By Jeanne M. Garon
Interim Provost James R. Bohland has announced that the university is charting an altered course in Northern Virginia and will re-focus its programs there to link Northern Virginia’s needs with Virginia Tech’s strengths. Beginning immediately, programs in Northern Virginia will be re-assessed in terms of their relevance to four core interdisciplinary research areas.

Dubbed “footprints,” the four core thematic areas are broad, inter-related domains encompassing interdisciplinary research areas identified over the past several years as most appropriate to Northern Virginia’s urban, land and energy landscape and its cluster of governmental, international, commercial, and industrial organizations.

“It’s time to start thinking in terms of cross-cutting initiatives for Northern Virginia. To be truly effective and address the needs of the community, we have to meld what we do best with the needs and nature of the Northern Virginia communities and constituents,” Bohland said.

The interdisciplinary themes for the Northern Virginia Center (NVC), the Alexandria Research Institute, and the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center will be development and applications of information technology, urbanization and built environments, policy and governance, and education and leadership.

Bohland said the Northern Virginia initiative is the first in a series of extended-campus reviews. “Extended campuses present the university with complex challenges, both philosophical and procedural,” he said. “If strategically planned and managed, the extended campuses can be great assets in Virginia Tech’s goal of reaching a top-30 ranking among American research institutes.” Bohland said while the university is now reviewing Northern Virginia programs, it expects eventually to apply new strategic models to all extended campuses, integrating them more closely with Virginia Tech’s core activities, while taking advantage of the unique characteristics of each.

Virginia Tech’s colleges and programs currently in Northern Virginia or with an interest in locating there will be asked to present proposals referencing their potential contributions relevant to the four themes. The Graduate School is developing a process for making allocations to strengthen Northern Virginia programs that contribute significantly to the interdisciplinary areas.

Programs whose participants wish to be located in Northern Virginia must fit one of the thematic areas and demonstrate enrollment potential, integration of research and outreach with instruction, continuing-education and technical-assistance programming included in the educational mix, and collaboration across the Northern Virginia programming areas.

The initiative does not apply to the Marion du Pont Scott Equine Medical Center in Virginia Tech's Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE).

Pots lands big grant from DOD

By Susan Traulove
If human tissue could remain viable after being dried, stored, and rehydrated, then life-saving blood products, organs, pharmaceuticals, and sensors could be transported and used virtually anywhere. Now research by Virginia Tech scientists has shown enough promise to land a multi-million-dollar grant from the Department of Defense (DOD).

The DoD has awarded Malcolm Potts, professor of biochemistry and director of the Virginia Tech Center for Genomics (VGEN), a grant for research on biomimetic cell and tissue states. The study involves the genetic engineering of human cells to achieve prolonged stabilization in the air-dried state and will apply principles of functional genomics and bioinformatics derived from VGEN’s work on extremophile microorganisms currently supported through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Extremophiles survive extreme conditions of heat, cold, moisture, radiation, salinity, alkalinity, and acidity. Potts and Richard Helm, of the Fralin Biotechnology Center at Virginia Tech, have been studying the cyanobacterium, *Nostoc commune*, which has the capacity to survive in the dry state for hundreds of years and, upon re-wetting, to rapidly recover respiration, photosynthesis, and nitrogen-fixation abilities. This organism produces a unique biopolymer that protects the cells from heat, desiccation, and ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Potts and Helm have isolated genes involved in these responses for transfer to sensitive cells.

They have dried mouse cells and, most recently, human kidney cells for as long as eight days. The cells are air dried at ambient temperature.

By Liz Crumley
The family of the late Leo Vecellio Sr., former head of Vecellio and Grogan, Inc., of Beckley, West Virginia, has provided a $1 million endowment for the Construction Engineering and Management Program in Virginia Tech’s Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE).

The endowment will fund a number of research and education activities, including the Vecellio Professorship in Construction Engineering and Management; undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships for students who demonstrate academic and leadership ability; and a lecture series, sponsoring visits to Virginia Tech by leading national construction experts.

