President announces administrative changes in RGS

By Jeanne M. Garon

President Charles Steger has announced a structural shift in the administration of research and graduate studies resulting from the university’s commitment to reaching top-30 status among America’s research universities by 2010.

The Research Division and the Graduate School, formerly managed by Leonard K. Peters as Research and Graduate Studies, will be split and separately managed. Though merged in 1994, the Research Division and Graduate School traditionally have been managed as separate entities.

Peters, vice provost for research, will now focus exclusively on Virginia Tech’s research agenda, with Joseph A. Merola, associate dean of research and outreach in the College of Arts and Sciences, serving as associate dean of the Graduate School.

“Splitting these entities and their leadership will enable Len Peters and his staff to focus exclusively on the university’s goal of moving into the top-30 research institutions, while allowing Joe Merola to build on the strong foundation Peters laid to and take the Graduate School to an even higher level,” Steger said.

John Eaton, whom Interim Provost James Bohland credits with “laying critical groundwork in the Graduate School,” will help develop new graduate programs as associate dean.

Merola joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1987 as an assistant professor of chemistry and has been a full professor since 1995. From 1993-97, he was associate head and director of graduate studies in the chemistry department. He has received three college Certificates of Teaching Excellence and the University Alumni Teaching Award. After serving four years on the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, including one year as its chair, he joined the staff of the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1998 as associate dean for research and outreach.

In support of the research enterprise of the college, Merola provides cost sharing for external grants, works with principal investigators on major proposals, helps facilitate interdisciplinary programs, and reviews, endorses, and provides cost sharing for ASPIRES proposals. In support of graduate education, he reviews graduate independent studies and facilitates extended campus programs for the college. He also facilitates Arts and Sciences outreach programs and serves on numerous committees.

Merola received his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978, afterwards accepting a position at the Corporate Research Laboratories of Exxon Research and Engineering Company, where he was involved in numerous research projects in organo-metallic chemistry and catalysis. He has published more than 65 articles and book chapters.

In looking at Merola’s new role, Bohland said, “Joe’s experiences in industry before arriving at Virginia Tech, as well as his management of Tech’s Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies, allow him to contribute important industry as well as academic perspectives to his new role.” Merola said, “The efforts of our graduate students are critical to Tech’s carrying out its research mission. One important part of reaching the top 30 is that we must recruit and retain more graduate students. I am very excited about contributing to this mission as acting dean of the Graduate School.”

Discussing the importance of Peters’ newly concentrated role, Steger said, “Len has taken a leadership role in preparing us to become a top-30 research university by striving to enhance our resources, by assembling and disseminating information by which we can measure our progress, and by providing analysis to help us project our best future paths. He has spearheaded numerous partnerships of value to the university, including those resulting in the Carillon Biomedical Institute and Tech’s co-management of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. In asking Len to intensify his focus on the research agenda, we are asking him to lead Virginia Tech’s charge toward our top-30 goal.”

Steger said, “Beyond the classrooms, university research touches the lives of almost every American. University researchers help clean our environment, create cleaner energy supplies, and find ways to feed more people, and they have helped bring the world together by creating the Internet.” Noting recently reported national statistics on the revenues, economic-development activity, and job support generated by the licensing of universities’ intellectual property, Steger added, “The instructional and public-service mission of the university is enhanced or, more appropriately stated, undergirded by the research enterprise Peters will concentrate on.”

Peters came to Virginia Tech in 1993 as vice provost for research, dean of the Graduate School, and professor of chemical engineering. Before that he served the University of Kentucky in a variety of positions, including department chair, associate dean for research, acting vice president for research and graduate studies, and vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. He holds three degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

Peters is president of Virginia Tech (See ANNOUNCES on 2)}

Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station Attracting Record Research Funding

By Netta S. Benton

As Virginia Tech moves toward President Charles Steger’s goal of becoming one of the nation’s top-30 research institutions, the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station (VAES) continues to play a significant role in the endeavor.

In the past fiscal year, research expenditures administered and funded by VAES, in departments of the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources, Human Resources and Education, Veterinary Medicine, and Arts and Sciences, were more than $51 million, up $3 million from the previous year. VAES research also is conducted at the university’s 12 Agricultural Research and Extension Centers (AREC’s) throughout the state of Virginia.

