Schurig named to Vet College's top research post

By Jeffery S. Douglas
A senior researcher and former director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases (CMMID) in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has been appointed associate dean for research and graduate studies.

Gerhardt Schurig, a veterinary immunologist in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), assumed the post February 1. Schurig, who joined the faculty in 1978, is internationally renowned for his work in developing vaccines against bovine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that causes reproductive problems in cattle and undulant fever in humans.

"I am honored and energized by this appointment," Schurig said. "President Steger’s goal of establishing Virginia Tech as a top-30 research institution by the end of the decade is a great challenge to us all. But we have a very talented faculty and many opportunities to explore. I am confident we will do our part."

Schurig earned his DVM degree in 1970 from the University of Chile. After earning M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in immunology from Cornell University, Schurig spent two years working in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He then joined the Virginia Tech faculty and began a research career in brucellosis that culminated with the invention of the RB-51 vaccine. That vaccine has become the global "gold standard" in bovine brucellosis control and played a major role in the virtual eradication of the cattle disease in the United States.

Bovine brucellosis, a bacterial disorder caused by the Brucella abortus organism, is now under control and the goal of establishing Virginia Tech as a top-30 research university is "very feasible," Schurig said. "President Steger announced his vision of a virtual life-long-learning gateway in his April 2000 State of the University address. I want to see Virginia Tech play a long-active role in the lives of our alumni. As a result, I have established a task force to consider how we might best make available computer-based instruction that would be of value in the continuing development of the careers of all our graduates."

"I am honored and energized by this appointment," Schurig said. "President Steger’s goal of establishing Virginia Tech as a top-30 research institution by the end of the decade is a great challenge to us all. But we have a very talented faculty and many opportunities to explore. I am confident we will do our part."

University launches VTalumnNET

By Cate Money
In December 2000, Virginia Tech launched the pilot of a virtual gateway to life-long learning for its alumni, VTalumnNET is an initiative of President Charles Steger and is the newest addition to the university’s continually growing distance- and distribution-learning activities.

Applying leading advancements in instructional technology, Virginia Tech is encouraging alumni to connect with the university and access the expertise and experience of “VT’s” faculty and members through on-line non-credit education opportunities.

Steger announced his vision of a virtual life-long-learning gateway in his April 2000 Founder’s Day address. “I want to see Virginia Tech play a long-active role in the lives of our alumni. As a result, I have established a task force to consider how we might best make available computer-based instruction that would be of value in the continuing development of the careers of all our graduates.”

"I am honored and energized by this appointment," Schurig said. "President Steger’s goal of establishing Virginia Tech as a top-30 research institution by the end of the decade is a great challenge to us all. But we have a very talented faculty and many opportunities to explore. I am confident we will do our part."

By Cate Money
In December 2000, Virginia Tech launched the pilot of a virtual gateway to life-long learning for its alumni, VTalumnNET is an initiative of President Charles Steger and is the newest addition to the university’s continually growing distance- and distribution-learning activities.

Applying leading advancements in instructional technology, Virginia Tech is encouraging alumni to connect with the university and access the expertise and experience of “VT’s” faculty and members through on-line non-credit education opportunities.

Steger announced his vision of a virtual life-long-learning gateway in his April 2000 Founder’s Day address. “I want to see Virginia Tech play a long-active role in the lives of our alumni. As a result, I have established a task force to consider how we might best make available computer-based instruction that would be of value in the continuing development of the careers of all our graduates.”

Money Committees Make Recommendations Public

By Ralph Byers, director of government relations
The Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee each made public their recommendations for fiscal year 2002 on February 4.

The two committees differed more widely than usual with respect to both operating and capital-outlay recommendations. The divergence between the House and Senate is so great that according to one newspaper report, the sides “might not reach terms on the state spending until the legislature’s April session.”

The approaches taken to higher-education operating funding, however, were similar between the House and Senate. Both provided funds for faculty-salary increases, and both provided an initial amount of increased operating support in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Subcommittee on Higher Education Funding Policies. The Senate recommended restoring a portion of the “executive-management savings” proposed in the introduced budget. No new initiatives were funded by either committee.

For Virginia Tech, differences between the House and Senate are found in faculty salaries (4.6 percent, House; 5.2 percent, Senate). Classified salary increases will remain at the 3.5 percent recommended in the introduced budget.

The combination of faculty-salary funding, restored executive-management savings (Senate only), and base-funding adjustments amounts to $6.2 million in the Senate and $3.5 million in the House. Neither side restored the reduction in the state’s contribution to Optional Retirement Plans to 9.2 percent from 10.4 percent, as provided in the Code to Virginia.

In capital outlay, the situation is complex.

