**University fares well in U.S. News & World Report rankings**

By Liz Crumbley and Sookhan Ho

Virginia Tech placed in the top 25 in the U.S. News & World Report rankings of the nation’s best public universities. The university was ranked at 24th among public universities in the magazine’s “America’s Best Colleges 2002” survey, released September 6. Virginia Tech shares the 24th spot with Rutgers University, University of Delaware and University of Iowa. Last year, Virginia Tech ranked 26th in the public universities category.

The university’s engineering and business colleges also did well in the survey. Virginia Tech’s undergraduate engineering program was ranked 20th among all the nation’s engineering schools that offer Ph.D.s and thirteenth among engineering schools at public universities.

The engineering college shares the national rank of 20th with Rice University, University of California at Los Angeles and University of Washington. Last year, the Virginia Tech college was ranked 17th.

Eight of Tech’s undergraduate engineering programs were ranked among the top 25 in the nation by engineering school deans: aerospace (17), chemical (22), civil (11), computer (19), electrical (16), environmental (10), industrial (8), and mechanical (17).

“I am very pleased that we continue to be regarded as one of the very best engineering programs in the nation,” commented F. William Stephenson, dean of the engineering college. “Minor changes in the rankings from year to year are not as significant as the fact that we have been a top-20 program for so long. In terms of public engineering colleges we are placed thirteenth and our individual programs did quite well.”

The undergraduate program at the Pamplin College of Business was ranked 38th overall, the same as last year. The ranking puts the college in the top 10 percent of the approximately 375 undergraduate programs accredited by the AACSB International, most of which are U.S. schools. AACSB International (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) is the premier accrediting agency for degree programs in business administration and accounting.

Among business programs at public universities, Pamplin is ranked 24th, also the same as last year.

Pamplin Dean Richard E. Sorenson said the college is pleased to retain its ranking. “We aim to continue strengthening our program to give our students an even better education than before, and we hope that such improvements will allow us to move up in future rankings.”

**Committee begins search for permanent graduate dean**

By Clara B. Cox

A newly appointed search committee has held its initial meeting to begin the process of selecting a permanent Graduate School dean.

At an organizational meeting on August 30, Provost Mark G. McNamie charged the 14-member search committee with the task of finding a leader with the vision and administrative skills necessary to achieve the goals outlined for the Graduate School in the university’s strategic plan.

According to Susan Magliaro, associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning and chair of the committee, the committee had a productive first meeting. “We outlined both the requirements and desired qualifications for the new dean and reviewed the search process,” she said.

Magliaro said that the position will be advertised in mid-September.

The committee will finalize the search timeline along with opportunities for campus input within the next few weeks, she said. The university expects to name the new dean by the end of February, 2002.

Under the strategic plan just approved by the Board of Visitors, Virginia Tech’s graduate enrollment will double by the year 2010, with an emphasis on increasing the number of students from diverse populations, and new interdisciplinary programs will be created. “The infrastructure of the Graduate School must be able to support and nurture this growth,” Magliaro said.

“Our strategic plan very clearly guides the search committee to identify a person who has the knowledge, creativity, and interpersonal skills to forge strong alliances with...”

(See COMMITTEE on 3)

**Virginia Tech and partners create “VT KnowledgeWorks”**

By Jeanne M. Garon

Continuing long-standing efforts to create jobs in the region and commercialize technology resulting from its growing research program, the university has launched a major strategic initiative designed to take new companies from idea to operations at an accelerated pace. Formed by the Virginia Tech Foundation and affiliated Tech corporations in conjunction with three industry partners—Incubator, LaunchFuel, and Redleaf—VT KnowledgeWorks, with new technology business accelerator will be called, will provide the region’s emerging companies and entrepreneurs with expert support from a trio of premier, national-level company creators.

“Virginia Tech is among the world’s leading technology-research universities and has been a major economic catalyst throughout the commonwealth,” President Charles Steger said. “We’ve tapped our strengths and our relationships with the technology and venture-capital communities to create a unique mechanism directly linking Southwest Virginia’s intellectual and human capital with a level of funding and incubation resources usually available only in major metropolitan areas. Together with our incubator, LaunchFuel, and Redleaf, Virginia Tech is both investing in and contributing to the economic development of this region.”

