Tech institute plays major role in science conference

By Beth Bottom

Virginia Tech’s Institute for Connect- ing Science Research to the Classroom (ICSRC) is teaming up with the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) to host the Science for the New Millennium conference at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center Nov. 10-11.

The professional-development conference features hands-on workshops, field trips and sessions emphasizing ideas for improved teaching of the Virginia SOL’s. It also provides a medium for training K-12 teachers in using applied research in all science disciplines, including Earth/space science, biology/life science, chemistry, environmental science, physical science, and physics.

The conference’s keynote speakers, three of whom are sponsored by ICSRC through COTA grant, will discuss examples of current scientific research that may be applied in K-12 classrooms. Claudia J. Alexander of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., will address Non-Terrestrial Worlds as a Habitat for Life.

Jeff Goldstein, vice president for space science research at the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, will discuss ways for teachers to place the universe in a context that is familiar, making the Earth’s place in space more tangible for students even of elementary school age.

James Reeves of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington will discuss Putting the Pieces Together: Combining Technology, the Internet and Educational Research to Forge a New Science Education Paradigm Based on Problem Solving and Correcting Student Mis-conceptions.

Cindy Lee Van Dover of the College of William and Mary will address Photosynthesis without Sunlight.

John Paul Woodley Jr., Virginia’s secretary of natural resources, will discuss Virginia Naturally 2000, a new state-wide environmental education initiative unveiled by Governor Jim Gilmore in this year’s state of the commonwealth address. This initiative promotes lifelong learning about Virginia’s environment and is designed to foster responsible stewardship in all Virginians to protect the state’s natural and historic resources.

In addition to the keynote addresses, the conference also highlights TILT (Teaching Inquiry with the Latest Technologies), a program developed by the ICSRC and sponsored by Toyota USA Foundation. The TILT program helps to broker collaborative work between K-12 teachers and university researchers to translate research for classroom application.

At a time when so many schools are concerned with improving students’ Standards of Learning scores, the ICSRC is taking a leadership role in helping teachers find innovative ways to revitalize math and science programs.

Coordinated through the Virginia Tech College of Human Resources and Education, ICSRC brings teachers and professors together in collaborative teams to develop learning applications for K-12 based on actual research projects at the university. As a result, students connect with practicing scientists to investigate “real-world” problems such as the causes of deformities in certain frog populations, management of the brucellosis problem in the Greater Yellowstone area, and identification of plants with pharmaceutical potential. These projects and many others are featured on the ICSRC web page at www.icsrc.org. For more information, go to web site www.vast.org.

Giovanni’s latest award placed in natural garden

By Sally Harris

Nikki Giovanni found the perfect place for her recent Virginia Governor’s Award for the Arts 2000, given for distinction in creative achievements.

Giovanni has turned a meadow near her home back into a native area with native plants, trees, and grass. Included is a pond with goldfish.

The Governor’s Award is a pottery sculpture of a hand holding a flashlight, signifying putting the spotlight on Virginia’s best in the arts. So what better place than beside the pond in the field Giovanni has returned to its natural state?

On one side of the pond, Giovanni placed a spotlight trained on the other side where the Governor’s Award sits.

It goes along with the native things and the things I love,” she said.

The nine winners were chosen from more than 1,200 nominations. They survived six rounds of voting to receive the awards for 2000.

Giovanni was one of the winners in the individual artist category, along with George Gurré of Charlottesville, also a writer; Adolphus Halstork of Virginia Beach, a composer; and Theresa Pollak of Richmond, a painter and educator.

Governor Jim Gilmore and Roxane Gilmore honored the winners at ceremonies in October. Each honoree received the unique sculpture by Allan Rosenbaum of Virginia Commonwealth University. The theme of the ceremony, which featured artists from throughout the state, was “Celebrating the Arts in Virginia: Past, Present, and Future.”

Academy Award-winning actress and Barter Theatre alumna Patricia Neal was the emcee. Judges represented the six state-wide regions.

The Virginia Governor’s Awards for the Arts have been given periodically since 1979 when John N. Dalton was governor. At that time, Virginia became one of the more than 40 states to recognize artists, non-profit arts organizations, and supporters of the arts for outstanding service to their state.

