McNamee appointed university provost

By Larry Hincker

Virginia Tech President Charles Steger has announced the appointment of Mark G. McNamee as university provost. McNamee currently is dean of the division of biological sciences at the University of California-Davis.

"Considering the future direction of the university and Dr. McNamee’s record of scholarship and academic experience, I know he is well suited for leadership at Virginia Tech," Steger said.

McNamee has overseen the academic unit at UC Davis since 1993, where he is responsible for programs in biology. Before that, he was chair of the department of biochemistry and biophysics from 1990-93.

"I am thrilled by the opportunity to work at Virginia Tech. I am impressed by the quality of the programs as well as the direction the university is heading. The university has or is developing leadership in so many areas that have tremendous potential such as information technology, biotechnology, many engineering disciplines, and many other areas across a broad range of disciplines. Tech seems to be in the right place as the right time and can take advantage of those dynamics," McNamee said.

As university provost, McNamee will be the university’s chief academic officer responsible for all undergraduate, graduate, off-campus, and research programs of the university.

"We were impressed with Dr. McNamee’s understanding of the unique role for the nation’s land-grant research universities. He has a well-seasoned perspective about universities. I was particularly impressed with his appreciation for the role of the arts and humanities in sustaining the academic vigor of a robust modern university," Steger said.

Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and chair of the search committee, is familiar with McNamee’s work and reputation. He said, "The search committee was struck by the unqualified high regard his colleagues have for him. He has made tough decisions at UC Davis, but his colleagues still have tremendous respect for him."

McNamee worked to merge eight academic departments into six while heading all the biological-science programs.

McNamee’s research expertise focuses on the genetics and development of Fraser’s flycatcher, a threatened species.

McNamee’s division also oversees the biotechnology graduate programs with more than 500 students.

"McNamee has continued to teach and maintain a successful research program while at Davis. "We like the idea that he has maintained his academic bearings as both teacher and scholar, even while juggling the demands of leadership," Eyre said.

McNamee’s program at UC Davis administers nine undergraduate majors in biology with more than 3,600 students and 12 graduate programs with more than 500 students.

His division also oversees the biotechnology program, the life sciences informatics program, and campus-wide centers in neuroscience, animal behavior, population biology, genomics and genetics and development.

As a professor of biochemistry, McNamee’s research expertise focuses on the... (See MCNAMEE on 2)
Council to identify outreach, economic-development initiatives

By Clara B. Cox

The Southwest Virginia Regional Outreach and Economic Development Council met April 24 to set priorities for issues in the region that it wants Virginia Tech to address. The 21-member council was formed by the university to help it identify outreach and economic-development initiatives and to discuss how the land-grant institution can assist in addressing those needs.

According to J. Douglas McAlister, executive director of Tech’s Public Service Programs, the proactive group was scheduled to look at issues enumerated at its first meeting, which was held in January, and decide which ones are most important. “Initially the council identified issues that fell into four basic areas: leadership, economic development, technology enhancement, and education. Next the members will set priorities and start planning how they can work with Virginia Tech to secure the resources to address those priorities,” McAlister said.

“That doesn’t mean that we aren’t being proactive ourselves,” McAlister added. He said that Public Service Programs approached the federal Economic Development Administration after the council’s first meeting to discuss one of the initiatives identified by the council. “EDA gave us a $75,000 grant to conduct workshops in each planning district commission in Southwest Virginia. The workshops will assist members of the PDC boards and policymakers in the region in writing and implementing their respective comprehensive economic-development plans.”

In a letter to council members, Tech President Charles W. Steger commented on the need to uncover new resources: “I should point out that although we have expertise in numerous disciplines, our current resource base is fully committed. Part of the council’s charge will be to help identify priorities and resources in obtaining new resources that will be dedicated to implementing the solutions necessary to improve Southwest Virginia.”

Steger announced in his inaugural address last year that the university would actively seek citizen input and support.

C. Clark Jones, Tech’s vice provost for outreach, said that the university is considering the formation of additional councils in other regions of Virginia. “We don’t think we should go into a region of the state and decide for ourselves what that region needs in the way of help from Virginia Tech,” Jones said. “By using a regional-council approach, we could tackle the priorities specifically identified by leaders of each region of the state. Using the resources identified by each region combined with Tech’s expertise, we think we could accomplish a great deal. I’m excited by the possibilities of this arrangement.”

MCNAMEE

Continued from 1

structure and function of membrane proteins, including the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor, an important protein in the nervous system. His laboratory uses site-directed mutagenesis and electrophysiology to characterize the functional role of specific amino acids on the acetylcholine receptor.