VT KnowledgeWorks will promote the rapid commercialization of Tech’s intellectual property by creating start-up companies and providing these portfolio companies with the mentoring and support services they need to become operational within six to 12 months. The accelerator will help portfolio companies prepare business models, draft business plans, find senior management, form strategic partnerships, and develop commercialization plans.

(See VIRGINIA TECH on 3)

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**Richmond Center to hold grand opening September 17**

By Julie Kane

Virginia Tech has extended its reach across Virginia with a new center in Richmond’s Henrico County. The official opening ceremony will be Monday, Sept. 17 at the site. Fall classes began on August 27.

The center offers a variety of programs and courses to the Richmond Metropolitan area and will confer degrees.

Laura Fornash is the Virginia Tech Richmond Center director. In addition, Fornash will be involved with state government relations as well as continue to oversee the downtown Richmond office.

Fornash said, “I am excited and challenged to be involved in this role for Virginia Tech and Richmond. Many of our programs have been established in the area over a number of years. We look forward to the center’s growth to meet increased demand in the Richmond Metropolitan area.”

Establishing the center contributes to the fulfillment of Virginia Tech’s obligation as a land grant university to serve the Commonwealth with programs that are relevant to the region and the state.

(See RICHMOND on 4)

**Competition seeks to improve campus entrance appearance**

Since 1951, Alumni Mall has been the main entrance into Virginia Tech, depositing visitors into the core of the university’s unique neo-Gothic campus.

In addition to the growth on the campus and the addition of several major new buildings, there has been enormous growth in the Town of Blacksburg.

With the growth of the town and the development of the 460 by-pass, traffic patterns have changed such that now Prices Fork Road has become a primary entrance way into the campus; an entrance that was not designed to be a welcome center for prospective students or visitors.

As part of an on-going effort to improve the aesthetics of the campus, the university architect and the vice president for development and university relations have launched a student competition to improve the appearance of the buildings along Perry Street.

(See COMPETITION on 3)
Economic-development institute starts Monday

By Jeaneen M. Garon

Barry E. DuVal, Virginia’s secretary of commerce and trade, will deliver the keynote address at the Virginia Institute for Economic Development on September 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

Held annually, the institute is designed to help volunteers and local government officials better understand the economic-development process. The institute provides specific training in the economic-development process and combines theoretical learning and the practical application of transforming course material to make it more stimulating and accessible to creative students.

The institute is coordinated by Virginia Tech’s Office for Economic Development, and the course material is developed by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

The first session will be held September 17-19. Participants may make lodging reservations at 1-5156. The second session will be held October 15-17 at the Roanoke Conference Center. Call 540/985-5900 for lodging reservations.

On-line registration for both sessions is available at http://www.conted.vt.edu/edclass.htm. Participants may also register by calling 1-5182. Payment of $395 per participant registration fee is required before attendance.

For more information, e-mail Saul@vt.edu, or call 1-6638.

Philosophy colloquium set

By Sally Harris

The Department of Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences has set its Philosophy Colloquium schedule for fall.

The presentations are as follows:

- Friday, Sept. 14, 3 p.m., 126 McBryde: Susan Haack (University of Miami), “Clues to the Puzzle of Scientific Evidence.” This talk is co-sponsored by the Science and Technology Studies Program.
- Friday, Sept. 28, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Ben Bradley (Virginia Tech): “When is Death Bad for the One Who Dies?”
- Friday, Oct. 12, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Talbot Brewer (UVA): “Pleasure, Practical Reason and the Good Life.”
- Friday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: James Mahon (Washington and Lee): tentative title: “The Desire to Do One’s Duty.”
- Friday, Nov. 9, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Anita Silvers (San Francisco State University): title TBD.

The 2001 Diggs Roundtable will be held Friday, Sept. 21, 2-4 p.m. in the Hillcrest dining room.

The reception and roundtable discussion are open to all members of the university community and the general public. The three presenters are the 2001 recipients of the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award: Monte Boisen, professor, Department of Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences; Richard M. Goff, associate professor, Department of Engineering Fundamentals in the College of Engineering; and Stacey Floyd-Thompson, assistant professor, Religious Studies, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Arts and Sciences.

Boisen’s topic is “Valuing Diversity: An Opportunity to Grow,” which discuss the essential role of care, concern, and respect in the way teachers interact with women and minority students and apply technology to support learning.

Goff’s presentation, “Hands-On Collaborative Learning,” will address the subject of transforming course material to make it more stimulating and accessible to creative students who need to experience the connections between theoretical learning and the practical application of knowledge.