“The Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station has always played a big and critical role in the research programs of Virginia Tech,” said VAES Director Kriton Hatzios. “Our programs are a very important component of the efforts of the university to reach the top-30 status. Programs supported by the Experiment Station cover the whole spectrum of research, from production to processing, transportation, and marketing, as exemplified by the slogan from farm to fork. Other important areas include family dynamics, food safety, the environment, and forest management. Ultimately, VAES research enhances the quality of life for all Virginians.”

(See AGRICULTURAL on 4)

ECE senior wins Marshall Scholarship

By Liz Crambley

Sarah S. Airey, a senior in electrical and computer engineering, has been selected to receive a prestigious British Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in the United Kingdom.

Airey will use her Marshall Scholarship to study artificial intelligence at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. The two-year scholarships, which are worth about $50,000 each and cover all graduate study and living expenses, are awarded to only 40 undergraduates in the U.S.

The scholarship fund was established by an act of the British Parliament in 1953 to expand the scope of the Rhodes Scholarship program and to commemorate the Marshall Plan for European recovery following World War II. The scholarships are funded by Britain’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office and administered by the Marshall Aid Comm
**Events**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2001**

**Friday, 19**

Last Day to Add.

Annual Benefit Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: 831-5815 for information.

**Saturday, 20**

Men’s Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Providence.

Women’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Georgetown.

**Sunday, 21**

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

**Monday, 22**

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Women’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Villanova.

**Tuesday, 23**

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

YMCA Open University Registration, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., University Mall.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

**Wednesday, 24**

YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., 403 Washington St.

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 3060 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen: 1-8029 for information.

“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTM: “Smart Bombs” in the Cancer War.

**Thursday, 25**

ULD Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC conference room E: Call 1-6727 to register.

**Seminars**

**Friday, 19**

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Vicki Vance, University of South Carolina.

**Friday, 26**

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Alfred H. Merrill, NIH.

**Bullets**

VTIP invites input through on-line survey

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP) is reviewing its support of Tech inventors. A short survey of researchers’ and others’ impressions of the service VTIP provides is posted on-line at www.vtip.org/survey2001.htm. For information, contact Dan Specht, VTIP business manager, at 951-9692 or specht@vt.edu.

CNS expands hours for Operations Center

Communications Network Services (CNS) announces expanded hours for its Network Operations Center, effective immediately. CNS diagnostics staff members will be available to assist with telecommunications problems Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 1-6780 for assistance.

VTntug meetings held every month

The Virginia Tech NT User Group (VTntug) will meet on the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 1 in CEC rooms D and E. On Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 3:30 p.m., in room 3203 Torgersen, the meeting will feature a presentation by Ed Fox in computer science, and Gail McMillan in English. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a variety of issues affecting the NT user community. The meeting is open to all members of the community.

VDI workshops scheduled for spring semester

Starting Monday, Jan. 22 through Thursday, March 1, nearly 60 Faculty Development Institute (FDI) workshops are scheduled. All workshops, sponsored by Educational Technologies and the New Media Center, will be held in either the FDI classroom (3060 Torgersen) or the New Media Center (1120 Torgersen) from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or 3-5 p.m., unless otherwise noted. FDI workshop topics are organized by five themes: basic computing skills; web development; digital content creation; web-based instruction; and emerging technologies. They are designed for instructional faculty members; however, staff members and graduate students are also welcome to attend. Seating is limited per workshop, and on-line registration is available at http://www.fdi.vt.edu/2001spring/fdispring.html.

Forum to discuss regional humanities center

An open forum to discuss how and in what ways Virginia Tech can contribute to the formation, development, and operation of a South Atlantic Regional Humanities Center (SARHC) will be held today from 3 to 5 p.m., in Donaldson-Brown conference room A. All faculty and staff members are invited.

The center is being developed under a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) initiative to create 10 such regional centers nationally. Currently, Virginia Tech is working in partnership with Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) and the University of Virginia under a NEH planning grant to construct a South Atlantic Center. As defined by NEH, the South Atlantic includes Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. VFH is the project manager. The Humanities Program within the College of Arts and Sciences, in cooperation with faculty members in other humanities departments, has been coordinating the Virginia Tech branch.

The successful recipient of a NEH implementation grant will be obligated to create a $20-million endowment to fund and support the center over a seven-year period. NEH contributes $5 million and the recipient contributes at least $15 million over a seven-year period.

