SPECTRUM

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/
VOLUME 23 NUMBER 24 FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2001

Sad news.
Sandra C. Cupp Football Endowment Fund
who died in an automobile accident last fall.

The AVMA has conducted an accreditation visit on the basis of programmatic outcomes assessment.
Author discusses women becoming mathematicians

Pınar Haki, who will represent "Women Becoming Mathematicians: The Book" on Monday, April 2 at 4 p.m. in 455 McBryde. Murray will give a presentation describing her work and how the book evolved. Afterwards, she will answer questions and sign books. The Department of Mathematics, the Math Club, and Womanspace are sponsoring the presentation in celebration of Women's Month and Math Awareness Month at Virginia Tech. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or anderson@math.vt.edu. People with a disability who need assistance should contact Anderson at least one week before the event.

Take Back the Night activities scheduled

Blackburg's third annual "Take Back the Night Rally and March" will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to protest violence against women and promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate violence. The rally will be held from 7:30-8 p.m. on the Drillfield in front of Burruss. (The rain location is 1870 Linton Reaves.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield for a closing celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons. Participants are asked to bring small candles or flashlights and wear a purple ribbon tied with a knot for friends or family members who have been sexually assaulted. Purple ribbons will be available at information tables before events during Women's Month and each weekday at the Women's Center. Sponsoring organizations include Amnesty International, the Dean of Students Office, and the Women's Center, among others. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or s.anderson@vt.edu. People with a disability who need assistance should contact Anderson at least one week before the event.
Virginia Tech bioinformatics research to be displayed, discussed

Virginia Tech bioinformatics researchers will display and discuss their work related to bioinformatics and computational biology (BCB) on Monday, March 19, during a poster session and workshop at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHC).

The workshop is intended to bring together faculty members, students, and staff members at Virginia Tech who are working in disciplines that may have new applications in BCB, said Len Peters, vice provost for research. “The purpose of this meeting is to educate the Virginia Tech community on the research, curriculum, and scholarship currently being pursued among BCB-related disciplines, to begin to coalesce a vision for BCB at Virginia Tech, and to determine the next steps for implementing this vision.”

Bioinformatics and computational biology refer to the application of information technology, information theory, computational science, mathematical analysis, signal processing, and statistical methods to complex biological problems. Bioinformatics specifically refers to the search for and use of patterns and inherent structure in massive biological data sets, such as genome sequences, and the development of new methods for database access and queries. Computational biology is more frequently used to refer to physical and mathematical simulation of biological processes.

---

General Assembly legislation benefits state employees

In April of 2000, the state of Virginia established the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) at Virginia Tech.

Workshop registration begins at 8 a.m. Presentations, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the front auditorium, will provide overviews and progress reports on selected activities. The poster session, which opens at 11 a.m. in rooms F and G, is expected to facilitate discussion and promote collaborations, Peters said.

The organizing committee for the workshop includes Leonard Ferrari, Ina Hoeschele, Dennis Kafura, Malcolm Potts, Bruno Sobral, John Tyson, Tracy Wilkes, and Herta Woerner.

For more information, contact John O’Neil at ooneil@vt.edu or 1-9355.
New e-journals now available

The University Libraries have added 650 electronically accessible journals, including many titles new to their collections, through subscription to a service called ScienceDirect. Links to these titles, which include such critical titles as Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering, and Composite Structures, are made from the electronic journals page, which is linked from the research section of the libraries’ home page, www.lib.vt.edu.

The collection will ultimately include 1,150 journals from Elsevier, the world’s largest publisher of science, technology, and medicine, as well as several complementary on-line resources. Some social science and humanities titles are included. The 500 titles not currently available will be added soon. With articles from 1995 forward available for all titles, the collection will represent over a million journal articles.

In the coming months the libraries will send out further updates on special features of ScienceDirect, arrange for user training sessions, and begin to catalog the titles in Addison.

In the meanwhile, users should look for these titles from the libraries’ web site. Virginia Tech negotiated the ScienceDirect initiative on behalf of an ad-hoc cooperative of academic libraries in the state. All six doctoral institutions as well as James Madison University are participating.

With the addition of ScienceDirect, the libraries now offer access to more than 1,900 full-content titles. Selected text is available from an additional 19,000 electronic publications through consolidated collections such as Dow Jones and Lexis-Nexis.

Users should send any questions or comments to their college librarian or Paul Metz, at pmetz@vt.edu.

---

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen to speak

By Sookhun Ho

Former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has been invited to speak at Virginia Tech on Thursday, March 22, as the featured speaker in this spring’s Cutchins Lecture Series, presented by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business. Cohen will discuss international challenges facing the United States in the 21st century. His talk, in Burruss auditorium at 7:30 p.m., is open to the public at no charge.

Cohen earned an international reputation for independence, judgment, and integrity during a 31-year career in public service. As secretary of defense, he was hailed as a model of bipartisanship—the first elected official in modern American history from one political party to serve in the cabinet of a president of another party.

Cohen’s leadership helped to spread freedom across Europe through enlargement of the NATO alliance; ensure stability in Asia through deeper security alliances, and transform U.S. forces through increased defense spending. He guided the U.S. military through the 1990 NATO air campaign over Kosovo and during operations to prevent Iraq from destabilizing the strategic Persian Gulf region.

Committed to bringing accountability and the best business practices of the private sector to government, he streamlined, reoriented, and modernized acquisitions and other critical operations in the Department of Defense.

During his tenure, the U.S. Department of Defense, under Cohen’s leadership, has earned widespread acclaim for his bold leadership across party lines. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he played a leading role in crafting the historic Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act. As a member and chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, he co-authored legislation strengthening U.S. intelligence and counterintelligence to defend the nation from foreign political and industrial espionage.

Cohen has authored or co-authored nine books, including three novels and two books of poetry.

---

OBITUARY

William E. Louhoff, 58

William E. Louhoff, 58, an accountant in the Accounts Receivable area of the Bursar’s Office, died February 23. Louhoff had been with the university for 30 years. He received a degree in business administration from Virginia Tech in 1967.

---

BUDGET

Continued from 1

on Monday, Gilmore announced that he had closed the state budget shortfall by reallocating most of the state universities' construction monies along with unneeded revenues from the state’s retirement system and the State Compensation Board, which funds sheriffs and constitutional offices.

As a result of Gilmore’s announcement, Virginia Tech’s fiscal year 2001 operating budgets will remain intact and the fiscal year 2002 operating budget, as stated in the current Appropriation Act, will be fully funded. The temporary hiring freeze has also been lifted.

Last in the budget battle were raises next year for classified staff and faculty members. Gilmore did release some funds for capital projects, but only those that affect maintenance and health or safety needs. At Virginia Tech, the governor released $7.9 million for the maintenance reserve and $2.5 million for life- and-safety-code modifications.

Other major capital projects affected by the budget shortfall include a new facility for chemistry and physics, new dairy-science teaching facility, and renovation projects for Williams, Agnew, and Burruss halls. In addition, Tech was also seeking for authorization to spend additional non-state funds for the South endzone expansion of Lane Stadium, a project that is now under way.

Last year, the General Assembly authorized Tech to spend $26 million for the end-zone project, but cost estimates are now at $37 million. Because the General Assembly did not act on the budget, Tech failed to get its authorization modified to spend the additional $11 million needed. The project was to be completed by fall of 2002.