In her talk, “Teaching for Social Justice Through Conflict Resolution,” Floyd-Thompson will discuss raising ethical issues for the goal of social justice in a manner that encourages students to examine difficult and personally challenging material.

Hosts for the occasion are the Diggs Teaching Scholar Association, the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Honors Program.
**EMPLOYMENT**

**Classified Positions**

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures, and closing dates where applicable are listed below. Positions are listed in order of expiration date for information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with “W” are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodations in the application process should call by the deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday, An/E/O/A employer committed to diversity.

**FULL TIME**

Three full-time food service positions available.

- Assistant Front Office Manager, 001136Y, PB 3, DBHCC.
- Assistant Manager, 001378H, PB 3, RDP/Shuttle.
- Assistant Manager, 001209H, PB 3, RDP/Dietric.
- Asst Director Of Uusa (Building Operations/Facilities), 002002J, PB 4, ULSA.
- Bioprocess Laboratory Specialist, 003373M, PB 4, EBUS.
- Cashier, 007189F, PB 3, Parking Services.
- Director of Information Services, 007081B, PB 4, MPRG/SSCC.
- Executive Secretary, 007826Y, PB 3, University Outreach.
- Financial Planning Manager, 007567F, PB 5, Budget/Financial Planning.
- Grants Administrator, 004079R, PB 4, Sponsored Programs.
- Housekeeping—Night Crew, 002742H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities and Services.
- Housekeeping Manager, 006926H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities and Services.
- Laboratory Specialist, 007820R, PB 3, VBI.
- Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, PB 3, Biochemistry.
- Laboratory Specialist, 007077B, PB 3, CE.
- Office Services Specialist, 002023M, PB 2, CVM.
- Payroll Manager, 002021F, PB 5, Controller’s Office.
- Plumber, 007200X, PB 3, RDP/Facilities.
- Power Plant Superintendent, 003268F, PB 4, Power Plant Services.
- Program Support Specialist Sr., 007828B, PB 3, CHPM.
- Program Support Technician Senior, 003474R, PB 3, CWT.
- Shopkeeper, 004404H, PB 1, RDP/West End Market.
- Shopkeeper/Cashier, 004045H, PB 1, RDP/Owens Food Court.
- Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician, 007625R, PB 3, VBI.
- Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.

**OFF-CAMPUS**

- Ethop, Program Assistant, 007811M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.
- Fiscal Technician, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering.
- Office Manager, 006346Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.
- Program Assistant, 006004B, PB 3, HNFE.
- Program Assistant, 007827R, PB 2, HNFE.
- Project Support Technician, 002209R, PB 3, Graduate School.
- Radio Announcer, 002608L, PB 3, University Relations/WVPT Radio.
- Research Grants Technician, 007589R, PB 1, CVM—CIS.
- Senior Secretary, 006828M, PB 3, VCE.

**UNIVERSITY ONLY**

- Police Sergeant, 0057833R, PB 4, Police.

**Student Activities Program Specialist, 001202J, PB 3, USA—PART TIME**

- Animal Care Technician, W02258M, PB 2, CVM.
- Animal Care Technician, W02056B, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Animal Care Technician/Small Animal, W022767M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Department Administrative Support, 007832B, PB, CSE.

**One part-time food-service position available.**

- Large Animal Hospitalian, W022155M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Office Services Specialist, W02048G, PB 2, University Registrar.
- Occupational Specialist, W020262S, PB 2, AIS—HRM.
- Pharmacy Assistant, W020839M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Program Coordinator, W023080R, PB 3, Graduate School.
- Secretarial Sr., W023132S, PB 2, University Relations.
- Trades/Utilities Worker, W02566H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities/Services.

**Faculty Positions**

**INSTRUCTIONAL**

- Biomedical Sciences/Pathology, Assistant/Associate Professor, Clinical Pathology.
- Chemistry, Associate/Full Professor, Organic Chemistry.
- Economics, Assistant Professor.
- Electrical/Computer Engineering, Assistant/Associate Full Professor.
- English, Assistant Professor, Writing Center.
- History, Associate/Full Professor, History of Science.
- Hispanic/Latino/Latina Studies, Assistant Professor.
- Mathematics, Assistant Professor, Algebra.
- Philosophy, Assistant Professor, Ethics.
- Physics, Assistant Professor, Physics.
- Political Science, Assistant Professor, International Relations.
- Spanish, Assistant Professor, Hispanic/Latino/Latina Studies.
- Spanish, Assistant Professor, Hispanic/Latina Studies.
- Statistics, Assistant Professor, Statistics.
- Urban Studies, Assistant Professor, Urban Studies.
- Virginia Tech Richmond Center; Tom Grizzard, Director.