Leo Vecellio, 32, joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1998. Up to that point, his career had included two years as a project engineer for CSA Engineering, Inc. in Palo Alto, Calif., and a year and a half as an assistant professor of mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering at the University of Toledo.

When the opening occurred at Virginia Tech, where Leo would be able to rejoin Inman, who serves as the director of the nationally acclaimed Center for Intelligent Materials Systems and Structures (CIMSS), he was anxious for the opportunity. “I knew I would be going to a place with a track record,” he said. “The benefits were tangible in that the labs were well-established, and the intangible benefits were the people and the university. The environment is good. People enjoy what they do and they work hard.”

Since his arrival at Tech, Leo has (See NSF SELECT on 7)
Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and students are often the subject of significant national and state-wide news coverage. To better inform the university community about these accomplishments, the Office of University Relations has compiled this report. This report excludes coverage in the Roanoke news-media market. For more information about the articles mentioned, call Julie Kane, university public-relations specialist, at 1-9934, or contact your college public relations office.

Reader’s Digest (Sept. 2000): Janet Walberg-Rankin, professor in human nutrition, foods, and exercise, is quoted as the main source for the well being article entitled “Six Ways to Burn Fat Faster.”

Chicago Tribune (Oct. 1): The Sunday issue carried an article titled, “Electronic dissertations gain popularity in grad schools,” that credited Virginia Tech as the first to require electronic theses and dissertations.

Fitness magazine (Oct. 2000): Rosemary Bliessner, professor of human development, was quoted in an article entitled “Girlfriends are good for you.”

Sacramento Bee (Oct. 5): A feature about the use of piezoelectric chips in sports equipment quoted Don Leo of mechanical engineering.

(PBS)/“Healthweek” (Oct. 7): CropTech’s Carole Cramer, a plant pathology professor, discussed growing transgenic tobacco.

Washington Post (Oct. 9): A front-page article on the rate of Ford Explorer tire accidents included comments from Mehdi Ahmadian of mechanical engineering. Ahmadian discussed the relationship of tires and suspension.

KTAR radio, Phoenix (Oct. 10): History Professor William Ochsenswald was the guest for a 15 minute live call-in program discussing the current conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.


Des Moines Register (Oct. 15): Will Hueston, associate dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at the Maryland campus, is quoted in an edition on mad-cow disease.


(Virginia Public Radio)“With Good Reason” (week of Oct. 22): Art and Art History Professor Steve Bickley explored the relationship between man and nature, calling on his students to assist him in creating monumental earthworks, figures, and mounds at a local landfill, as well as crop circles which can only really be seen from the air.

Richmond Times Dispatch (Oct. 23): The Business Section carried an extensive article about Virginia Tech’s Local Multi Paint Distribution System project and an interview with Charles Bostian of the Center for Wireless Telecommunication.

Woman’s Day (Nov. 14): Irene Leech, assistant professor of near environments, is mentioned in the article “18 Ways to Have a Debt-Free Holiday.”

(Virginia Public Radio)“With Good Reason” (week of Nov. 14): Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Professor James Berksen discussed the status of the horseshoe crab, harvested for bait and for a chemical in its blood important to the pharmaceutical industry. Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Professor Richard Neves talked about the Clinch River in southwest Virginia, considered the number-one hotspot in the United States for imperiled aquatic species. Among those threatened are 31 varieties of mussels.

The Nature Conservancy’s 50th anniversary publication, “50 Years of Saving Great Places” (Nov. 2000): Richard Neves in natural resources is the subject of the feature—“The Man Behind the Mussels.”

(Staunton, VA) Daily News Leader (Dec. 10): Michele James-Deramo director of the Service Learning Center, was quoted in a story in on volunteerism.

Virginia News Network (Dec. 11): Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Public Relations Coordinator Jeffrey Douglas discussed tips for buying pets as holiday presents.

U.S. News & World Report (Dec. 18): Will Hueston from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is quoted as an expert in an article on mad-cow disease.

Smithsonian Magazine (Jan. 2001): This issue contains a feature article about Roger Ekirch, history professor, and his research on “night” titled “Probing the Heart of Darkness.”