Tech Forestry Department sweeps awards

By Lynn Davis
The Forestry Department in the College of Natural Resources took all three awards at the Society of American Foresters/ Appalachian Society’s 80th annual meeting last week in Charlotte, N.C. The Appalachian Society of Foresters encompasses the states of Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; its 1906 members make up 11 percent of the total membership of the national Society of American Foresters.

David W. Smith, the college’s Shelton H. Short Jr. professor of forestry who recently retired after a long career as teacher, researcher, and associate dean for undergraduate affairs, was honored with the 2000 Distinguished Service to Forestry Award, the highest award given by the society.

Smith, whose expertise is in hardwood silviculture, is president-elect of the national Society of America Foresters (SAF), to which he was elected a fellow in 1998. Over the years he has received numerous awards, including four times the Outstanding Faculty Award when the college was organized as the School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, the William E. Wine Award for teaching excellence, and the Carl Alwin Schenck Award, a national award from SAF for outstanding achievement in forestry education.

Virginia Tech educators and alumni have received the society’s Distinguished Service Award for the last six years and nine of the last 17 years. They have included the now retired college dean John Hosner, University Distinguished Professor and Forestry Department Head Harold Burkhardt, retired forestry professor Otis Hall, and alumni Crockett Morris Jr., Shelby Shead Jr. Frank Olah, Patricia Straka, and Gary Youngblood.

The society’s 2000 Volunteer Service Award went to the college’s Extension associate Dylan Jenkins, who honors foresters who perform essential but often unrecognized work for SAF and the forestry profession.

Jenkins, who works with forest landowners for sustainable development, has held both the chair and chair-elect positions for the Appa-

(See MONEY on 4)

(See HOUSE on 4)

(See SCHURIG on 4)

(See UNIVERSITY on 4)
** EVENTS **

** Friday, 9 **

UOP Workshop, 2-4 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: 1-5888 for information.

** Saturday, 10 **

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

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Fisk Jubilee Singers.

** Sunday, 11 **

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

Women’s Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Pittsburgh.

** Monday, 12 **

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., 321 McBryde: Call 1-8415 for information.

** Tuesday, 13 **

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires.

Off-Campus Housing Fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Hallroom.

Faculty of First-Year Students Discussion, noon-1:30 p.m., DBHCC: 1-2375 for information.

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Squires Jamestown Room: Call 1-8394 for information.

** Wednesday, 14 **

Bloodmobile, noon-6 p.m., Squires.

CEUT, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest dining hall: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.

---

** ACTIVITIES **

** President’s Award for Excellence nominations now being sought **

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2001 President’s Award for Excellence. The purpose of this award is to annually recognize up to five selected employees who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act.

All salaried classified staff members at any pay band level, as well as administrative or professional faculty members, with at least two years of university service are eligible for consideration. Specific exclusions for the award are instructional faculty members, academic department heads, deans, assistant and associate deans, vice presidents, Extension agents, and wage employees.

Previous award recipients are not eligible until five years after receiving the award. If you have questions about the eligibility of any employee, please contact Personnel Services at 1-7784.

Award recipients will receive a certificate and a $2,000 award. The award will be publicly acknowledged internally and externally.

Nominations can be made by any employee, however self-nominations are not acceptable. All nominations must be submitted on an Award for Excellence nomination form which is available through deans, directors, or department heads, or may be downloaded from the Virginia Tech web page under Faculty/Staff Intranet at http://intra.vt.edu/. Evaluation criteria are available through deans, directors, or department heads, or may be downloaded from the Virginia Tech web page under Faculty/Staff Intranet at http://intra.vt.edu/.

---

** Farm and Family Showcase scheduled **

By Lynn Young

Plans have begun for the first annual Virginia Tech Farm and Family Showcase, scheduled for September 5-6 at Kentland Farm, just west of Blacksburg. The outdoor educational event will be designed to appeal to a diverse audience including families, homeowners, landowners, and those with natural resources, environmental, and agricultural interests.

The showcase is being sponsored by the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources, Human Resources and Education, and Veterinary Medicine.

Activities will include displays, tours, seminars, demonstrations, panel discussions, farm equipment operations, and attendee participation. Areas of interest will include lawn, garden, landscaping, home care, wildlife and forestry, human health and nutrition, family life, livestock, poultry, horses, agronomic field crops, forages, natural resource management, biotechnology, riparian corridors, water quality, and many others.

A few of the attractions being planned are beef-dog trials, corn maze, hand milking of dairy cows, horse-drawn farm equipment demonstrations, feeding the pleasure horse, packing for a trail ride, sheep and cattle bailing, fun with foods, grandma’s yellow pie plate, e-commerce, sawmilling, wood magic, Master Gardeners Program, apple trees for home use, soil testing, agricultural education for fourth graders, silent auction, alumni activities, and veterinary medicine.

September 5 has been designated as Farm (See FARM on 3)

President Steger, 4-5 p.m., Squires: 1-2375 for information.

