SPECTRUM

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/

VOLUME 24  NUMBER 26 FRIDAY,  MARCH 22, 2002

Record Building Funds Heading to University

By Larry Hincker

Amidst the funding difficulties and budget woes for Virginia higher education, good news is on the horizon. The Virginia General Assembly passed bills authorizing many new construction projects for state colleges and universities, mental-health facilities, and state parks.

The legislature authorized debt financing of $1.6 billion for capital projects. About $1.22 billion of the total will support projects at colleges and universities. Virginia Tech will garner $137 million in state support of this debt package. (See list of projects in accompanying chart.)

The state also authorized spending of $157.7 million in non-General Funds—non-taxpayer funds such as fees, gifts, research overhead, or other revenues. In total, Virginia Tech faces a building boom of $294.7 million, a portion of which could start as early as this summer.

The bond bill contains funding for previously frozen projects totaling $20.4 million. These projects include renovation of Williams, Burruss and Agnew instructional facilities; replacement of Dairy Science facilities, maintenance reserve, equipment for the new Chemistry/Physics Building, and the multi-purpose Livestock Arena.

Also included is $107 million in non-General Funds authorized to carry out Auxiliary Enterprise projects. The projects include maintenance reserve, Lane Stadium expansion, Dietrick renovation, construction of a new residence hall, Johnston Student Center addition, construction of a dining and student-union facility, major residence and dining-system improvements, and construction of new parking facilities and improvements.

“We are facing an unprecedented building program. The university soon will experience construction activity not seen since the 1960s when enrollment more than doubled,” said Vice President Raymond Smoot, whose division oversees design, construction, and debt financing on campus.

Some on campus have questioned moving forward with building projects when operating budgets are getting cut. Bob Brodjen, capital-assets manager said, “First of all, capital and operating funds come from two separate sources that cannot be mixed.” (See RECORD on 3)

Blieszner, Reinholtz named alumni distinguished professors

By Jeanne M. Garon

The Board of Visitors has elevated two faculty members to the rank of alumni distinguished professor.

Rosemary Blieszner and Charles Reinholtz were recognized for their distinguished service and academic leadership within the university community. The honor is reserved for faculty members whose exceptional accomplishments in undergraduate teaching, creative scholarship, and professional activities have touched the lives of generations of Virginia Tech alumni.

The alumni distinguished professor and university distinguished professor rankings are the highest distinctions a professor can attain at the university.

A professor of geontology and family studies, Blieszner was appointed by President Charles Steger to serve as university director of strategic planning (2000-2001) and to help Virginia Tech articulate visionary goals, objectives, and strategies. She has played a significant role in various faculty governance positions, including those in the Senate Cabinet, the University Advisory Committee on Strategic Budget and Planning, the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and the President’s Task Force on University Councils, Commissions, and Committees.

Blieszner is known for motivating students to be self-directed learners, emphasizing critical thinking, and for encouraging students to gain professional experience. Blieszner was honored in the past with the University Alumni Teaching Award and election to the Academy of Teaching Excellence. An often-requested teacher, she validates personal experiences as important sources of knowledge, and she has woven a multicultural perspective into her teaching. Three books Blieszner authored are now in use as college textbooks, and 10 of her (See PROFESSIONS on 4)

Westman’s rock-imaging research garners NSF funding

By Liz Crumbley

With a $375,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF), a Virginia Tech researcher is attempting to give engineers the ability to scan rock for stresses and failures with the same technology used to scan the human body for medical problems.

Erik Westman, assistant professor of mining and minerals engineering (MinE), has won a five-year NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award to develop a practical method for predicting failures in rock masses. CAREER awards are presented annually to a select roster of young faculty members nation-wide who have the potential to make significant contributions to engineering research and instruction.

The ultimate goal of Westman’s project is fewer fatalities, lower construction costs and improved environmental protection in the construction and operation of mines, bridges, tunnels, dams, underground buildings and waste repositories.

Westman is adapting tomographic imaging—the same technology used in medical CAT scans—so that it can be used by engineers in the field to monitor redistribution of stresses within rock masses. Tomographic imaging “looks inside” a mass by transferring energy in the form of acoustic or seismic waves from one boundary to another. “In the case of rock mechanics,” Westman said, “the waves are transferred from one side of a rock mass to another or from a borehole to the interior of a mine.”

Tomographic imaging is a non-destructive testing method, similar to those already used on a limited scale by engineers to find stresses and predict failures in large structures such as airplane bodies, Westman said. “It’s more difficult to obtain useful images in rock, which is more massive and where changes in stress and material type occur naturally and frequently.”

Scientists have done some testing of tomographic imaging on rocks in laboratory settings. Westman plans to advance the technology from the lab to the field, so that images of large rock masses can be successfully scanned. His investigation will be conducted in labs at Virginia Tech and the Pittsburgh Research Lab of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Westman will test his results in coal mines.

“NSF is interested in several applications for this technology, such as monitoring hazardous and nuclear-waste repositories, dam and bridge abutments, and tunnels,” Westman said.

