerging Women’s Leaders, vice president of the Maryland Independent College and University Association, and a faculty member of Bryn Mawr College’s Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education.

For information contact Katherine Allen at 1-6526 or kallet@vt.edu, or Jean Elliott at 1-5915 or elliott@vt.edu.

Mann’s poetry reading set for November
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Flint Shards from Sussex, a series of intense poems about love between gay men, was published by Gival Press after it won the First Annual Gival Press Chapbook Competition. Diane Wakoski, author of Argonaut Rose, wrote that, in the poems in this book, Mann “immerses himself in the dark beauty of romantic loss, grieving, and final acceptance.”

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Edward Falco, author of Acid and other
The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application requirements, and position closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services web site at
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 band. Positions with numbers beginning with a “W” are hourly and do not include state benefits. 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 EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME
Environmental Horticulture Program Assistant, 0070765M, Pay band 3, VCE. OFF CAMPUS

INSTRUCTIONAL
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Stipes consults on America’s largest elm

By Stewart Macniss

An American elm tree which is the largest recorded in North America is succumbing to Dutch Elm disease, according R. Jay Stipes, professor of plant pathology at Virginia Tech and the last plant pathologist working on Dutch Elm disease.

“This tree is just too far gone,” Stipes said after examining it. “If we had caught it sooner there is a very effective treatment, but it’s too late now. I could have wept when I got to the cornfield and saw the tree.”

The tree, on a farm near Traverse City, Mich., and known as the Buckley Elm, is recognized by the American Forestry Association as the largest elm on record in North America. Stipes made the diagnosis after visiting the tree in late July and concluding laboratory analyses in August.

The tree is 112 feet high, has a crown spread of 115 feet, and a trunk girth of 23.5 feet. It is thought to be 300 to 400 years old, Stipes said.

Dutch Elm disease has ravaged elm trees in North America since it was first observed about 70 years ago. The disease is rampant among “weed” elms, or wild trees, in the Midwest, and is spread to cultivated trees by insects. The disease is now hitting the West Coast region, Stipes said.

A professor, Stipes has developed to treat trees with the diseases has been used successfully on many elms, including some at Mount Vernon, George Washington’s home near Washington, D.C. The Michigan tree, however, is the first to be treated. It was effective, Stipes said. He expects the tree to die in about a year.
Drug Information Lab honored by ISI

By Jeffrey Douglas

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine’s Drug Information Laboratory was recently recognized by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) for its on-line version of the FDA Green Book. Published by the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine, the Green Book contains detailed product and licensing information about all government-approved animal drugs.

The digital publication will now be included in the ISI’s on-line awareness database called Current Web Contents. Current Contents, a database that provides information in the fields of science, social science, technology and the arts, recently created Current Web Contents, which features a daily update of the database and an option to link to selected and evaluated web sites.

Following passage of the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act in 1988, the laboratory began publishing a print version of the FDA Green Book in 1989 and has published and maintained it ever since. The lab manages the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine’s Approved Animal Drug Database which is used to produce both versions of the Green Book.

The reference guide includes information concerning animal drugs’ trade and generic names, label indications, patent information, and other related facts. ISI editors evaluated the Green Book web site using criteria such as authority, accuracy, currency, navigation and design, applicability and content, scope, audience level and quality. “We work to produce a useful high-quality publications for our subscribers. Recognition of our site by ISI suggests we have accomplished that goal,” said Jeff Wilcke, the Dorothy A. and Richard G. Metcalf professor of veterinary medical informatics.

Supervisors find office software training helpful

Supervisors and departmental representatives recently attended an awards and recognition ceremony for employees receiving major certificates in office-software skills training.

Linda Woodard, assistant vice president for personnel, and Dick Harshberger, director of university leadership development awarded the certificates. The 13 employees identified as being recognized had completed at least six of the courses being offered through University Leadership Development, and had taken advanced courses in at least two of the Office Software Skills areas.