“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WYTF: “Sex Talk and Diamonds.”

Women’s Basketball, 7 p.m.: At West Virginia.

Men’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: West Virginia.

Thursday, 15

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires.

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton-Reaves.

Family/Work/Life Resources Program, noon-1 p.m., location TBA.

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Libby and Kevin Hall.

Black History Month Event, 3:45 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Call 1-9825 for information.

Friday, 16

Salary and Wage Paydate.


(Through 3-30).

ULLD Training Program, 8:30 a.m.-noon, DBHCC room F: 1-6727 to register.

UOP Workshop, 2-4 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: 1-5888 for information.

CAS Dean’s Interdisciplinary Task Force Speaker, 3:30 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: Gary Schnow, World Internet Resources for Education/Development.

Seminars

** Friday, 9 **

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Wen-Li Wu, National Institute of Science/Technology.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Richard Dixon, Noble Foundation.

Communication Studies, 3:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Matt McAllister, Edd Sewell.

Philosophy, 4 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Robert Noggle, University of Illinois.

Monday, 12

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Tony Wolf.

Philosophy, 4 p.m., 132 Lane: Shelley Wilcox, University of Colorado.

Wednesday, 14

CASS, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 307 Davidson: Timothy E. Long.

ESM, 4-5 p.m., 110 Randolph: Tadatoshi Furukawa, NC State.

Thursday, 15

STS, noon-1:30 p.m., Squires Cardinal Room: Dave Robertson.

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Greg Hancock, William and Mary.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Grenda Gillaspay.

CSES, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Greg Evanylo.

Friday, 16

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Mark Lipton, Purdue.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Asim Einsen.

---

** Bullets **

CNS explains calling plan

Communications Network Services (CNS) has recently noted some misunderstanding about charges for calls placed on campus under the “Community Choice Plan.” Faculty and staff members and students on campus may call Alum Ridge, Ballard, Floyd, Locust Grove, Newport, Pembroke, and Willis, Virginia (exchanges 763, 593, 745, 651, 544, 626 and 789) from the main campus or DBHCC without dialing the 540 area code. However, these are not local calls and are billable. Calls placed to these locations from on-campus phones will be charged at a rate of five cents per minute, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will appear on the department’s monthly telecommunications bill. For a table of rates, visit www.cns.vt.edu/depth/billing.html. For information on long-distance rates, see www.cns.vt.edu/student/students.html. For further information, contact CNS at 1-6460.

Forest-products marketing workshop

The Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management will be conducting the 8th annual workshop on forest-products marketing on Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16 at Virginia Tech. The workshop will introduce the basics of marketing and cover changes affecting the industry. Sample topics include forest products and marketing overviews, marketing strategies, international and domestic markets, and e-commerce.

Instructors for the workshop will be Bob Bush, Fred Lamb, Tom Hammertett, and Bob Smith from the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. For registration materials and information, contact Bob Smith at 1-5876 or rsmith4@vt.edu.

Neves to speak on mollusk preservation

Dick Neves, a Tech fisheries professor who was featured in this month’s Nature Conservancy Magazine for his research to preserve mussels, will speak at a public lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m., in Squires Colonial Hall. His topic is “A Modern Noah’s Ark Story: Saving Freshwater Mollusks from Extinction,” and the event is free.

American Indian educator to speak

Henrietta Mann, endowed chair of Native American studies at Montana State University, will talk on “Living as a Sacred Relative” at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19 in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. A reception will follow in the Squires Jamestown Room. The event is free and open to the public. Mann’s visit is sponsored by the American Indian Studies Program, the Department of English, the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Series, the Dean of Students Office, and the College of Human Resources and Education. For information, call Harry Dyer at 1-5468.

Call for posters announced

All faculty and staff members and students are invited to submit posters in research areas related to bioinformatics and computational biology. The call for posters, including a submission form, is available on-line at http://www.rgs.vt.edu/oneil/vbi/.

Questions can be directed to members of the organizing committee listed in this document. Poster abstracts are due February 19.

Staff Senate meeting features Mouras

The Staff Senate will have its monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 15 at noon in 1810 Litton-Reaves. Steve Mouras, director of transportation, will speak on the vision of Tech’s transportation and parking needs. All staff members are welcome to attend.
EMPLOYMENT

Classified Positions

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, special 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 may request accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EEO/AA employer committed to diversity.

**Four full-time food-service positions available.**

- **Assistant Administrator**, 001228R, Pay Band 3, Office of Scholarships/Financial Aid.
- **Administrative Assistant**, 002025M, Pay Band 2, CVM—Dean’s Office.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 007497J, Pay Band 3, Pay Band 5, CE/EM/PRGC.
- **Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer)**, 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.
- **Cashier**, 000772H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Express.