The purposes of SARHC are to promote the humanities and the study of the history, cultures, and future of the South Atlantic; to serve the region while involving the extensive academic, community, and public resources in planning and programming; and to develop public and academic programs to enhance knowledge, education, and public programs. Areas of focus include historical and archaeological records of settlement and cultural differences; race and identities; language, literature, religion, and folklore; technology and social change; and economy and power.

Programs created in response to NEH guidelines include research and preservation, fellowships and exchange, public programming, curriculum development and teachers’ institutes, and publications.

The campus-wide forum will explore ways in which the full spectrum of faculty interests at Virginia Tech can contribute to the creation and development of the center and explore how these interests can result in enriching the humanistic contributions of the university at regional, national, and global levels.

The proposal for the SARHC planning grant can be found at http://www.cis.vt.edu/appalachia/NEHRegHumCenter/SARHCProp.html.

More information on NEH regional humanities center initiatives is at http://www.neh.gov/whoaweare/regional.html. For conference information, contact Anita Puckett at apuckett@vt.edu or 1-9526.

**ANNOUNCES**

Continued from 1

Intellectual Properties, Inc. and serves on the boards of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center and WPI. He is also immediate past chair of the board of directors of the Council of Graduate Schools and chairman of the board of Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

His tenure as head of graduate studies has been marked by substantial expansion of tuition remission scholarships for graduate students, increased information about potential students, and increased recruitment resources. He created the Commonwealth Campus Program and a revenue-sharing program to expand course offerings to part-time graduate students, turn around declining enrollments at the extended campus sites, particularly Northern Virginia, and provide resources to the departments that provided courses.

Peters also supported the collaboration by Eaton of the Graduate School, Ed Fox in computer science, and Gail McMillan in University Libraries to create the Electronic Theses and Dissertation (ETD) project, which became an international model.
EMPLOYMENT

C L A S S I F I E D  P O S I T I O N S

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 1-5300. 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 EOAA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME
Administrative Associate, 002202L, Pay Band 3, University Development.
Admissions Plans/Clearances Team Member, 001534R, Pay Band 3, Graduate School.
Agriculture Supervisor, 006878M, Pay Band 3, College Farm.
Agriculture Technician, 003056M, Pay Band 2, College Farm.
Animal Care Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Assistant Counselor, 000557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.
Automotive Technician, 000630R, Pay Band 3, Motor Pool.
Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant), 001118G, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.
Budget Manager, 002127B, Pay Band 3, CIS.
Business Development Director, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/MPRGR.
Computer Desktop Support Techni-
cian, 001899A, Pay Band 4, CNS.
Computer Systems Engineer, 007691T, Pay Band 5, ESM.
Computer Systems Engineer, 001894T, Pay Band 5, CS.

Computer Systems Engineer, 006991J, Pay Band 3, RGS.
Computer Technician, 007712R, Pay Band 3, VBI.
Data Warehouse Architect, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISRC.
Database And Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.
Desktop Support—Project Leader, 006770R, Pay Band 4, ITASM.
Director of Collegiate Information Sys-
tems, 006999M, Pay Band 7, CVM—Academic Affairs.
Editor/Communications Coordinator, 007191G, Pay Band 5, OIRD.
Electrician, 007656S, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.
Electrician Supervisor, 001545G, Pay Band 5, CVM.
Electronics Technician, 007656J, Pay Band 4, VTI.
Enrollment Specialist, 001675B, Pay Band 3, Dean of Arts/Sciences Office.
Executive Chef, 000266H, Pay Band 4, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.
Executive Secretary Senior, 007686R, Pay Band 3, University Special Initiatives.
Fiscal Assistant, 007702M, Pay Band 3, Entomology/Biochemistry.
 Fiscal Director, 007716A, Pay Band 5, CNS.
 Fiscal Technician Senior, 004047B, Pay Band 3, Chem E.
 Four full-time food-service positions available. Grants Administrator, 002543R, Pay Band 4, Sponsored Programs.
 Honor System Operations Manager, 007648R, Pay Band 3, Undergraduate Honor System—Provost.
 Housekeeping Lead Worker, 00732C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping.
 Housekeeping Supervisor, 000824H, Pay Band 2, RDP.
 Housekeeping Worker, 001515H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
 Housekeeping Worker, 001631G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.
 Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006928H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
 Housekeeping Worker Senior, 00745HM, Pay Band 1, RDP.
 Interpreter For The Deaf, 004732J, Pay Band 3, Dean of Students.
 Lab Instrument Maker, 001507B, Pay Band 4, AOE.
 Lab Specialist, 001972M, Pay Band 3, CVM/MLD—Academic Affairs.
 Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.
 Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.
 Lead Worker—Pantry, 000996H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.
 Manager Of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.
 Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
 Operations Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
 Parking Enforcement Officer, 007221R, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.
 Personnel Coordinator, 007711R, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
 Pharmacist, 000750H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietetic Dining Center.
 Program Support Technician, 001585D, Pay Band 3, Geograpy.
 Program Support Technician, 006400M, Pay Band 3, AOE.
 Program Support Technician, 001522B, Pay Band 3, Political Science.
 Public Relations Coordinator, 000413R, Pay Band 5, Undergraduate Admissions.
 Public Relations Specialist, 000837R, Pay Band 4, WSPF.
 Research Associate, 007713R, Pay Band 4, CVM.
 Research Engineer, 007634R, Pay Band 4, VCCER.
 Security Lead Guard, 001357G, Pay Band 1, Police Department.
 Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Courts West End Market.
 Shopleader/Cashier, 004005H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Ownes Food Court.
 Software Developer, 007690T, Pay Band 5, Security.
 Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.
 Special Event/Hearing Appeals Coordi-
nator, 002019J, Pay Band 2, Parking Services.
 Special Projects/Utilities Crew, 00216H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
 Telecommunications Analyst, 001517A, Pay Band 3, CNS.
 Trades Utilities Master Mechanic, 007009G, Pay Band 4, Physical Plant.
 TUESDAY,  JANUARY 16, 2001
SPECTRUM

