Dear Colleagues:

On several occasions during my first month at Virginia Tech, I have stated how pleased I am to arrive as the university finalizes and endorses its strategic plan. With the strategic plan in place, I will be able to work with you, the faculty, and with the administration, staff, and students to fashion and implement an action agenda supportive of our overall university goals, including the goal of becoming a top-30 research university.

To this end, we will be launching major academic efforts designed to align emerging college plans with on-going and new academic initiatives. Our core missions of undergraduate education, graduate education, research, and outreach will continue to provide a solid framework for the academic programs. However, it is essential that we look beyond traditional academic boundaries and take prudent risks if we are to succeed. Focusing on President Steger’s vision of an outward-looking university with strong international programs and expanded state and national connections will serve us well. My approach will be to create a climate where we think and act like a top-30 university. We will make little progress if we simply try to imitate what other great universities have already done.

As a first step, the Provost’s Office has decided to make new enabling investments this year in five key areas that should help us to be successful. Both President Steger and Executive Vice President Ridenour fully endorse our intention to invest a substantial portion of this year’s unallocated funds into core academic programs.

We are allocating substantial matching funds to the colleges to assist with faculty startup costs. The recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty members across the entire campus is essential for the future development of Virginia Tech.

Dean Johnson announces 2002 retirement

By Jean Elliott

Janet Johnson, dean of the College of Human Resources and Education, has announced that she will retire in the summer of 2002, after serving 20 years with the university.

"After six years since the founding of CHRE, the college is well-established with an exemplary record of research, outreach and instruction," Johnson said. "Given that situation combined with personal plans, this appears to be a good time for the transition of the leadership of the college."

Johnson joined Virginia Tech in 1972 in the human nutrition and foods department. She served as an associate professor in nutrition, and in February 1995, was named interim dean of the College of Human Resources. In July 1996, she was named dean of the College of Human Resources and Education, re-structured from the former colleges of Human Resources and Education.

"That has been my biggest challenge," she said about the union of the colleges. "A team brought it together and I was happy to facilitate that team. We are now together as equal partners and the merger is an artifact of history."

"Janet was a fast study as an administrator," said Associate Dean Jerry Niles. "Her ability to coordinate merger activities was related to her attitude toward treating people with fairness. She has a sense of justice that comes so naturally to her. The impact on others is that, when they see it, it sets a tone that’s so constructive. She has a sense of integrity that is unimpeachable."

Johnson has been involved in a leadership capacity in a myriad of professional organizations and honor societies. Her awards include the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Leaders Award that was presented at the Pacesetters Dinner this past July; Outstanding Educator by Phi Delta Kappa; and the Borden Award for establishing a wheat research program.

She is relatively unflappable," Associate Dean Diane Yardley said. "She is fair, compassionate, and gentle in her correction. She has no personal agenda and no ego. She listens. She gathers info. She knows a lot about all of the individual programs."

Provost Mark McNamee is in the process of forming a search committee. Johnson’s actual departure date is flexible to accommodate the entry of the next dean.

“I will continue business as usual this year and will be working to contribute to the smooth transition for my successor,” Johnson said.

Pulitzer winner Will speak on campus

By Soohwan Ho

Nationally syndicated Washington Post columnist and TV news analyst George F. Will will give a talk at Virginia Tech on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m., in Burruss auditorium.

Will is the featured speaker for the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture, presented twice a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business. His talk, “Public Affairs, Public Policy, and American Society,” is open to the public at no charge.

Will’s column, syndicated since 1974, is read by millions of people daily. He will receive the Pulitzer Prize in commentary on February 29. The award honors excellence in journalism. Will is also the author of numerous books, including “Bill Clinton’s Washington” and “Reinventing Washington.”

Search committee forms to replace CHRE dean

By Clara B. Cox

A newly formed search committee will soon initiate a national search for a dean of the College of Human Resources and Education to replace the current dean, Janet Johnson, who has announced that she will retire in the summer of 2002.