Canadian Broadcasting Corp. (Jan. 13): Animal and Poultry Sciences Professor David Notter discussed the decreasing variety of strains of poultry, to the point of becoming extinct. This loss of variety could make the poultry industry more susceptible to disease and could mean the loss of genetically significant types of poultry.

(Phoenix) KTAR Radio (Feb. 6): History Professor William Ochsenswald participated in a live question-and-answer session regarding the Israeli elections and their effect on the Middle East peace talks.

Virginia News Network (Feb. 7): Professor William Ochsenswald discussed the Israeli elections and their effect on the Middle East peace talks.

(Syndicated national public affairs radio) Mediaracks (Feb. 9): Michael von Spakovsky, director of the Energy Management Institute, was interviewed regarding alternative energy sources in light of the California energy crisis.

National Public Radio (Feb. 20): In a report on transgenic plant products, Plant Pathology Professor Carole Cramer commented on whether there is a need to isolate every transgenic plant to prevent crossbreeding or release of harmful materials into the environment.

Richmond Times-Dispatch (Feb. 20): Richard Weyers in civil engineering was interviewed about Virginia’s bridges.

(Virginia Public Radio)“With Good Reason” (week of March 4): Writer and English Professor Lucinda Roy, whose newest novel is The Hotel Alleluia, talked about how Americans, Africans and Europeans view interracial relationships.

By Susan Trollo
For Robert Porter, becoming program-development manager in the research division represents a return to academe, but in a different role. The one-time teacher of speech and dramatic literature, director of theater productions at Swarthmore College, and speech communications department head at Lewis and Clark College will now be a coach and catalyst for faculty members seeking research program support.

In the two plus decades since leaving higher education, Porter became an independent business consultant and did many projects in strategic planning and program development. Since 1988, he has been managing partner at CenPenn Systems in Harrisburg, where he directed strategic planning and management training for companies and nonprofits in four states, wrote successful funding proposals, and developed business plans for new programs and services. Porter, who arrived on campus February 21, said, “The effort and resources to achieve President Steger’s goal to become a top-30 university are going to be significant. The research program-development office will foster access to research opportunities, whether from government, business, or private foundations. I see my general responsibility as being to aid in that effort, and, at the end of the decade, I expect we will be able to say we had a meaningful role in achieving that objective.”

He has often worked with teams to develop programs, objectives, and funding proposals, such as a $16-million, five-year funding proposal for a non-profit agency to provide services to persons with disabilities, which was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

“Terms like ‘multidisciplinary’ and ‘partnering’ are the buzz words in funding agencies now,” so he expects his experiences in team building and meeting funding sources’ requirements to be useful at Virginia Tech. “It helps to have a neutral, outside party on a team, particularly when there are faculty members from different disciplines,” Porter said. “Success is not always a result of content or faculty expertise. Often it can be a matter of adjusting the presentation rhetoric. For example, the one-page abstract needs to be comprehensible to a person who is not an expert in a particular field.”
Staff mentoring workshop will feature Miller in April

Initiated during 1999-2000, the Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees of Virginia Tech will end a second year with a day-long workshop and evaluation program. “The Role of Mentoring in Self-Assessment and Professional Development: Remaining Top-notch,” scheduled for April 10 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Custom Catering, will be led by nationally known speaker Camille Wright Miller. There is no charge for the workshop, but seating is limited to the first 100 enrollees.

During the past 14 years, Miller has focused on changing organizations and organizational directions. From compensation studies to strategic planning, from CEO coaching to streamlining work processes, her work has taken her from Fortune 500 companies to sole proprietor operations. She founded The Virginia Group, Inc., a consulting organization that works to improve the lives of individuals and organizations, and writes the work-related advice column “Working It Out” for The Roanoke Times.

The workshop will serve as the six-month evaluation and will bring to an end the second year of the Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees of Virginia Tech. During its first year, the mentoring program matched eight entertainers with nine mentors. The program was partially funded by an Affirmative Action Incentive Grant and was able to complete an active year (culminating with a day-long workshop led by David Robey) with donations from colleges and administrative offices throughout Virginia Tech.