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL
Hospitality/Tourism Management. As-
Assistant Professor. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial Hall (0317). Review begins Feb. 15.
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

VICE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/ Natural Resources. #111382, Southwest Dis-
VICE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/ Natural Resources (internal position an-
nouncement). #FA848, Algeriee Co. Con-
University Unions/Student Activities. Coordinator of Greek Life. Contact: Steve Leist, 319 Squires (0138). Review begins immediately.
University Unions/Student Activities. Coordinator of Student Organization Fi-

SPECTRUM 3
Fishwick publishes millennium edition of popular culture book

By Sally Harris

In a book whose topics range from the beginning of humankind to the Y2K frenzy of a few months ago, Marshall Fishwick pulls together the pieces of cultural history to form a panorama of the life of the people.

Tom Wolfe, author of the sixty-six classic The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, the seventies bestseller The Right Stuff, the nineties hit A Man in Full, and the recently published novel Hooking Up, wrote the foreword to the millennium edition of Fishwick’s Go, and Catch a Falling Star: Pursuing Popular Culture. Saying Fishwick, his former teacher, had “a glittering eye” that “fit up courses such as no one had ever encountered,” Wolfe calls Fishwick an “omnianemic,” or a person whose zest leads him to want to study and teach it all.

Popular culture, Wolfe said, “demands scholars of unbounded range, powers of synthesis, and, not least of all, energy”; and he offers Marshall Fishwick as one of the scholars capable of giving popular culture its due.

Fishwick defines popular culture as the culture of the people. Because what is popular with the public is constantly changing, Fishwick said “the two words ‘popular culture’ stretch like rubber bands.”

That’s the reason Fishwick, when he first published Go, and Catch a Falling Star in 1994 as a textbook for his popular-culture-class study of fallen celebrities, wanted a custom-designed book. A cross between a traditional textbook and a magazine, the book could be updated quickly to give students the latest in popular culture.

The first edition, published with American Heritage Custom Publishing Group, had the story of O.J. Simpson’s being charged with murder, and the next semester’s edition had an updated story of the trial that captivated the country. The custom-published books are cheaper and more relevant than traditional textbooks, Fishwick said, and allow him to pick materials from other authors, for which the publisher obtains reprint rights, and to add chapters of his own. The book was designed to be in continuous flux.

The millennium edition, published by Thompson Learning Custom Publishing of Cincinnati, covers everything from Marilyn Monroe to Madonna, from symbols, myths, and icons to sports as a spectacle and popular priests and preachers.

“From that rubble,” he wrote, “we must construct another and better world. The millennium message is clear: we must change with the times, but never forsake our past.”

CHRESA shares holiday spirit

By Jean Elliott

The College of Human Resources and Education Staff Association (CHRESA) completed a busy fall semester of fund raising to share the holiday spirit with several local organizations.

