Coal center garners $7.9-million contract

By Lynn Nystrom

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a $7.9-million contract to Virginia Tech’s Center for Coal and Minerals Processing (CCMP) to demonstrate the commercial potential of coal-production techniques, according to Ninth District Congressman Rick Boucher.

Although companies have mined coal on a large scale since the Industrial Revolution, they still must discard a significant portion of the coal fines generated during the mining operations due to the difficulty in cleaning and handling.

The DOE estimates that more than 2.5 billion discarded tons of fine coal sit in various impoundments around the country. The DOE-Virginia Tech contract provides for industry to test two different processes that may solve this major environmental problem.

Processing fine coal is the most difficult and costly part of producing the solid fuel, Yoon said. Impurities such as sulfur and other mineral matter are removed from the coal by washing it in water. However, the cost of separating water from the fine coal particles made during processing is too high. Consequently, many coal producers are forced to discard the fines to impoundments and recover only the coarse coal.

Virginia Tech’s new technologies will now allow coal companies to remove the water from fine coal efficiently, and to recover high-quality solid fuels from the waste streams.

“The costs of implementing the new technologies are low,” Yoon said, “and their commercial application will not entail environmental problems.”

Yoon’s prediction of a low cost for implementation is based on case studies performed by his research center during the Phase I portion of this work, funded also by DOE.

One Phase I case study conducted on a

(See COAL on 2)

Tech among top five in ag research

By Stewart MacInnis

Virginia Tech has been named one of the top five agricultural-research institutions in the nation by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The university jumped from last year’s ranking of number 10 to the number-five position this year, placing it in the NSF’s top tier of institutions in terms of total research expenditures in the agricultural sciences. The ranking is for the 1999 budget year, the last year for which figures are available.

“I was delighted and proud to see Virginia Tech ranked fifth among all universities in the country in agricultural-research expenditures,” said Andy Swiger, dean of the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “This is a great tribute to our faculty. Modern technology is providing unlimited opportunities for agriculture to alleviate hunger and provide a nutritious, healthy food supply for people throughout the world.”

The NSF reported agricultural research and development dollars expended at Virginia Tech for 1999 at $59,805,000, an increase of nearly $5.5 million over the 1998 figure.

Kirit Hatzios, associate dean for research in the college and director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, noted that the increased tempo of research which has propelled Virginia Tech to a national leadership position has been accomplished with a modest increase in faculty members, and few new research facilities.

“Our researchers are making world-class contributions to science, but they are

(See TECH on 4)

VMRCVM faculty member earns national award for teaching

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

A neurobiologist in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has been named the nation’s best teacher in veterinary medicine.

Bradley Klein, an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, has been awarded the national Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award.

Several thousand faculty members at the nation’s 31 North American veterinary colleges annually compete for institutional Norden awards. Those winners are then evaluated by the Association of American Veterinary Medical College’s (AAVMC) National Norden Selection Committee and a “veterinary educator who epitomizes what is good and excellent in education is selected,” according to AAVMC documents.

“I’m pretty excited,” said Klein, who joined the college in 1988. “It’s nice to know that the work I put into teaching is appreciated.”

Klein’s distinction as national teacher of the year is unusual on two fronts. First, he is a biomedical scientist with a Ph.D. and not a doctor of veterinary medicine. The nation’s top teaching award usually goes to faculty member

(See AWARD on 5)

Eyre reports on provost search

By John Ashby

Dean Peter Eyre updated the provost-search process at the February 5 meeting of the University Council.

Eyre said the search committee has narrowed the field to seven semi-finalists. The candidates were scheduled to be interviewed off-campus beginning Monday, Feb. 12. From the seven candidates, the committee expects to choose three or four candidates who will be brought to campus for a full-scale interview.

“The committee is very pleased with the

(See EYRE on 4)
New housing matrix serves as national resource

By Sarah Newhill

Thinking innovatively about housing policy, the Virginia Center for Housing Research has recently introduced a new on-line web matrix providing help for cities, planners, housing advocates and neighborhood groups all over the nation.

The site provides a comprehensive approach to housing policies in an attempt to get cities to address all aspects of the housing market, and to help them develop much more multi-faceted policies to approach housing problems. Center Director Ted Koebel hopes this site will encourage localities to put more program information up on the web so it can be shared with other areas. “We hope that people across the country will provide us comments, suggestions, and particularly provide us web links and examples of policies and specific programs we can to, so that New York can see what San Francisco is doing and vice versa.”