Giovanni has published more than two dozen books of poetry and essays, has received honorary doctorates from 18 universities, was inducted into the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame, and was named Outstanding Woman of Tennessee in 1985. She began her career as a poet in the late 1960s in New York City and came to Virginia Tech as a commonwealth visiting professor in 1987. She joined Virginia Tech’s faculty permanently in 1989 and became a university distinguished professor in 1999.

Her latest books are Love Poems; an illustrated children’s book of poems called The Sun is So Quiet; and Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems. Her most recent awards include the Langston Hughes Award for distinguished contributions to arts and letters and two Image Awards for literature from the NAAACP.
Forensic expert Palenik to speak on campus November 9

By Sally Harris

Skip Palenik, one of the world’s foremost forensic microscopists, who has helped analyze high-profile cases such as the Oklahoma City bombing, will speak at Virginia Tech Thursday, Nov. 9, at 4 p.m. in 4069 Derring.

A reception will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Geology Museum on the second floor of Derring. The talk and reception are open to the public at no charge.

Palenik is an expert in forensic microscopy, the analysis of materials such as fibers on clothing found at crime scenes. Palenik analyzed some fibers on the vehicle driven by Timothy McVeigh, who was charged in the Oklahoma City bombing. He also analyzed the hair and fiber on the bodies of the victims in the Atlanta child murders case, helping convict Wayne Williams of killing 29 black children.

He also helps analyze non-crime items, he assisted in analyzing the Shroud of Turin and the hair of a body thought to be that of the Sundance Kid. It was not.

Palenik first determined what the materials are, then interprets the findings according to the situation involved. Palenik is president and senior research microscopist at Microtrace in Illinois. He is on the board of directors of the McCrone Research Institute in Chicago and a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Canadian Society of Forensic Scientists, among others.

Palenik also teaches at the McCrone Research Institute and has taught at the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Pharmacy and Department of Criminal Justice and at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He also has taught courses for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Texas Department of Safety, the State of North Carolina Crime Laboratory, and the New York City Crime Laboratory, among many others.

He is the author of several articles in the Encyclopedia of Forensic Science, which is in press. Palenik’s talk is sponsored by the Department of Geological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.
EMPLOYMENT

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 web site 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 1-3300. 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 date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

**FULL TIME**

Academic Certification Specialist, 00044AR, Pay Band 3, University Registrar.

Administrative/Research Assistant, 007674T, Pay Band 4, ECE.

Administrative Assistant, 006519L, Pay Band 3, University Development.

Administrative Assistant, 002811L, Pay Band 3, Executive Vice President.

Alumni Development Systems Analyst, 001384L, Pay Band 6, University Development.

Animal Care Supervisor, 006986J, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician, 002617M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician, 002281T, Pay Band 3, Biology.

Animal Care Technician, 007617M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Medicine Experiment Station.

Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant), 001118G, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.


Circulation/Library Courier Assistant, 000468F, Pay Band 2, University Libraries, Admin, Services/Circulation Reserve.

Computer Systems Engineer, 001894T, Pay Band 5, CS.

Computer Systems Engineer, 001960T, Pay Band 5, CS.

Computer Systems Engineer, 008991J, Pay Band 5, RGS.

Dairy Database and Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.

Director, Gift Accounting/Constituent Record Management, 001540L, Pay Band 5, University Development.

Editor, Virginia Tech Magazine, 000565L, Pay Band 5, University Relations/Outreach Communications.

Editor/Communications Coordinator, 007681G, Pay Band 5, International Research and Development.

Electrician, 007565G, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.

Electronics Technician, 007656J, Pay Band 4, VTTI.

Enrollment Services Technical Leader, 002734L, Pay Band 6, AIS.

Executive Chef, 002666H, Pay Band 4, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.

Farm Shop Manager, 003494M, Pay Band 3, College Farm.


Fiscal Assistant, 002959F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.

Two full-time food-operations positions available.

Genomics Laboratory Technician, 007682T, Pay Band 3, VBI.


Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 002789I, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, 001631G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006954J, Pay Band 1, UUSA.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 002937T, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Icop Spectroscopist, 003475M, Pay Band 1, VTTI.

Interpreter for Deaf, 007472J, Pay Band 3, Dean of Students.

Librarian/Spokesperson, 007596M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 003735M, Pay Band 4, BSE.

Medical Technologist, 002565J, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Medical Technologist (Surgical/Ward Technician), 02673J, Pay Band 4, Veteran Teaching Hospital.

Office Assistant, 007677T, Pay Band 2, VBI.