McNamee earned his B.S. degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968 and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Stanford University in 1973. He was a postdoctoral associate at Columbia University from 1973-75. He joined the UC Davis faculty as an assistant professor in 1975.

McNamee came to the University of California at Davis in 1975. UC Davis, located in northern-central California, is one of that state’s land-grant universities and enrolls about 25,000 students. About 19,400 students study at the undergraduate level with the remainder enrolled in graduate or professional schools. McNamee is expected to begin his new position in August of this year.

IDDL Learning Fellowships awarded

By Cate Morey

Virginia Tech’s Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (IDDL) has awarded its IDDL Fellowships to recognize and support faculty members involved in distant and distributed learning course transformation. Sixteen IDDL fellows were selected and will receive a $5,000 stipend to complete the development of a totally on-line course.

“We are very pleased with the interest in the IDDL Fellowships Program,” said Tom Wilkinson, director of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning. “The IDDL fellows will provide a valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion of distance and distributed learning at Virginia Tech.”

Fellows will serve as spokespersons and resources for distance and distributed learning in their department and college and are eligible to serve as an exemplary instructor for the university’s Faculty Development Institute. IDDL fellows were selected from proposals submitted to the IDDL Advisory Council, which is composed of representatives from the university’s eight colleges and key support areas. In selecting the fellows, the council evaluated the following areas: experience in developing on-line instruction, need for the proposed on-line course, interactivity of the course, portability and the potential for multiple use of the course, proposed teaching and learning pedagogy; and plan for assessing the course’s success.

IDDL fellows are Gary Downey, Joanne McNeil, and Elizabeth Creamer, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Bill Camp, agricultural education; Ruth Smith, marketing; Gerard Toal, geography and masters of public and international-affairs program; John A.N. Lee, computer science; Tom Toth, biomedical sciences and pathology; Cosby Rogers, human development; Doug Bor, political science; Muriel Lederman, biology and women’s studies; Naraine Persaud, crop and soil environmental sciences; Patrick Miller, landscape architecture; Steven Janosik, educational leadership and policy studies; Marcie Boucousvalas, human development; and Nadia Boschi, building construction.

YEAR-END PARKING, TRAFFIC INFORMATION OUTLINED

The Parking Office provides the following end-of-the-year information regarding parking and traffic:

Student Move Out May 8-10

Students will be vacating the residence halls May 8-10 (Wednesday will be the busiest day). Parking lots and spaces close to residence halls will be used for 30-minute loading. These areas include the Coliseum lot, the Drillfield, Ag-Quad, Engel lot, Owens lot, Shultz lot, Kent Street, and Washington Street. Please avoid these areas so that our students can move out more efficiently.

Commencement Parking Changes

On Friday, May 11, sections of the Coliseum lot will be reserved for handicap parking. On Saturday, May 12 the Stadium lot, Coliseum lot, Track/Soccer lot, and Spring Road will be reserved for Graduation Parking.
Employment

Classified Positions

FULL TIME

Three full-time food-service positions available.
Accountant Senior, 002169F, Pay Band 4, University Controller.
Administrative/Research Assistant, 007674B, Pay Band 3, ECE/MPRS.
Agricultural Technician, 004218M, Pay Band 2, College Farm.
Applications Analyst, 002725S, Pay Band 5, AIS, Student Systems.
Assistant for Alumni Center Campaign, 002179S, Pay Band 3, University Development.
Bakers Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet’s Place.
Communications Officer, 001567L, Pay Band 3, Police.
Dishroom Supervisor, 002988H, Pay Band 1, RDP/West End Market.
Engineering Support Specialist, 007738Y, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.
Executive Secretary, 007501S, Pay Band 3, Office of the President.
Head Horticulturist, 004559M, Pay Band 4, Horticulture.
Housekeeping Assistant Supervisor, 000552H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Owens Dining Center.
Housekeeping Worker, 000278H, Pay Band 1, RDP.
Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant.
Human Resources Assistant, 002479R, Pay Band 3, Personnel Services.
HVAC Technician Senior, 000516H, Pay Band 4, RDP.
Lab Specialist Senior, 007743M, Pay Band 4, PPWS.
Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.
Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.
Laboratory Specialist Advanced, 007735M, Pay Band 4, BSE.
Large Animal Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Locksmith, 007754H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Facilities and Services.
Medical Records Clerk, 001652M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Office Services Specialist, 002436F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.
Personal Manager, 002501F, Pay Band 5, Controller’s Office.
Photography Manager, 002411S, Pay Band 5, University Relations/Visual/Broadcast Communications.
Pre-portion Supervisor, 000752H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.
Pre-prep Assistant, 000397H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Southgate Center.
Receptionist, 007752S, Pay Band 2, Vice President for Information Systems.
Snaps Security Guard, 007723C, Pay Band 1, Police.
Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.
Surgical Ward Technician, 002837M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Video Production Specialist, 005356S, Pay Band 3, University Relations/Visual/Broadcast Communications.