The second year of the program was fully funded by renewal of the Affirmative Action Incentive Grant. During this 2000-01 year, 15 mentor/mentor matches were made. In addition to contacts between mentors and mentees, formal activities included the Kick-Off Luncheon in August 2000, a four-hour training program for mentors and mentees (featuring Kimberly Townsend, Penn State University) in October 2000, and a three-month evaluation meeting in January 2001.

Optional informal networking lunches were also initiated in February 2001 to bring together all participants of the Mentoring Program during the months that fall between formal mentoring-program activities.

One of the objectives of the mentoring program is to facilitate the development and retention of minority classified employees to office-manager positions.

Other objectives are to enhance and develop a communication network within the office-managers profession, to encourage present staff members in office-management positions to exercise leadership skills, and to provide an opportunity for cross training and shared learning between departments and colleges as a method of improving the quality of service. Committee members have designed and will soon implement a reference handbook for program participants.

The mentoring grant committee is working with Linda Woodard, Personnel Services; Richard Harshbarger, University Leadership Development; and Benjamin Dixon, Multicultural Affairs to move the mentoring program from a grant project to a fully funded university service program for support staff in bands 2 and 3 at Virginia Tech.

The mentoring program is currently supported by the Office Managers’ Development Group, University Leadership Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Personnel Services, and the Dean and Staff Association of the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, contact Atkins at atkinsvw@vt.edu, Carroll at carrollv@vt.edu, Collins at shocollv@vt.edu, or Dudding at uazrwy@vt.edu.

Electronic Theses and Dissertations passes milestone

By Susan Trulove

“Virginia Tech just added the 3000th ETD,” Gail McCauley of University Libraries reported in mid-February.

The milestone electronic thesis/dissertation was not about love or chocolate. The 3000th ETD—approved February 11—was Pamela Anne McKinney’s dissertation, “A Study to Assess the Relationships among Student Achievement, Teacher Motivation, and Incentive Pay.” McKinney earned her degree of education in educational leadership and policy studies. The dissertation can be seen at http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-12072000-125507/.

“The author added a few enhancements such as linking her table of contents to each chapter,” McMillan said.

The ETD project began in 1995 as a collaborative effort of the Graduate School, led by John Eaton, associate provost for graduate studies; the library, represented by McCauley, director of the Digital Library and Archives; and Ed Fox, professor of computer science, to distribute the university’s developing expertise in electronic theses and dissertations. In 1997, the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education awarded Virginia Tech $208,000 to establish the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD).

As a result, there are more than 100 university members in the NDLTD, which is headed by Virginia University, which has about 800 ETD’s. North Texas, with about 60 ETD’s; the University of California, which has about 800 ETD’s; and the Universities of Kentucky, Maine, and South Florida.

VRS Administrative Enhancements

House bill 1740 allows the VRS Board of Trustees to establish, if needed, additional medical boards to review disability cases. In addition, the bill allows VRS to have specialists assist with recommendations and analysis when particular conditions are reviewed. This will enable VRS to be more responsive and flexible to individuals applying for disability.

House Bill 1741 will make the optional retirement plans (ORP’s) more uniform and simpler to administer. It also provides more flexibility to members.

House bill 2081 provides for a higher multiplier of 2.0 percent, instead of the current 1.7 percent, for all newly enrolled employees in VaLORS. The bill repeals the current supplement for these new employees. All current VaLORS-covered employees are provided an option of electing the new multiplier, in lieu of the current multiplier and supplement, by Oct. 1, 2001.

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House bill 1748 and Senate bill 856 allow the VRS Board of Trustees to establish and to administer a benefit-restoration plan. This provision benefits members whose annual benefits exceed limits established by §415 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan will be funded from the pension contributions that are required under current law.

House bill 1776 and Senate bill 840 simplify the system for transferring member accounts. Currently, anyone employed before 1980 may have employer-paid contributions maintained in two accounts, which presents confusion to the membership and adds administrative burdens to the system. The bills allow the two accounts to merge and make the accounts more understandable to members with the added benefit of making it easier for the system to manage and increasing VRS’s ability to provide clear, consistent customer service.