Awards were asked to comment on their training experiences and they were uniform in their praise of the content, materials and the instruction. Dudley said, “Classes are great. The instructors made the classes fun and easy to understand. If you get stuck in a problem, the instructor keeps at it until you can understand the function. Practicing is always possible after the classes, but I’ve found the manuals they give out to be very useful and user-friendly.”

Supervisors and departmental representatives of the completed courses were: Arthur, Mary Slater,-Kelley, Lisa Wilcock; Carden, Jayne Robinson, Robert, Darlene Anderson, Matthew Hall; Dudley, David Spain, Doug Hitchcock; Furrow, Caroline Reitman, Jodi Johnson; Gilbert, Karen Guyan, Jeannette Houghton, Bert Hubbard, Donald W. Lambert, Faythe Rittenhouse, Karen Sewell, Becky Shanks and Glenda J. Thornton; Hubert, Karen Guyan, Jeannette Houghton, Bert Hubbard, Donald W. Lambert, Faythe Rittenhouse, Karen Sewell, Becky Shanks and Glenda J. Thornton.

The Departments of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Animal Health and Disease are also preparing to offer more advanced courses.

MENTORNET

Continued from 1

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MentorNet, a partnership effort involving colleges and universities, corporations, government, and professional societies, is headquartered at San Jose State University. AT&T, Intel, IBM, Ford Motor Company, Cisco Systems, the Alcoa Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the National Science Foundation provide major project funding.

Interested faculty advisors, students and prospective mentors should visit MentorNet’s web site, www.mentornet.net. The deadline for signing up for this year’s program is October 31.

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OBITUARY

Joseph G. Falls, 51

Captain Joseph G. (Jody) Falls, of the Virginia Tech Police Department, died Saturday, Oct. 7. He was 51.

Falls joined the department in 1970. He was promoted to captain in 1992, and served as athletic resource officer for the department from 1997.

Falls served for several years as university disaster coordinator, and was the first Virginia Tech crime prevention coordinator.

COWGILL HOUSING

STYLISH OFFICES

Cowgill Hall currently houses what could be considered the most stylish offices on campus. Designed from the Swiss modular-furniture company USM, (U. Schaerer & Sons, Munsingen, Switzerland) the Department of Architecture offices have been completely renovated with upscale stained black oak study and conference furniture. The furniture is widely used in Europe and is being noticed in the U.S. for its timeless style.

The Department of Architecture and USM have had a long-lasting relationship for nearly 90s, when the furniture manufacturer was contacted to furnish the Center for European Studies in Switzerland. USM has since supplied furniture for Burchard Hall, and for the past two years has supported a comprehensive award program consisting of $25,000 in student scholarships given out in Washington D.C. and New York.

“There is a kinship between the design philosophy of USM and the key educational tenants of the department, so the relationship goes beyond their financial generosity,” Department Head Frank Weiner said. This past summer, two students (one from architecture and one from interior design) served a Swiss week internship at the USM headquarters in Munsingen, Switzerland.

HIGH-TECH

Continued from 1

classrooms with state-of-the-art audio-visual systems, and computer-controlled lighting presets for different teaching scenarios; classrooms configured for televised distance learning; high-tech auditoriums; observational booths for watching and tapering experimental teaching techniques; the CAVE, Tech’s sophisticated virtual-reality environment for advanced research and learning; a new media center where presentations are created and the public can receive guidance on multi-media technologies; a variety of office and laboratory spaces; and future capabilities to turn the whole facility into a test bed for wireless technologies.

Dedication guest William Wulf, president of the National Academy of Engineering, said Torgersen’s retirement was a blessing for the National Academy of Engineering. “Paul does more than just hit a few tennis balls these days,” Wulf said. Torgersen described how Paul was increasingly active on a number of committees and was chairing a committee to identify the 20 greatest engineering accomplishments of the past century. Torgersen was elected a fellow of the academy in 1986.

Originally, Senator John Warner, and Congressmen Rick Boucher and Bob Goodlatte were scheduled to participate in the program. All three members had been supportive of federal help to assist in the construction and support the research program of the facility. However, because Congress was still in session, the three congressional leaders were unable to attend.