PART TIME

Administrative Assistant, W023123, Pay Band 2, University Relations.
Animal Care Technician, W021920M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Assistant Editor, W020344S, Pay Band 4, University Relations/Outreach Communications.
Delivery Driver, W022337A, Pay Band 1, Printing Services.
Executive Secretary, 004557R, Pay Band 3, CNR.
One part-time food-service position available.
ICU Vet Technician-large Animal, W022218M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Industrial Hygiene Technician (Program Support Technician), W022050Y, Pay Band 3, EHS.
Office Services Assistant, W020849Y, Pay Band 2, Parking Services.
Pharmacist (Relief), W022501M, Pay Band 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Small Animal ICU Technician, W020101M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Secretary/Receptionist, U007753M, Pay Band 2, Tidewater Agricultural Research/Extension Center.
Trade Utilities Master Mechanic, U007009F, Pay Band 4, Physical Plant.
OFF CAMPUS

Computer Help Desk Analyst, U007725J, Pay Band 4, Northern Virginia Center.

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


Program Support Technician, 005409M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Goochland County.

Program Support Technician, 005522M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Warren County.


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

Underwriting Account Executive, 001983L, Pay Band 3, WVTF.

Facuity Positions

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Academic Coordinator, Strength Conditioning for Men’s Olympic Sports. Contact: Pamela Linkous, 395 Jamerson (0502). Deadline: June 1.


Minority Engineering Programs, Coordinator, Student Support Services. Contact: Beatrice Watford, 212 Hancock (0275). Review begins June 1.

Lowe to join Development as associate VP

By Larry Hincher

Victor Lowe is vice president for University Relations and Development, and is also university vice president for strategic partnerships.

Lowe received his B.S. in business administration from Virginia Tech and served as class president, regimental commander of the VT Corps of Cadets, Leader of the German Club, and was recognized as Distinguished Military Graduate.

Lowe was significantly involved in community activities that emphasized education and economic development. He developed and implemented a program of corporate support for public education with excellent results. He served a five-year chairmanship of the West Virginia Council for Community and Economic Development and currently serves on boards or advisory panels to several public and private organizations, mostly focused on education and economic development, including the Pamplin Advisory Council at Virginia Tech.

University submits nominations for Governor’s Award

On April 12, the Commonwealth’s Department of Human Resource Management notified agency human-resource directors of Virginia Public Service Week. Virginia Tech, along with other agencies, was required to submit nominations for the Governor’s Awards by no later than April 24.

Linda Woodard, assistant vice president for personnel, said, “Because of the very short timeframe provided for the nomination process, we worked closely with Kim O’Rourke, assistant to the president, to identify several nominations based on programs that are already in place at Virginia Tech. We felt that it would be easier and more effective to draw on processes and programs that are well-established and recognized within the university.”

“Earlier this year, we started working on a new Employee Rewards and Recognition Policy and program, and we will now integrate the Governor’s Awards into our process for the future,” Woodard said.

The VPSW Reward and Recognition Steering Committee will review all entries and the selected employees will be honored at a ceremony hosted by Governor James Gilmore on May 8.

Virginia Tech submitted nominations for three of the Governor’s Awards. The five employees who received the President’s Award for Excellence in Fall 2000 were nominated for the Governor’s Award for Agency “Stars.” These employees were Steve A. Hayes, storekeeper and supervisor for the Corps of Cadets and the Marching Virginians; Gaver Lee Johnson III, lab assistant in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences; Tammy V. Kast, housekeeper in Litton-Reaves; Susan Sink, director of development for the College of Engineering; and Connie V. Sowles, secretary in the Department of Aerospace Studies.

Elise Gischel, who has worked for Virginia Tech in the Essex County Cooperative Extension office for over 55 years, was nominated for the Governor’s Award for Long-Term Quality Service.

The members of the university’s VPC Steering Committee, made up of volunteers from all of the college and administrative areas were nominated as a group for the Governor’s Award for Community Service and Volunteerism.