All bills are subject to approval by Governor James Gilmore and final approval at the reconvened session on April 4.

Additional information cited from General Assembly session
Ecologist to speak on cancer, environment
On Wednesday, March 28, ecologist and author Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. will present “Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment” at 7:30 p.m. in the DBHCC auditorium. Steingraber’s book of the same title presents cancer as a human-rights issue and is the first to bring together data on toxic releases and newly released data from U.S. cancer registries. Her talk is free and open to the public and has been organized by Cooper House. For information, call 552-2473.

STS conference announced
The 2001 STS Graduate Student Conference, “Exhibiting STS,” will be held Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Torgersen Hall. Details are available at http://www.cis.vt.edu/sts/home/exhibitingsts/. There will also be a dinner following at L’Arche Bed and Breakfast for a contribution of $4. E-mail bcohen@vt.edu for information about the conference or to RSVP to the dinner.

NCHERM, URMIA sponsor web seminar
The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management (NCHERM) and the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) announce an upcoming professional-development web seminar titled “Instilling Principles of Risk Management into the Daily Practice of Student Affairs” on Thursday, April 19 from 1-4 p.m. Participants can attend from their personal computers. The seminar will be moderated by Brett A. Sokolow, JD, president of NCHERM. Participants will be able to interact with the moderator and presenters via e-mail. No special equipment is required, but a modem connection faster than 56k is strongly recommended. For information, visit the NCHERM web site at www.ncherm.org, call (610) 964-9836, or e-mail BASokolow@aol.com.

Banner Users’ Group to discuss funding structure
On Wednesday, March 28 from 3-5:00 p.m. in the DBHCC auditorium, Dwight Shelton, associate vice president for finance and budget, will speak to the Banner Users’ Group on the university’s funding structure and associated processes. The Banner Users’ Group shares information among users of Banner administrative information systems and facilitates conversations among departmental and decentralized users, central office users, and implementation teams. Programs are open to all interested parties associated with Virginia Tech. RSVP to sbh144@vt.edu or 1-1715.

Museum offers Saturday science
The Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History offers Saturday Science programs on the fourth Saturday of every month from 11 a.m.-noon for children in kindergarten through third grade. The theme for March 24 is “Microtrek Treasure Hunt—Discover the Possibilities.” The program is free, but pre-registration is required. Call 1-3001 to pre-register.

Annual Stroubles Creek forum scheduled
The second annual Stroubles Creek Watershed Forum will be held on Friday, March 30 from 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in DBHCC room A. The forum is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Stroubles Creek Watershed Initiative. The event is free and open to the public. For information, contact the Water Center at 1-5624 or water@vt.edu.

EOAA announces new initiatives
The Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) Office announces publication of two new brochures, The Americans with Disabilities Act: Information and Resources and Evacuation and Safety Planning for Individuals with Disabilities, and free university-wide training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for all managers and supervisors. To request brochures or free ADA training, call the EOAA office at 1-7500.

SPECTRUM
FRIDAY, March 23, 2001

EVENTS

Friday, 23
International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: John Broderick.

Saturday, 24
Saturday Science, 11 a.m.-noon, Museum of Natural History: 1-3001 to register.
University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Rising Stars in Concert.

Sunday, 25
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.
University Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Rising Stars in Concert.

Monday, 26
Graduate Education Week Begins, (Through 3-30).
Student Research Symposium, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom: E-mail apeek@vt.edu for information.
Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center: 1-8041 for information.

Tuesday, 27
ULD Training Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC room G: 1-6727 to register.
Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center: 1-8041 for information.
Family/Work/Life Resources Program, noon-1 p.m., location TBA.
Multicultural Program, 5 p.m., 140 Squires: Call 1-3787/TDD 1-8718 for information.