Koebel noted some misunderstanding about charges for calls placed on campus under the “Community Choice Plan.” Faculty and staff members and students on campus can 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/student/ x_gd.html. For more information, contact CNS at 1-6460.

Tuesday, 20
CEUT, 2:30-3:40 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: Margaret Hable
Black History Month Event, 7-10 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center: Call 1-5168 for information.
Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.
VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burress auditorium: Godspell.
Men’s Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At Providence.
Public Lecture, 8 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: Dick Neves.

Wednesday, 21
Salon Opening, Armony Gallery: Walter Clark (Through 3-30).
Family/Work/Life Resources Program, noon-1 p.m.: 404 Clay St.
CEUT, 2:30-3:40 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: www.ceut.vt.edu to register.
Black History Month Event, 4-5 p.m., DBHCC room A: Call 552-2298 for information.
“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTI: Topic TBA.
Women’s Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Providence.
Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Call (540) 200-1585 for information.
Black History Month Concert, 7:30 p.m., Lyric Theatre: Call 951-4771 for information.
Einstein’s Dreamy Film/ Discussion, 8-10:30 p.m., 1250 Torgersen: 1-2375 for information.

Thursday, 22
Black History Month Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Green Garden Cafe: Call 1-3168 for information.
VMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Doug Martin.
Banner Users’ Group Presentation, 1:30-3 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room: srb144@vt.edu or 1-1715 to RSVP.

Friday, 16
Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Mark Lipton, Purdue.
MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Asim Rosen.

Monday, 19
Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Vince Rubatzky, U.C. Davis.

Wednesday, 21
ESM, 4-5 p.m., 110 Randolph: S. A. Ambartsuamian, Penn State.

Thursday, 22
Black History Month Concert, 7 p.m., Squires Old Hall: Call 552-2298 for information.

Sunday, 18
1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.
Women’s Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Boston College.
University Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Wind Instrument Chamber Music.

Lecturer to give talk on Scottish language
Robin R. Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, Scotland will be delivering “Scotts/English, English/Scots: Inhabiting the Paradox” at 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26 in 120 Williams. Mackenzie was principal of Basil Paterson College in Edinburgh for 21 years and is now an English Language School consultant and a lecturer for Virginia Tech’s study-abroad program. His presentation is sponsored by the English Department and open to the public.

Banner Users’ Group presents overview
The Banner Users’ Group is holding an overview of the student-information system on February 22, from 1:30-3 p.m. in Squires Brush Mountain Room. Information about training will be followed by a discussion on-going enhancements to the student system, the overall vision for the system, and future plans. Employees from Enrollment Services and the Provost’s Office will join the audience for a question-and-answer session.

Banner Users’ Group programs are open to anyone interested who is associated with Virginia Tech. RSVP to srb144@vt.edu or 1-1715.

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 can 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/student/ x_gd.html. For more information, contact CNS at 1-6460.

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.
The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position-closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services website at http://www.ps.vt.edu. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some of the following positions include state benefits. 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 telephone number below. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An ADA/EEO employer committed to diversity.