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

- Office of Provost for Research, Special Assistant for Research Contract Affairs, Contact: John Wilson, 201 Burnside Hall (0275).
- College of Engineering, Director of Undergraduate Recruiting, Contact: Bivie Watford, 212 Hancock Hall (0275), Review begins Sept. 17.
- Biological Sciences, Postdoctoral Associate, Contact: Nancy Ross or Ross Angel, 4404 Derring (0420). Positions open until filled.
- Geological Sciences, Postdoctoral Associate, Contact: Nancy Ross or Ross Angel, 4404 Derring (0420). Positions open until filled.

**Einstein’s Dreams Week events announced**

The following events have been scheduled during Einstein’s Dreams Week.

**Monday, Sept. 17, 11 a.m.**

In GBJ north rotunda, Provost Mark McNamee will host a discussion for interested students and faculty members.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.**

In 3100 Torgersen Hall, there will be multi-media presentation and discussion titled "The Common Book Project and the Creative Process: Turning text into Art.” Three faculty members and several students will discuss the process of turning the text of Einstein’s Dreams into art.

**Media will be discussed:**

- 2-D design by architecture students, 3-D design by interior design students, and a theatre performance will be featured.

**Panelists include faculty members Ron Daniel, Hilary Bryon, and Ann Kilkelly.**

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.**

In 3100 Torgersen Hall, there will be multi-media presentation and discussion titled "The Common Book Project and the Creative Process: Turning text into Art.” Three faculty members and several students will discuss the process of turning the text of Einstein’s Dreams into art.

**Media will be discussed:**

- 2-D design by architecture students, 3-D design by interior design students, and a theatre performance will be featured.

**Panelists include faculty members Ron Daniel, Hilary Bryon, and Ann Kilkelly.**

**Friday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m.**

In the Cranwell Center there will be an informal discussion of culture and time. Participants will be asked to reflect on how time is experienced in their culture or in cultures they have visited.

**For more information, call Dianne Sexton at 1-2375.**

**COMPETITION**

**Continued from 1**

Full-time undergraduate and graduate students or student organizations are eligible to enter the competition. Designs will be accepted from October 1 through Feb. 1, 2002. A $3,000 award will be shared by the winning designs and competitors.

“...For decades, Alumni Mall was the entrance way to Virginia Tech,” said Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president for Development. "However, alumni and more people are using the by-pass to go around the town and enter the campus from Campus Drive. The competition will enable the university to tap into the creative energy and talents of our student body to devise unique ways to enhance the beauty of the campus and preserve the historical character of the campus.”

Students will prepare a conceptual plan or design that will express their ideas about how the designated area can be made more attractive in a way that is pleasing and consistent with the campus environment. The cost to implement the design should not exceed $25,000.

**COMMITTEE**

**Continued from 1**

across all precincts of the Virginia Tech community: on campus, at our extended campus sites, and through our strategic partners,” she said.

In addition to Magliaro, members of the search committee are Robert Bush, associate dean for research in the College of Natural Resources; A. Jack Davis, professor of architecture; Laura Formash, director of the Virginia Tech Richmond Center; Tom Grizzard, director of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory; Valerie Hardcastle, director of the Center for the Study of Science in Society and director of the Science and Technology Studies Graduate Program; Janet M. Johnson, dean of the College of Human Resources and Education; Marilyn Kershaw, director of graduate-student recruiting; Marquela King, the graduate-student representative; David Kingston, professor of chemistry; William R. Knocke, head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Gerard Schurt, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Veterinary Medicine; Robert Sumichrast, associate dean of graduate and international programs in the Pamplin College of Business; and Susan Summer, head of the Department of Food Science and Technology.
**Common Book Project gets under way**

*By Clara B. Cox*

Members of the faculty who teach first-year students have received an invitation to *Einstein's Dreams* Week (see details elsewhere in *Spectrum*) September 17-21, along with examples of ways to incorporate the text of the Common Book Project selection into classroom discussions.