Wednesday, 28
Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center Lawn: 1-8041 for information.
Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5.p.m., Women’s Center: 1-8041 for information.
Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Drillfield: 1-8041 for information.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Rod Sinclair.
Celtic Studies Conference (Through 4-1), 1:30 p.m., DBHCC room A: Call 1-6212 to register.
Take Back the Night Rally, March 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Drillfield: 1-8041 for information.

Thursday, 29
Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center: 1-8041 for information.
Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Drillfield:

Friday, 30
Salaries and Wage Paydate.
Stroubles Creek Watershed Forum, 8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., DBHCC room A: Call 1-5624 for information.
Clothesline Project Display, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center Lawn: 1-8041 for information.
Clothesline Project Workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Women’s Center: 1-8041 for information.
International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: Edward H. Sewell.

BULLETINS

Conference celebrating southern food set
“A Place at the Table: Celebrating Southern Food, Literature and Culture,” will be held April 4 at Tech. The conference begins at 1 p.m. in DBHCC room E and features literature, culture, and cooking of the South. There will be a dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a reading by award-winning author Ernest Gaines at 8 p.m. The conference sessions and reading are open to the public free of charge, and no registration is required. There will be a charge for the dinner, and pre-registration is required by April 2. For information or to register for the dinner, call Virginia Fowler at 1-6191. For more information, go to http://athena.english.vt.edu.

Motor Pool seeks opinions
Employees who travel on university business or use vehicles leased through the motor pool are asked to fill out the on-line survey available at http://www.mp.vt.edu/survey. It will assist a committee which has been formed to study future travel needs. The survey is only available on line from March 12-30. For information, contact Steve Mours at 1-4548.

First national stepping conference scheduled
The first national conference on the popular dance phenomenon known as “stepping” will be held April 6-7 at DBHCC. The conference has sessions on the history and functions of stepping as well as leadership and social change. Brian Williams, founding director of Step Afrika! USA will present the keynote address. The registration fee for the entire conference is $85 for standard registration, $65 for students. On-line registration and a complete schedule of events are available at http://www.cis.vt.edu/humanities/conf/step/index.html. The deadline is March 23. Call 1-5182 to register.
The conference is sponsored by the Humanities Program, Black Studies, the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and several other organizations. For information, call 1-9593 or e-mail bstep@vt.edu.

Step Afrika! USA will also lead a free step workshop that is open to the public. It will be held Saturday, April 7 from
Celtic studies conference scheduled at Tech

From Welsh court poems to the food of the Scottish Highlands, the conference of the Celtic Studies Association of North America will cover many topics related to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The conference will begin at 1:30 p.m., March 29 and run through 11:30 a.m., April 1. Sessions will be held in DBHCC rooms D and E. Registration for full-time participants is $20, and the conference is open to the public. Call Joe Eska at 1-6212 to register. Those who plan to attend only one or two sessions need not register. The Celtic Studies Association of North America Against violence 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 Litton Reaves.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield by 10 p.m. for a 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 has 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. Sponsor 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 951-2013 or Mary Mayzel at 1-7806.

Affirmative Action Incentive Grants proposals being sought

Virginia J. Reilly, interim director of Tech’s EOAAC Office, has announced the twelfth call for proposals for the Affirmative Action Incentive Grants Program.

The program is designed to provide seed money for new affirmative action activities for faculty and staff members or students. The program, which is a project of the university’s EOAAC Committee, will award grants of up to $2,500 (from a total pool of $20,000) for innovative affirmative-action projects.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 2 at the Division of Student Services, 455 McBryde. Murray will give a presentation describing her research 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 program 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

Blacksburg’s twelfth annual “Take Back the Night Rally and March” will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to promote awareness of 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 Litton Reaves.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield by 10 p.m. for a celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons.

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Clothesline project activities announced

The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise awareness of violence against women and the impact it has on society. Survivors of violence and friends and families of victims create shirts embazoned with detailed messages and strong illustrations. To illustrate a shirt, visit the Women’s Center (behind McBryde Hall) between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Monday, March 26 to Friday, March 30.

Sponsors include Womanspace and the Women’s Center.