**Classified Positions**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Database And Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.**
**Electrical, 007565G, Pay Band 3, Physical.**
**Electronics Technician, 007656J, Pay Band 4, VTTI.**
**Enrollment Specialist, 001675B, Pay Band 3, Dean CAS.**
**Executive Assistant, 007720R, Pay Band 3, VTTI.**
**Executive Chef, 000266H, Pay Band 4, RDP/Hotel Dining Center.**
**Fiscal Technician Senior, 004047B, Pay Band 3, Chem E.**
**Housekeeping Supervisor, 000824H, Pay Band 2, RDP.**
**Housekeeping Worker, 001631G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.**
**Housekeeping Worker Senior, 002745H, Pay Band 1, RDP.**
**Interpretor For The Deaf, 007472J, Pay Band 3, Dean of Students.**
**Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.**
**Lab Specialist, 007998B, Pay Band 3, Biology.**
**Laboratory Specialist, 007249M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.**
**Laboratory Specialist, 006375M, Pay Band 4, FST.**
**Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.**
**Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 002118J, Pay Band 4, HNF.**
**Laboratory Specialist Senior, 003159M, Pay Band 4, CVN.**
**Large Animal Supervisor, 006988M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**
**Librarian Assistant, 006664F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries: Art/Library Architecture.**
**Manager Of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.**
**Materials Control Coordinator, 007590A, Pay Band 3, CNS.**
**Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**
**Office Services Specialist, 001286F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.**
**Office Services Specialist, 004497F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.**
**Office Specialist, 000160H, Pay Band 2, RDP/Hotel Dining Center.**
**Operating Systems Analyst, 000871L, Pay Band 5, Computing Center.**
**Operations Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet’s Place.**
**Parking Enforcement Officer, 007221R, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.**
**Payroll, 007038R, Pay Band 1, Security Services.**
**Program Support Technician, 001522B, Pay Band 3, Political Science.**
**Public Relations Coordinator, 000413R, Pay Band 5, Undergraduate Admissions.**
**Public Relations Specialist, 006837R, Pay Band 4, WSFP.**
**Research Engineer, 007634R, Pay Band 4, VCD.**
**Security Lead Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), 0030119G, Pay Band 1, Parking Services.**
**Shop Lead, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Cooper–West End Market.**
**Snaps Security Guard, 007722C, Pay Band 1, Police.**
**Software Developer, 007690T, Pay Band 5, EFM.**
**Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.**
**Sous Chef, 000769H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Dietetic Dining Hall.**
**Staff Internal Auditor, 0077224R, Pay Band 4, IAMS.**
**Telecommunications Service and Speed IPTV Program Support Technician, 005097J, Pay Band 3, HNF.**
**Technical Writer/Editor, 007721R, Pay Band 3, CWC.**
**Telemarketing Network Technician, 006965A, Pay Band 3, CNS.**
**Trades Utility Worker, 002216C, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.**

**PART TIME**

**Animal Care Technician/Small Animal Hospital, 0022675M, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**

**Application Processor, 002590B, Pay Band 3, Undergraduate Admissions.**
**Asst. Program Coordinator, 002307B, Pay Band 3, Social Service.**
**Banquet/Setup (Food-b), 002143G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.**
**Computer Network Support Tech, 003174G, Pay Band 4, Police.**
**Course Development Specialist, 007707M, Pay Band 4, Entomology.**
**Executive Secretary, 004657R, Pay Band 3, CNR.**
**Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications), W023003A, Pay Band 2, CNS.**
**Two part-time food-operations positions available.**

**Head Teacher, Child Development Lab, W02305U, Pay Band 4, Human Development.**
**Housekeeping Worker, 0024240H, Pay Band 1, RDP.**

**Housekeeping Worker, 0020143, Pay Band 1, Health Center.**

**Laboratory Specialist, W023209M, Pay Band 3, Dairy Science.**

**Library Manager, W023208M, Pay Band 2, Entomology.**
**Office Services Specialist, W023188R, Pay Band 2, Provost’s Office.**
**Payroll, W023145M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**
**Pharmacist (Relief), W022501M, Pay Band 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**
**Radiologic Technologist, W002238J, Pay Band 3, Health Center.**
**Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.**
**Recreation Center Specialist, W003211J, Pay Band 2, USA.**

**UNIVERSITY ONLY**

**Library Specialist, U002310F, Pay Band 4, Library—Reference Dept.**

**OFF CAMPUS**

**Enrollment Program Assistant, 0200912, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.**

**Radio Announcer, W020600L, Pay Band 4, University Relations/VFW Radio.**

**Research Specialist Senior, 060504R, Pay Band 4, CMI.**

**Underwriting Account Executive, 009385R, Pay Band 5, WVTF.**

**Web Administrator/Graphic Designer, 007725J, Pay Band 5, Northern Virginia Center.**

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Athletics. Director of Men’s/Women’s Track/Field/Cross-Country, Contact: Patti Linkous, 359 Jamerson (0502). Deadline: March 5.**

**International Research/Development. Africa PM Link Assistant Program Coordinator/ODR/WV Website Manager. Contact: S.K. De Datta, 1060 Lito Reaves (0334). Deadline: March 1 or until filled.**

**Residential/Disney Programs. Area Coordinator/Residence Education. Contact: Larry Robertson, 109 E. Eggleston (0428). Deadline: March 1.**

**University Libraries. Coordinator of Special Collections. Contact: Cathy Pillow, 12551 Pavilion Libraries, Virginia Tech, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001. Review begins late March.**

**Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Human Factors Research Scientist. Contact: Tracey Schroeder, Administrative Director, VTTL, 3500 Transportation Research Plaza, Blacksburg, VA 24060. Deadline is Feb. 23.**

**Awards**

**Continued from 1**

who is a DVM.