Provost Mark McNamee has named Gregory Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources, as the committee chairman. Other members named to the committee by the provost are Kusum Singh, professor of educational leadership and policy studies; Musaffer Uysal, professor of hospitality and tourism management; Karen Roberto, director of the Center for Gerontology; April Few, assistant professor of human development; Janet Rankin, professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise; Rosemary Goss, the Residential Property Management Advisory Board professor of near environments; Glen Holmes, associate professor of teaching and learning; Rosary Lalik, associate professor of teaching and learning at the Northern Virginia Center; David Alexander, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Wayne Tripp, superintendent of Salem City Schools; Helen Smith, a Bedford County Extension agent; Janine Wimmer, laboratory specialist in near environments; Miya Simpson, director of the McNair Program and a doctoral student; and George Flick, university distinguished professor of food science and technology.

According to Patricia Hyer, associate provost and a committee staff resource person, the committee will hold its first meeting on October 8. McNamee will attend the meeting to discuss his expectations for the search.
**Intellectual-property conference scheduled**

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP) is sponsoring a free seminar for the university community on “Why intellectual property at Virginia Tech?” on November 8 in the Donaldson Brown Center auditorium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration deadline is October 26.

“Universities are being asked to have a direct impact on society by creating industry, training to upgrade employee skills, and by directly assisting businesses through research and development,” said VTIP Executive Vice President Mike Martin. “Marketing the results of university research can enhance the university’s ability to reach out in the present by creating new products and business, and in the future by providing resources for research and student support.”

VTIP encourages disclosure to provide a competitive advantage for federal research proposals based on patented technology, industrial research support based on protected IP, business development which requires a protected position to attract investment capital, and licensees who require a protected position to attract investment to high-risk product development.

The workshop addresses these issues and illuminates how the intellectual-property process can assist Virginia Tech in its goal to be a top 30 research university.

Morning sessions will cover “Why IP at Virginia Tech,” by Mark McNamara, university reporter@vt.edu.

(See INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY on 3)

**Workshop will target research funding**

On Tuesday, Oct. 23, the Research Division will sponsor a Funding Search Workshop, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in 3310 Torgersen. This computer lab session will be led by Jennie Klapper, manager of university services with Community of Science Inc., which operates the largest and most comprehensive research database on the web.

Workshop participants will review the process of conducting targeted funding searches using the COS database, the leading source of information about R&D professionals worldwide. Additionally, there will be a hands-on opportunity to build COS profiles that will enable customized funding alerts to participants on a weekly basis.

Because Virginia Tech is an institutional member of COS, faculty members receive individualized COS subscription services at no charge to them. The COS database is comprehensive and includes sources that fund research in education, social sciences, humanities and the arts, as well as scientific disciplines.

A session for department COS mentors will be offered Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. in 3310 Torgersen. Individuals designated by departments as Community of Science mentors will be trained to coach new faculty members and research staff members on how to use the web site. The session will emphasize tips and techniques for teaching others to conduct their own funding searches.

Faculty members and mentors who plan to attend either program should contact Debbie Nester at debbil@vt.edu or 1-5410. For more information, contact Bob Porter at 1-6747 or reporter@vt.edu.
EMPLOYMENT

Classified Positions

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/posting/closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site http://www.ps.vt.edu. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. 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 accommodation in the application in the process should call the address below. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME
Bioprocess Laboratory Specialist, 003373M, PB 4, BSE, $30,180-$35,672.
Development Associate, 0011645, PB 3, University Development.
Electrician, 001471F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Electronics Technician, 007848B, PB 4, CE.
Financial Planning Manager, 007567F, PB 5, BFP.
Fiscal Technician, 007456R, PB 3, SFA.
Grant Administrator, 007927V, PB 3, CE.
Housekeeping Manager, 006296H, PB 3, RDP.
Housekeeping Specialist/Senior, 001174J, PB 1, USA.
Housekeeping Worker, 007262J, PB 1, Recreational Sports.
Housekeeping Worker, 002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.
Laboratory Specialist, 00707B, PB 3, CE.
Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.
Multimedia Systems/Applications Specialist, 002664, PB 4, Video/Broadcast Services.
Office Specialist, 005712H, PB 2, RDP.
Parking Enforcement Officer, 007221F, PB 1, Parking Services.
Payroll Manager, 002501F, PB 5, Controller’s Office.
Program Support Technician, CCCCSSC, PB 3, VTP.
Program Support Technician Senior, 002443R, PB 3, IRD.

INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY

Continued from 2


Tracy Wilkins will be the luncheon speaker.

During the afternoon, there will be three concurrent sessions to encourage open discussion on issues in IP.


Programmer/Analyst, 007836J, PB 5, CMI.
Recruitment Center Manager, 008956J, PB 3, USA.
Sales/Marketing Manager, 005047H, PB 3, RDP.
Security Guard, 007722Y, PB 1, Police.
Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician, 007262J, PB 3, CE.
Smart Road Travel Shenoandoah Night Dispatcher Supervisor, 007834R, PB 3, VTH.
 Sous Chef, 005940H, PB 3, RDP.
Support Center Assistant Technician, 007080M, PB 3, CVM.
Technical Director, Digital Library/Archives, 007678K, PB 5.
Technical Writer, 007837K, PB 4, University Development.
Transportation Planner, 007498F, PB 4, Office of Transportation.
Unit Information Circulation/Reserve/Storage, 007178, PB 4, Library.
Visitor Center Receptionist, 0078445, PB 2, University Relations.

PART TIME
Animal Care Technician, 002066M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Animal Care Technician/Small Animal, 002267M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

LETTER

Continued from 1

For Virginia Tech to reach its full potential, it is essential that faculty members, department heads, directors, and deans be fully involved at all stages of planning and implementation. We must all seize and create new opportunities, and pay special attention to areas that are characteris- tic of all great universities, including the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We can ac- cept our role as educators and not simply a focus on research and graduate education, but also on the arts, humanities and social sciences. We must continue to develop new campus-wide administrative coordinating councils. These will provide a forum for a full discussion and realization of new interdisciplinary graduate degree or research programs. The council members will consist primarily of deans and administrators who have resources to invest. With vi- sion and leadership, the councils can help guide our academic progress and ensure that initiatives are not disconnected from core mission areas of the university. Every council member will serve as a campus student, not as an advocate for a specific college or program. Since many mem- bers will serve on several councils, we can anticipate and expect full consideration of activities that span the councils.

For the academic year 2001-2002, the initial working titles for the new councils are Administrative Coordinating Council for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and Administrative Coordinating Council for Biomedical, Health, and Life Sciences, and Administrative Coordinating Council for Engineering, Physical Sciences, and Information Sciences and Technology.

I will be meeting with each council to develop specific charges and finalize the mem- bership.

As we move forward with ambitious new agendas, we run the risk of appearing to move away from the substantial investments we con- tinue to make in undergraduate education and outreach. This is not my vision for Virginia Tech. Great universities are able to maintain an excellent balance among the various missions and continually seek out ways for the missions to reinforce one another. I pledge to work with you to ensure that Virginia Tech’s sustained and deep commitment to undergraduate education receives the attention it richly de- serves. We have already made investments designed to meet undergraduate enrollment pressures, and Virginia Tech has launched mechanisms and research efforts, most notably in Southside Virginia.

As we progress through the coming year, a number of activities will occur that will help chart the course on our agenda for the future. Positive actions by both federal and state legis- lative bodies will be essential to provide the necessary resources to enable the university to move forward as quickly as we envision. We must search for ways to focus internal priori- ties and develop a strategy for encouraging internal reallocations to support our university initiatives. As these activities and plans are developed, it will be my objective to keep you informed and informed. I remain very optimistic about our opportunity to advance toward our common goal of becoming an even greater university. Hopefully you share that optimism and will join President Steger and all our colleagues in making it a reality.