Project displays will be available on the Women’s Center lawn Wednesday, March 28 and Friday, March 30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Drillfield. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041, 951-2013, or anderson@math.vt.edu. Loretta Ulrich at 951-7590 or luitarich@vt.edu.

CEUT offering April programs

Fifteen Student Motivation Strategies, Thursday, April 5: 2:30-5 p.m., DBHCC. Motivating students to engage in classroom activities, discussions, assignments, and projects can be challenging. Peter Doolittle will explore fifteen motivational strategies, their implementation and appropriate use, using interactive activities and modeling. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up of Effective Lectures 2-7, 3-28, Wednesday, April 11, 2-3 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable will coordinate this session for faculty members who participated in the effective-lectures workshops to share what they have tried, what has worked, and how students have responded. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up: Student Evaluation of Your Teaching 2-3, 3-28, Monday, April 11, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable and Marlene Preston will coordinate this session for participants in the student-evaluation workshop to continue the discussion about the on-going gathering of student feedback. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu.

Follow-up: Active Learning Strategies 1-23, 2-20, Thursday, April 12, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room. Margaret Hable will coordinate this session for participants in the active-learning workshop to gain further support in their efforts. Faculty members who have attended active-learning workshops in the past will have an opportunity to meet and discuss with others who have participated. Register at www.ceut.vt.edu. (See CEUT on 7)

Veterinary College presents Open House

By Jeffrey S. Douglass

Animal lovers will have the opportunity to tour one of the nation’s 27 veterinary colleges when the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) presents its annual Open House on Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Virginia Tech. The VMRCVM’s annual celebration of veterinary medicine will showcase the profession and the college through dozens of entertaining and informative presentations.
The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures/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/do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME
One full-time food-service position available.

Bakery Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet's Place.


Budget Analyst, 001988F, Pay Band 4, Budget/Financial Planning.

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

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

Communications Officer, 001567L, Pay Band 3, Police.

Computer Access Control Analyst, 001244D, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Data Entry Operator, 002527F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.

Data Warehouse Architect, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Development Program Researcher, 007728L, Pay Band 4, University Development.

Enrollment Specialist, 001676B, Pay Band 3, Dean of Arts and Sciences Office.

Housekeeping Worker, 000171H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

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

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006926H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Hvac Technician Senior, 000516H, Pay Band 4, RDP.

Lab Specialist, 000799B, Pay Band 3, Biology.

Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.

Lab Specialist Advanced, 007731M, Pay Band 4, Vet Med Experiment Station.

Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.

Laboratory Specialist, 006375M, Pay Band 4, FST.

Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.

Large Animal Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Manager of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.

Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.


Physical Plant.

Powerline Assistant, 000663C, Pay Band 3, Facilities—VT Electric Service.

Pre-portion Supervisor, 000752H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

Programmer/Analyst, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNIR Information Technology.

Research Specialist, 007732R, Pay Band 3, FWS.

Sales And Catering Assistant, 007294R, Pay Band 2, DBHCC.

Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Cochrane—West End Market.

Shopleader Supervisor, 006552H, Pay Band 1, RDP/West End Market.

Software Support Analyst, 006780F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries, Systems Department.

Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, Residential and Dining Programs/Southgate Bake Shop.

Sous Chef, 007266H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Dietrick Dining Hall.

Surgical Ward Technician, 002637M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Secretary, 006680H, Pay Band 5, Job Line.

Sweeper, 001006D, Pay Band 2, Surgical Services.

Tape Recorder, 001043C, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Agricultural Supervisor, 000651M, Pay Band 3, College Farm.

OFF CAMPUS
Administrative Assistant, 006186M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Southeast District.

Agriculture Supervisor, 006665M, Pay Band 3, Tidewater Agricultural Research Extension Center.

Court Specialist, 006517J, Pay Band 4, CPAP.

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

Nursing Supervisor, 002996M, Pay Band 3, Equine Medical Center.

Office Services Assistant, 007330J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 007233J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006613J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 005866J, Pay Band 2, HNFE.

Radio Announcer, 002080L, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.

Research Specialist, 007534M, Pay Band 3, CALS, AREC.