Now in its second season, the Common Book Project was initiated last year to help students understand how seemingly different courses and disciplines can be interconnected and to create communities in which students have the common bond of reading and discussing the same book. Professors incorporate ideas from it in various courses in different disciplines.

Last fall, nearly 5,000 first-year students found a complementary copy of *Einstein's Dreams* in their dorm rooms when they arrived on campus. This fall, with new transfer and veteran students added to the project, more than 6,000 books were distributed to students and interested members of the faculty.

"Many transfer students face transition issues," said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs, in explaining the project’s expansion. "By welcoming all new students with a copy of *Einstein's Dreams*, we hope to send a clear and early message that we are glad the students are here and we are committed to their success."

Written by Alan Lightman, *Einstein's Dreams* is a series of short fictional vignettes representing dreams that Einstein might have had. They describe what life in a small village might be like if time were configured differently—as a circle repeating itself every 24 hours, for example—or if people lived only one day.

Faculty participation in the project is vital, according to project directors. "Our assessment of the project in the spring semester showed very clearly that faculty members are a key element to the success of this project. Students gained from the project in the spring semester..."

The project even extends to administrators. Mark McNamie, the university’s new provost, told first-year students during his Opening Convocation address, "I will always share a special connection to this class because we will be reading [Einstein's Dreams] together."

Information on the Common Book Project and *Einstein's Dreams* Week is available at www.einsteindreams.vt.edu. The site features discussion boards for faculty members to share ideas on the project.

The Common Book Project is a joint venture by the Provost’s Office, the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the Learning Communities Initiative. For more information, contact Dianna Benton at einstein.dreams@vt.edu or 1-2375.

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**Veterinarians gather at comparative cancer conference**

*By Jeffrey S. Douglas*

Veterinarians from throughout Virginia and Maryland will hear about new approaches to cancer therapy and gain insights on the emotional implications of the disease during a day-long symposium hosted by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech today.

Several cancer experts from around the country will join college and regional practitioners to make presentations on topics ranging from contemporary approaches to clinical-case management to explorations of how the disease impacts the human/animal bond during "Comparative Oncology," a conference presented as part of the annual VMRCVM/ Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA) Fall Conference.

"While cancer remains a leading cause of death for people and animals, it is being diagnosed more accurately and treated more effectively," said John Robertson, event co-organizer, a professor of veterinary pathology on faculty in the college’s Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP) and director of the college’s emerging Center for Comparative Oncology (CeCO).

Kathy L. Mitchener, a veterinary oncologist and specialist on the human/animal bond from MedVet Memphis, a veterinary referral hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, will present “An Integrated Approach to Private Oncology Practice” during the symposium. Mitchener, will also present a keynote address entitled “Building Lifelong Professional Relationships” during a veterinary student mentoring workshop held early in the day.

Alice Villalobos of the VCA Coast Animal Hospital and Cancer Center in Hermosa Beach, California, will present "Hospice Care for Veterinary Cancer Patients."

Rod Page, veterinary oncologist and director of the Cornell Cancer Center at Cornell University’s New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, will present "Differences in Human and Veterinary Patient Chemotherapy" and other case presentations.

The conference features a variety of lectures that focus on different aspects of clinical oncology, the treatment of cancer; and comparative oncology, the evaluation of how the disease affects people and animals. O t o Lanz, assistant professor, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS), will present "Surgical Management of Oncology Problems—Pathology; Pitfalls." Bernard Feldman, professor, DBSP, will present "Confirming Clinical Suspicions of Cancer," and Robertson will present “Cancer Basics—What do you need to know?”

Bill Huckle, associate professor, DBSP, will present an update on "Angiostatins in Cancer Therapy."

Rick Broadstone, associate professor, DSACS, will present "Practical Pain Management in Cancer Patients," and Howell Little of Hill’s Pet Products will discuss "Canine NID (Neoplasia Diet: Nutritional Support for the Veterinary Cancer Patient."

Clinical presentations will also be made by John Rossmeisel, veterinary resident, DSACS, who will present "An Unusual Case of Mass in a Cat"; Ian Herring, assistant professor, DSACS, who will present “A Case of Ocular Neoplasia”; and Ern Stimson Herring, who will present “Sentinel Lymph Nodes—Comparative Aspects.”

Other events include a briefing on the status of the development of the Center for Comparative Oncology by Robertson.

Conference sponsors include the Virginia and Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations, the American Cancer Society, the Gunst Foundation, Biophile and Hill’s Pet Products. For more information, call 1-4716.