University committee members are Steve Mours, Office of Transportation; John Beach Physical Plant; Sam Camden, Residential and Dining Programs; J. L. Capen, College of Natural Resources; Alicia P. Cohen, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Karen Cronin, visual communications; Tony Distler, College of Arts and Sciences; Barbara Foster, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Cathy Lally, Alumni Association; Ed Lener, library; Pam Linkous, athletics; Fred Medley, AIS Application Support; Sandra Muse, Research and Graduate Studies; Denise Orden, College of Architecture and Urban Studies; Kent Roberts, College of Veterinary Medicine; Sharon Scott, management and professional development; Jody Smiley, civil and environmental engineering; Sonja Stone, College of Human Resources and Education; Linda Woodard, Personnel Services; and Gloria Smith, Commonwealth/New Dimensions.
Advising academy charter members included

By Clara B. Cox

Seventeen outstanding advisors of Virginia Tech students have been inducted into the new Academy of Advising Excellence, created by the Office of the Provost to recognize those advisors who have demonstrated exemplary advising practices.

According to James R. Bohland, interim provost, the academy will identify methods for evaluating and rewarding advising and develop a training model for advising at the university. “The appointment of the Academy of Advising Excellence is another four to five year step in our effort to bring visibility to the importance of this task,” Bohland said.

The charter members of the academy consist of all advisors who have received university-level awards for excellence in advising, including the Award for Excellence in Career Advising, Alumni Award for Excellence in Academic Advising, Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising, and Provost’s Award for Advising Excellence.

The academy is one of the results of a 1996 initiative of the Provost’s Office, said David Parrish, professor of crop and soil environmental sciences, who has served on various committees examining academic advising.

Inductees are Michael A. Barnes, professor of dairy science; Wilfred E. Beal, professor of animal and poultry sciences; Harold M. Bell, director of undergraduate studies, chemistry department; Sandra E. Birch, assistant to the department head, computer science department; William Nicholas Eigiel, associate professor of food science and technology; Leslie P. Graham, director of undergraduate student affairs, electrical and computer engineering department; Thomas C. Howard, associate professor of history; Russell T. Jones, professors of psychology; James R. McKenna, professor of crop and soil environmental sciences; Johann A. Norstedt, associate professor of English; Thomas H. Ollendick, professor, Child Study Center; Parrish; R. Dean Riess, professor of mathematics; George M. Simmons Jr., alumni distinguished professor of biology; Thomas O. Sitz, associate professor of biochemistry; Daniel B. Thorp, associate chair, history department; and Sarah A. Wheeler, coordinator of support programs, College of Engineering.

By Clara B. Cox

In Other News

ENGINEERING

In Other News

ECU Parsons, College of Engineering.

The college’s outstanding new assistant professor, Pushkina Kachroo joined the college in 1997 following three years as a research scientist for Virginia Tech’s Center for Transportation Research. Since becoming a tenure-track faculty member, she has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in five different areas of ECE: networks and electronics, controls, digital, software engineering, and communications. In addition, she has an admirable scholarly record.

Berryville students will be presented and policy recommendations will be examined in the context of the academy's roles and responsibilities, and the future of academic advising.

Jerry Ford, former U.S. President, has accepted the responsibility of further and stronger leadership development in the cause for undoing institutional racism. He will be presented and policy recommendations will be examined in the context of the academy's roles and responsibilities, and the future of academic advising.

We trust that Paul Polonahan’s research in this matter will be thoroughly exposed at no cost to him. We are relieved to know the police have accepted the responsibility of further and deeper training to conduct an investigation. We have accepted the responsibility of further and stronger leadership development in the cause for undoing institutional racism. Institutions that do not do the daily labor of our communities to talk and learn together about our mutual concerns in the work place. In this way, we can complement programmatic initiatives and create a useful equation for progress.

We suggest that a workshop series for leadership development in the cause for undoing racism be funded for all those interested. Through this opportunity there are people who are deeply disturbed by the consequences of institutional racism. Workshops designed to bring such people together, to forge alliances, to develop and strengthen leadership at the working level of our university, will go a long way to furthering the climate you offer as our vision.

Thank you for your commitment to moving our campus forward. All matters of policy should be considered for a campus that is open, representative, and civil.

RESPECTFULLY,

The College of Arts and Sciences Cultural Diversity Committee: Michael Hughes, sociology, chair; Ingrid Banks, CIS—black studies; Jeff Cornsall, political science; Antonia Fernandez, foreign languages; Elizaveta Trnovska, sociology; Robert H. Bell, Jr., theatre arts; Gary L. Long, chemistry; Christina Thomas, physics; Latanya Walker, Upward Bound; Edward Weisband, political science.