Operations Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dreet's Place.

Oracle Dba, 002250D, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Painter, 007417G, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.


Program Support Technician, 008040J, Pay Band 3, Teaching/Learning.

Program Support Technician, 000320T, Pay Band 5, Scholarship/Financial Aid.

Programmer Analyst, 007683G, Pay Band 5, IIDL.

Receptionist/Secretary, 001990T, Pay Band 2, GHS.

Receptionist/Secretary, 007345T, Pay Band 3, VBI.

Recycle Coordinator, 006724H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Security Guard (Parking Enforcement Officer), 002019G, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.

Sous Chef, 003049H, Pay Band 3, RDP.

Special Projects/Utilities Crew, 000216H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Technical Procedures Technician, 004374M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Systems Analyst, 007343L, Pay Band 6, ISO.

Telecommunications Analyst, 000157A, Pay Band 3, CNS.

Telecommunications Network Technician, 007665A, Pay Band 3, CNS.

Transfer Authorization Coordinator, 006684F, Pay Band 3, Registrar.

Virginia Tech Webmaster, 001168L, Pay Band 5, WARD.

Web/Office Assistant, 003123T, Pay Band 3, Biology.

**PART TIME**

Animal Care Tech B, 002291J, Pay Band 2, CVM.

Animal Care Technician A, 001907T, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician A, W022674M, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician B, W022190M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician B, W020556M, Pay Band 2, CVM.

Audiovisual Technician, W023110T, Pay Band 2, Registrar.

Bus Driver, W023140R, Pay Band 1, Motor Pool.

Computer Systems Engineer, W023159M, Pay Band 5, WPWS.

Computer Technician, W023142R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

Fiscal Technician, W023151G, Pay Band 3, Real Estate Management.

Fiscal Technician Sr, W023150G, Pay Band 3, OIRD.


Flight Instructor, W021353R, Pay Band 4, Airport.

Two full-time food-operations positions available.


Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, W020214J, Pay Band 1, Health Center.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117G, Pay Band 2, EHSS.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020237T, Pay Band 2, Chemistry.

Office Assistant, W022228T, Pay Band 3, Provost.

Office Services Assistant, W020838J, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Specialist, W022914J, Pay Band 2, CS.

Overnight ICU Vet Technician, W022218M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Purchasing Clerk, W023145M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Pharmacist Assistant A, W020838J, Pay Band 1, Pharmacy Services.

Pharmacist Assistant B, W020838J, Pay Band 1, Pharmacy Services.

Pharmacist, W020838J, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Radiologic Technician, W022421M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**OFF CAMPUS**

Ensemble Musician, 000950M, Pay Band 2, VCE.

Enrollment Program Assistant, 002091J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.

Enrollment Services Assistant, 007583J, Pay Band 3, Engineering.

Geographic Information Specialist, 007679M, Pay Band 4, BSE.

Human Services Program Specialist, 007664J, Pay Band 4, CPAP.

Television Systems Engineer, 007106R, Pay Band 4, VT Roanoke Center.

**FACULTY POSITION**

INSTRUCTIONAL


Geological Sciences, Assistant Professor, Geobiology, Contact: Fred Read, 4044 Derring (0420). Review begins January 8.

Mathematics, Instructor (5). Contact: Bruce Reed, 460 McBryde (0123). Review begins February 12.


English, Assistant Professor, Contact: Johann Norstedt, 204Williams (0112). Review begins November 10.

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

University Controller’s Office, University Registrar, Assistant Director, Lawrence G. Hincher, associate vice president for University Relations; David Nutter, associate director for Public Affairs.

**OFFICE SERVICES**

Computer Science, Assistant Professor, Geobiology, Contact: Fred Read, 4044 Derring (0420). Review begins January 8.

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Kim Merix from the Motor Pool is the winner of lunch for two at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Merix’s name was drawn from all those sending Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign pledge cards to Gloria Smith by October 20.

Merix’s favorite CVC Charity is Big Brothers/Big Sisters because she has some relatives who have benefited from the program. Thousands of people locally, state wide, nationally and internationally benefit from programs delivered by CVC Charities. Send pledge cards to Smith to be eligible for the rest of the weekly drawings.

MinE’s Karmis selected SME president

By Liz Crumbley

Michael Karmis, the Stone Barker professor of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering (MinE) and director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research, has been selected to be the 2002 president of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc. (SME).