I welcome your feedback and advice.

Sincerely,
Mark G. McNamee, university provost and vice president for academic affairs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2001 SPECTRUM 3
By Susan Trulove

Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) and researchers at three Virginia universities have launched the Initiative for Nanotechnology in Virginia (INanoVA).

Nanotechnology assembles atoms and molecules to create materials, microscopic engineering systems, and molecular devices that have novel physical, chemical, and biological properties with potential for great economic impact, according to Robert Porter, a program-development manager with the research division at Virginia Tech.

“It is critical to establish linkages between researchers and industry, to foster timely business development and position Virginia for national leadership in this vital arena,” said Jan Curren, director of technology awards at the CIT. “INanoVA will provide an administrative infrastructure that enhances communication among researchers and will provide resources to organize a major nanotechnology symposium that brings together leading industry innovators and academic representatives for discussions of the emerging opportunities. It will help to focus resources to build stronger connections with industry for technology transfer at an accelerated pace.”

Partners in the initiative are James F. Groves, director of research and industrial programs for the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia (UVa); Harry C. Dorn, director of the Center for Self-Assembled Nano-Devices (CSAND) at Virginia Tech; Anthony Giuseppi-Elie, director of the Center for Bioelectronics, Biosensors, and Biosips (CB3) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU); and Gary E. Wnek, chair of chemical engineering at VCU and director of the Electroactive Materials and Biosystems Laboratory; and Robert Hull, director of the Center for Nanoscopic Materials Design at UVa.

At Virginia Tech, Dorn’s group has created a new family of molecules by filling the carbon cages known as fullerenes, or buckyballs, with metal atoms. A spin-off company is using the new molecules for improved MRI material and exploring other applications. CSAND is researching photovoltaic devices, molecular devices that can convert light to energy, such as flexible solar cells; new catalytic material; and molecules to deliver drugs at the cellular level.

Another research group, headed by electrical-engineering Professor Rick Claus, has perfected a new molecular self-assembly process. With this process, they are beginning to manufacture ultra-thin films with electrical resistance that is “100 times better than that of bulk materials like copper and aluminum.”

Claus and his colleagues hold nine patents covering the new technique, called modified electrostatic self-assembly (MESA). Claus, the director of the Fiber & Electro-Optics Research Center and president of the Blacksburg-based company NanoSonic Inc., says the research team has created a “library” of these self-assembled materials.

“In the area of medical research, programs at all three universities have the potential to make important contributions to nanotechnology research, development, and clinical applications within Virginia,” Porter said. “This includes research on nanoscopic contrast agents for medical imaging and targeted drug delivery using nanoparticles, such as are being done in CSAND, and the development of polymeric tissue engineering scaffolds formed from nanofibers of various biopolymers, such as are being done at VCU.”

Reed will also work closely with Lester Crawford, head of the university’s new Center for Food Policy and Nutrition. The Northern Virginia-based “think tank” helps senior government and corporate policy-makers develop rational, science-based food and nutrition policy through research, outreach, public service, teaching and communications.

The center was named a Center of Excellence in 1999 by the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization.

“As the senior administrator of APHIS, Dr. Reed brings a great deal of stature and credibility to this new role in our organization,” VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre said. “The leadership, insight and wisdom he brings will enrich the educational opportunities we provide for our students and help us elevate the contributions our college and university is making in food safety, nutrition and public health. We’re tremendously excited about his arrival.”

Administrator of USDA-APHIS since 1998, Reed supervised more than 7,500 employees and a billion-dollar budget on programs designed to protect American livestock from disease, and plants and crops from biological pests. He was also responsible for regulations concerning the movement of food, animal and forestry products into foreign markets, and animal-welfare laws that pertained to both non-agricultural animals and laboratory animals used in biological research.

Reed earned his BS and DVM degrees from Michigan State University.