**Full-time**

- **Manager of Development**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Program Support Technician**, 001522B, Pay Band 3, Political Science.
- **Program Support Technician**, 003509R, Pay Band 3, Office of Sponsored Programs.
- **Public Relations Coordinator**, 000413R, Pay Band 5, Undergraduate Admission Office.

- **Computer Technician**, 007712R, Pay Band 3, VBI.
- **Data Warehouse Architect**, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
- **Database And Application Development Specialist**, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Editor/Communications Coordinator**, 007681G, Pay Band 5, ORD.
- **Manager, RDP/Shultz Dining Center**, 000447T, Pay Band 3, CHRE.
- **Executive Assistant**, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VBI.
- **Executive Secretary**, 000266H, Pay Band 4, RDP/Shultz Dining Center.
- **Intern, VTTI**, 007185T, Pay Band 3, University Libraries.

**Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday.**

- **Assistant Administrator**, 001118G, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.
- **Manager of Development**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Assistant Counselor**, 006557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.
- **Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager)**, 001154R, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.

**Business Development Director**, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/EMPRGC.

**Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer)**, 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.

**Cashier**, 000772H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Express.

- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, ESM.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 006911R, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 001884T, Pay Band 5, CS.

**CONTRACTS OFFICE**

- **Computer Technician**, 007712R, Pay Band 3, VBI.
- **Data Warehouse Architect**, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
- **Executive Assistant**, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

**Corrections Office**

- **Data Warehouse Architect**, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
- **Executive Assistant**, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

- **Counselor**, 001118G, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.
- **Manager of Development**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Assistant Counselor**, 006557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.
- **Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager)**, 001154R, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.

**Business Development Director**, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/EMPRGC.

**Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer)**, 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.

**Cashier**, 000772H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Express.

- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, ESM.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 006911R, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 001884T, Pay Band 5, CS.

**CONTRACTS OFFICE**

- **Computer Technician**, 007712R, Pay Band 3, VBI.
- **Data Warehouse Architect**, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
- **Executive Assistant**, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

**Corrections Office**

- **Data Warehouse Architect**, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.
- **Executive Assistant**, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VBI.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

- **Counselor**, 001118G, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.
- **Manager of Development**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Assistant Counselor**, 006557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.
- **Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager)**, 001154R, Pay Band 3, DBHCC.

**Business Development Director**, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/EMPRGC.

**Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer)**, 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.

**Cashier**, 000772H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Express.

- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 007691T, Pay Band 5, ESM.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 006911R, Pay Band 5, RGS.
- **Computer Systems Engineer**, 001884T, Pay Band 5, CS.
Scholarship established to honor Johnson

By Sarah Newbill

Ben Johnson, professor of landscape architecture, was honored by the Board of Directors of the Mary Moody Northern Endowment who recently established the Directors of the Mary Moody Northern Endowment’s dream alive – “to have a compatible part of that Wilderness Conservancy Advisory protect the property. Johnson has been an active member since 1971 helping the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Johnson obtained his undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and earned a master of landscape architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design. He received the Charles Eliot Traveling Fellowship upon graduation. Johnson joined the faculty of landscape architecture at Virginia Tech in 1972. He has generated over $3.5 million in funded research while at the university. Much of his work has been in developing methods to reduce the environmental impact of high voltage transmission lines on the Virginia lands.

He was the 1999–2000 president for the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and is active with outreach projects. He shares the scholarship with his wife, Janice McBee, who is a systems analyst for Virginia Tech, and with his children, Robert, Michael, and Jennifer. He is a member of an on-line course offerings, whether credit courses and programs will be able to access content contributors with course development and technical assistance.

Alumni interested in on-line credit courses, certificates and degrees will be able to access offer credit offerings as well. “Virginia Tech’s spectrums of on-line course offerings, whether credit or non-credit, will be accessible to alumni through VTalumni.NET,” said Tom Wilkinson, director of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning.

“While university attendance whereby faculty and staff members, and others generating the on-line content will be compensated for their efforts. Staff members in the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning will provide content contributors with course development and technical assistance. Alumnus interested in on-line credit courses, certificates and degrees will be able to access offer credit offerings as well. “Virginia Tech’s spectrums of on-line course offerings, whether credit or non-credit, will be accessible to alumni through VTalumni.NET,” said Tom Wilkinson, director of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning. University criteria remain the same for credit courses and programs, alumni will have their own gateway to an ever-growing amount of knowledge on line."

Tom Tiller, vice president for alumni relations, said, “Virginia Tech is a leading university in the area of instructional technology, and now our alumni can benefit from some of the advances being made in this area. This is a marvelous opportunity to stay connected with Virginia Tech and continue to enjoy some of our professors through the convenience of the Internet."

Faculty members interested in details regarding course content may contact Sherri Turner at 1-7327, e-mail: turner@vts.educ.