Research Specialist Senior, 006504R, Pay Band 4, CMIS.

Underwriting Account Executive, 001963L, Pay Band 3, WVTF.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Interdisciplinary Studies. Director, Women’s Studies. Restricted to College of Arts/Sciences tenured faculty members. Contact: Carol Burger, 252 Lane (0227). Deadline is April 20.

Educational Leadership/Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor, Educational Research. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial (0317). Review begins April 1.


Mining/Mining Engineering. Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Erik Westman, 100 Holden (0239). Review begins June 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Associate Director, Core Lab Facilities. Contact: Bruno Sobral, 1750 Kraft Dr., Suite 1100, CRC (0477). Open until filled.


VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources. #FA678. Farm Business Management. Dinwiddie Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 16.

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they helped establish the Vecellio Family Foundation, Inc. The foundation provides grants for higher education, scholarships, youth and social-service agencies, art groups, health research and services, and religious support.

The endowment to Virginia Tech is provided by the foundation and several family members: Leo Vecellio Jr., a 1968 civil-engineering graduate of Virginia Tech and head of Vecellio and Grogan Subsidiaries, and his wife Kathryn; their sister, Patricia Vecellio, a former post-doctoral fellow and adjunct professor in biology at the university; and his sons Christopher and Michael Vecellio. Michael Vecellio received his B.S. in business from Virginia Tech in 2001, and both sons will soon enter the family business after attending law school. 

“The Vecellio family and our corporation have been involved in heavy and highway construction for over 100 years,” Leo Vecellio Jr. said. “Construction is an ever-evolving field that needs high-quality research, education and well-trained personnel. Virginia Tech has a great program that meets many of the industry’s needs, and we hope that our endowment will boost the program to greater heights.”

CEE Professor Michael C. Vorster, director of the program, said the endowment will help attract the best graduate students and faculty members. The Vecellio Lecture Series, he said, will provide an opportunity for faculty members and students to interact with industry leaders of international stature.

“We are extremely grateful to the Vecellio family for the vision and leadership they have shown in the establishment of this endowment,” CEE Department Head William R. Knocke said.

“The Vecellio Program in Construction Engineering and Management is one of only three endowed and named construction-engineering programs in the United States,” Knocke said. “The resources provided through the endowment will greatly enhance an already superb construction-engineering-and-management program and make it one of the very best in the nation.”
Tech center to do nursing survey

By Susan Trulove

The Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research has been awarded a contract from the Virginia Department of Health Professions to conduct a state-wide survey of the nursing workforce.

There have been no previous survey data on Virginia nurses, but there is a nation-wide shortage of nursing professionals, including in the state. “Part of the objective of this project is to explore how to improve the supply of nursing professionals and improve health care services in Virginia,” center Director Alan Bayer said.

This project, renewable for use biennially, is in response to House bill 1249 and Senate bill 488 of the 2000 session of the General Assembly. This legislation requires that the Virginia Board of Nursing contract to collect workforce information biennially from licensed nurses in the state. The award includes having the Virginia Tech center design the state-wide survey that will be used by the Board of Nursing, and collecting the survey data and reporting results of the first benchmark Virginia survey.

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Project co-directors are Bayer, professor of sociology, and Susan Willis-Walton, associate director of the center. The completion of the survey and release of the report to the public is scheduled for fall, 2001.

The Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research is a full-cost-recovery service unit of the university.

Two win diversity awards

By Sally Harris

Two members of the Virginia Tech faculty received Cultural Diversity Awards for 2000-2001 at the Ebony Affair.

One winner, Beverly Bunch-Lyons, assistant professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a founding member of the College of Arts and Sciences Cultural Diversity Committee. “Her dedication to centering issues of diversity through her work in the area of university service is unparalleled,” said Ingrid Banks, co-chair of the awards committee. “Her nomination was unique in that it was ‘grassroots’ effortly undergraduate and graduate students.”

Nominations focused on Bunch-Lyons’ leadership in diversity in relationships to university service, teaching, and research. Banks said. Those who nominated her also described her as an inspirational role model.

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EXEMPLARY

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