The community projects committee sponsored a T-shirt and sweatshirt sale. The drive raised $1,000 and was divided among the Veterans at the Salem (VA) Center, the New River Hospice, and the Salvation Army account.

The remainder of the children’s shirts was taken to the Salvation Army to be distributed over the holidays. A collection box was also placed at the annual staff holiday luncheon for donated items to be taken to the veterans.

The committee consisted of co-chairs Emily Oliver and Renee Chandler, Sarah Bishop, Phyl Olinger, Tammie Smith, Laura Montomerie, Susan Rice, Dave Robertson, Wes Bruss ease, and Connie Smith. CHRESA president Sonje Stone provided support and Sherry Saville designed the Christmas cards which were presented to the veterans and hospice.

A very active organization that receives the support of Dean Janet Johnson, CHRESA raised $8,883 for the Virginia Cancer Society last year. CHRESA not only supports yearly community-service projects, but it also raises money for both an undergraduate and a graduate scholarship for students enrolled in the College of Human Resources and Education.

ECE SENIOR

Susan Anderson

Susan Anderson of the math department was one of the students who check-in for Asia at the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Anderson’s name was drawn from all of those who submitted applications for the second round of the Virginia Campaign for scholarships through December. Other CVC drawing winners who have not been pictured include Susan Carroll, Dining Program. Over 300 students are eligible for one year’s parking permit and Carol Dailman, University Library, winner of an overflight of the area. Asof January 17, the total amount donated was $1,009,085.

Memorative Commission and the British Embassy.

The Right Stuff is the ninety hit A Man in Full, and the recently published novel Hooking Up, wrote the foreword to the millennium edition of Fishwick’s Go, and Catch a Falling Star: Pursuing Popular Culture.

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“From that rubble,” he wrote, “we must construct another and better world. The millennium message is clear: we must change with the times, but never forsake our past.”

The research is designed to generate knowledge that enhances the quality of individual and family life as well as the social and economic vigor of the state.

In addition to serving the needs of Virginia’s animal, plant, and seafood industry, VAES-supported research fosters conservation of natural resources and benefits consumers and citizens in rural, urban, and suburban communities.

With almost all available farmland already in use, researchers are seeking new ways to produce sufficient quantities of food and fiber products to meet demands of a growing world population. Much of VAES research pertains to breeding and testing new varieties of agricultural products and developing efficient, ecologically sound agricultural production methods.

Grants and contracts are making it possible for VAES researchers to make important discoveries in biotechnology, creating transgenic animals and plants that may produce treatments for human disease. They also are producing genetically altered plants that require fewer applications of chemicals, increasing producers’ profits while reducing environmental risks.

These funds also allow VAES researchers to conduct research that contributes to human health and well being. Researchers have made important discoveries related to the etiology of certain cancers, methods of prevention and treatment of mental disorders in adolescents, and improved ways to meet the needs of a growing rural and urban aging population.

Additionally, VAES researchers are devising methods to prevent and recover from disaster, dampening vibrations during earthquakes, aquaculture production and management, and lengthening the life of wood-based composites.

The scope and variety of VAES research attest to its importance and relevance,” Hatzius said. “With the recent hiring of many new faculty members of exceptional quality in the five VAES-affiliated colleges, we are confident that we will continue to attract additional funding so that we can continue and expand our research in these vital areas.”

Agricultural continued from 1

Grants and contracts garnered by faculty members with VAES appointments last year from federal, state, and local government and from private industry totaled nearly $20 million, about 40 percent of VAES funds. The rest of the funds come from federal-formula funds and state appropriations.

The programs of the VAES are not confined to just one building or even just one geographic location. The university campus serves as the major center for VAES research. More than 300 faculty members and research specialists in 22 departments of the five colleges affiliated with VAES conduct research utilizing 3,200 acres of college farms and numerous laboratory facilities.

The 4,000 acres of farm and forest land at the AREC’s around the state support research on issues related to specific commodities, including forest products, horticulture (landscape and nursery plants, fruits, and vegetables), aquaculture, peanuts, soybeans, tobacco, small grains, livestock (beef, poultry, sheep, swine, and horses) cotton, and seafood.

The mission of the VAES is to perform basic and applied research on agricultural, environmental, natural, and community-resource issues relating to the future needs of Virginia, the region, the nation, and the world.

By Jean Elliott

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