SME is one of the first five national professional societies established in the field of engineering.

Karmis joined the MinE department in 1978 and was department head from 1987 to 1998. He currently serves as interim department head. An expert in rock mechanics and mine design and safety, Karmis has authored more than 130 scientific papers and has edited numerous proceedings and textbooks.

Karmis holds the rank of distinguished member of SME and is a fellow of the Institute of Quarrying and of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He was selected as the National Stone Association Professor of the Year in 1997 and in 2000 received the Health and Safety Award from the Institute on Mining Health, Safety and Research.

Other national honors include the 1987 Educational Excellence Award of the Pittsburgh Coal Mining Institute of America and the 1995 SME Rock Mechanics Award.

Natural Resources dean appointed to federal forestry-research council

By Lynn Davis

Greg Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources, has been appointed for a three-year term by the U.S. secretary of agriculture to his 18-member Forestry Research Advisory Council, representing federal and state agencies, forest industries, forestry colleges and other institutions, and volunteer public groups interested in forests and related natural resources.

The council is required by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 to provide advice to the secretary of agriculture on efficiently accomplishing the purposes of the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962. The council also provides advice related to the Forest Service research program and reports on regional and national planning and coordination of forestry research within the federal and state agencies concerned with developing and using the nation’s forest resources.

Brown is a past chair of the Board on Natural Resources of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, which last year honored him with an award never before given in appreciation of his many years of service to that organization. He currently serves on the larger Association’s Board on Agriculture Budget Committee and on the Partnership Task Forces with the US Geological Survey and the EPA.

Brown is a past present of the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges. He chairs the Powell River Project Board of Directors, where Virginia Tech is successfully applying new technologies to reclaim surface-mined coal fields.

Murray book discusses women mathematicians

By Sally Harris

Partly due to technological advances during World War II and an increase in government monies devoted to education in the sciences, mathematical research abounded in the years 1940-1959; but the proportion of women earning Ph.D.’s fell to a record low over those two decades.

Margaret A.M. Murray, associate professor of mathematics, interviewed 36 of the nearly 200 women who did earn Ph.D.’s during that time and wrote the book Women Becoming Mathematicians: Creating a Professional Identity in Post-World War II America. Her purpose was to determine the complex interplay between the personal and professional lives of those women who embarked on mathematical careers during this period, with a view to understanding how changes in American society during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s affected their career development and identities as mathematicians.

From interviews with female mathematicians from that period, plus research into historical and sociological documents, Murray looked at how women in mathematics develop their identity from childhood through adulthood and into retirement. These women, having few examples to follow, improvised and followed diverse paths in their struggle to construct a professional identity in postwar America,” Murray said.

In the book, Murray looks at the ways in which women in mathematical careers come to "know themselves" as mathematicians. Murray, interviewed by the Chicago Tribune for an article about women in mathematical careers, said the growing number of female role models might help "turn the tide" for women in the future who are thinking about making a career in a mathematical field.

Research for the book Women Becoming Mathematicians: Creating a Professional Identity in Post-World War II America was supported by nearly $100,000 in grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and the Center for Programs in the Humanities in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Tech.

PLAY

Continued from 1

audience is introduced to four characters dealing with the very real possibility of using genetically altered pig organs to replace kidneys in humans.

Upton’s goal in writing Pig in the Middle was “to show how the issue of animal to human transplants will effect real people.”

The production is being presented to promote discussion in the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg community. Director Wyatt Galusky feels that “too often issues related to these emerging biotechnologies, even in communities such as ours, which have a close tie with their development,” Galusky said. "However, public involvement in the decision-making process about these sciences and technologies is absolutely critical. The social and ethical issues tied to these new advances should be examined before decisions are made that will affect all of our lives. We hope that this play facilitates an open and sustained dialogue on this issue by making it more plausible and more personal.”

This performance is being staged in conjunction with the Thursday, Nov. 9, Choices and Challenges forum on Reimagining the Human: The Six-Million-Dollar Body. The forum is open to the public free of charge and will examine the future of one of the most dramatic achievements in modern medicine: the ability to replace body parts. Both activities are made possible by support from the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and University Outreach at Virginia Tech.

For more information, write Jane Lehr at the Choices and Challenges office, 254 Lane Hall (6227), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061; phone her at 1-6476; e-mail her at choices@vt.edu, or visit the web site http://www.cis.vt.edu/~choiceschallenges.