Second, Klein’s subject area, neurosciences, is often viewed as notoriously complex and difficult by veterinary students.

“This is the first time one of our faculty members has earned this prestigious national award and we are understandably very proud of Dr. Klein,” said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre. “The fact that he has achieved this national distinction while teaching in such a challenging area speaks volumes about his gifts as a teacher.”

Klein’s strategy for teaching excellence is to prepare, organize, clarify and underscore the relevance of the field to everyday life.

“It is very complex material so I try and simplify it and break it down into pieces that the students can take away and remember,” said Klein, who earned his Ph.D. from City University of New York while conducting research at New York City’s American Museum of Natural History. “I try and use everyday analogies to illustrate the concepts I am teaching.”

For example, he brought in an electric guitar to illustrate that there is an orderly relationship in frequencies produced by the instrument and a mathematical relationship of frequencies that can be processed by the inner ear’s basilar membrane, the first section of the auditory system responsible for interpreting sound.

Klein conducted a National Institutes of Health-funded post-doctoral fellowship in neuroanatomy and neurophysiology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey following his graduate work at CUNY.

He is currently working with entomology Professor Jeff Bloomquist on a U.S. Army-funded project designed to explore a possible relationship between pesticide exposure and the development of Parkinson’s disease-like symptoms.

Funded with a grant from the university’s Center for Innovation in Learning, he developed a computer-based learning tool that featured digital representations of a variety of nervous-system laboratory specimens. Before its development, veterinary students could only inspect the specimens in the lab. Klein said he has used the tool to help veterinary students navigate the neurosciences option within the university’s emerging Biological Sciences Initiative.
Johnson assists with Slovenia project

By Lynn Davis

Slovenia was one of the first eastern European countries to emerge out of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. "As a country in transition to a free-market system, Slovenia has had to make some remarkable shifts in all aspects of life, including forestry," said Jim Johnson, forest extension service here in the U.S.

Extension and Outreach. "Under the old communist system all forest land was owned and controlled by the government, but under the democratic society, forest land has been returned to private ownership—providing an opportunity for our college to assist in making the transition smooth for Slovenia's forest owners."

The new forest owners are struggling with many of the same problems and concerns shared by American forest owners. Varying management objectives, problems with storm damage, insects and diseases, markets, finding good labor, and locating funding to accomplish management objectives are all prevalent.

"But a problem that is unique," Johnson points out, "is the relationship between the forest owners and the Slovenian Forest Service (SFS)—the governmental body that in former times controlled the forest land and dictated how it was to be managed."

In the past 10 years the Slovenian Forest Service has transitioned from a regulatory and control-oriented agency to one that operates more like a state agency or extension service here in the U.S. Slovenian forest owners are now free to pursue objectives and U.S. management strategies that would have never been allowed just a few short years ago. Johnson said, "While many Slovenian forest owners embrace this change, many are having a very difficult time adjusting to this new role. The Slovenian Forest Service, with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, has recently embarked on an exciting program to re-position itself as a major service and education provider to the forest owners of the country."

A group of highly motivated foresters was selected to begin an intensive training program, and they would then become trainers for other foresters. During a several-week summer November the trainers learned about participatory methods, educational strategies and distance learning, principles of adult communications, as well as other topics.

Instructors came from Slovenia, the FAO in Rome, Italy, Scotland, Germany, and the United States.

Johnson, who was brought in as a technical expert on Extension strategies in forestry, provided a day of training on topics such as determining educational objectives, defining subject audience, developing and delivering educational programs, evaluating educational programs, and preparing educational materials. Around 100 forest owners were part of this exchange. "The participants interacted with forest owners from all regions of Slovenia," Johnson said.

When Johnson visited the United States last year, he met with the same people he had worked with in Slovenia. "They had adapted the programs to their region, and I was interested to see how they were working here," Johnson said. "I was going to visit Slovenia this year to see how they had adapted our programs to their region."