Tomographic imaging also could be used by mining engineers to detect potential rock bursts, events in which pressure causes rock in underground mines to spontaneously explode. Another potential use is the periodic imaging of fault lines associated with earthquakes, to help geologists predict fault failure.

Westman’s CAREER project also has an educational component. “Right now,” he said, “we can simulate the loading of a rock mass on a computer. This research will make it real. Our undergraduate and graduate students will be able to use images of real rock masses to study stresses and failures.” In addition to employing the tomographic imaging in MinE courses in the future, Westman and colleagues at the University of Colorado at Boulder will create a web site so that the technology can be used by students at both schools.

Westman began his work with tomographic imaging as an engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Colorado from 1991 to 1996. He came to Virginia Tech in 1997 as a doctoral candidate. He earned his bachelor’s degree in geophysical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, his master’s degree in civil engineering from the University (See ROCK-IMAGING on 4)

Board votes to approve tuition policy

By Larry Hincker

On Monday, the Board of Visitors approved its tuition policy for the coming 2002-2003 academic year that will see the cost for a full-time, in-state undergraduate student living on campus increase by 4.8 percent.

In adopting its fee schedule for the coming year, tuition and mandatory fees for Virginia undergraduates will rise $272 annually from $3,664 to $3,936. Even with this increase, Virginia Tech has the lowest fee package (tuition and mandatory fees) in the state for four-year colleges and universities. (See BOARD on 4)
Events

Friday, 22
YMCA Open University registration, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., YMCA Office.

Saturday, 23
YMCA Hike, 10 a.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

Sunday, 24
SOTA Event, 3 p.m., Blacksburg Presbyterian Church: Faculty Recital.

Monday, 25
Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.
Orientation Briefing, 5 to 7 p.m., 223 Engel: H1B Visa procedures/permanent-residency options.
Workshop, 5 to 7 p.m., Blacksburg Public Library conference room: Regionalism and Globalization.

Fulbright to speak during GSAW

Julie Kane
Harriet Mayor Fulbright will be the keynote speaker for the 2002 Graduate Student Appreciation Week. The event will take place April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in 2150 Torgersen. Her talk, entitled “Globalization and Education,” is free and open to the public.

Fulbright is the executive director of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. She is a former president of Center for Arts in Basic Curriculum, a non-profit organization concerned with advocacy of educational reform and teacher training. From 1987 to 1992, she was involved in the Fulbright scholarship program, first as executive director of the Washington area Senior Fulbright Program, where she initiated and administered an enrichment program of cultural, historical, and social activities for foreign Fulbright scholars.

The widow of the late Senator William Fulbright, she continues to travel with the Fulbright program to talk about its vision: a mission of peace, intellectual excellence, leadership training and global distribution. The Fulbright program was started after the Second World War. The goal of the Fulbright exchanges, which require sharing of responsibility between the U.S. and host governments and institutions, is to enrich student life and make a difference in the world.

(See FULLBRIGHT on 4)

ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, 27
CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC conference room A.

“With Good Reason:” 7 p.m., VWTIF.

Friday, 29
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., DBHCC rooms D, E.
CommonHealth Program, 12:15 to 12:30 p.m., Southgate Personnel classroom.

Seminars

Friday, 22
Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Richard D. Sacks, University of Michigan.
MCBR, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Parag R. Chitnis, Iowa State.
CASS, 3 to 4 p.m., Davidson 307: Joseph E. Marcy.
Philosophy, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Antonia Lolordo, UVa.

Friday, 27
SPECTRUM

“arctic activities

By Sally Harris
Four Arctic artists will demonstrate their work during the Arctic Arts Festival at Virginia Tech March 22-24.

The festival’s opening reception is today at 7 p.m. in the Perspective Gallery on the second floor of Squires Student Center. On Saturday and Sunday, March 23-24, from 1 to 4 p.m., the artists will demonstrate stone carving, paper-making, and silver jewelry-making outside the east end of Squires. Films about Arctic life will be available for viewing on request.

An exhibit of Arctic Arts in the Perspective Gallery includes wall hangings by women of Baker Lake, Nunavut; stone sculpture from Baffin Island, Nunavut; and tools and clothing of Arctic life, some from the collection of Joanne C. McNeil of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. The wall hangings and large tools are from the collection of Judith Varney Burch, owner of Arctic Inuit Art Galleries in Richmond and Nova Scotia, who will talk about the work at the opening.

Inuit sculptors Bill and Yule Nasogoluak, Ruth Wright, an Indian artist who does mixed Inuit sculpture, and Allyson Simmie, a jeweler, will travel to Virginia Tech to demonstrate their work at the festival. They will that VTIp provides is posted on the web. Visit www.vti坑.org/survey2002.htm to participate. For more information, contact Debbi Lucas at 951-9374 or lucasd@vt.edu.

RMS to host Records Workshop

The Department of Records Management Services will present a workshop on April 9 for persons interested in learning about records keeping.

This session will address Virginia Tech records-keeping practices. It will be an opportunity for directors, managers, records coordinators, records requesters, and any administrative personnel desiring to have records questions or concerns addressed. The latest guidance on proper storage, retention and destruction of electronic records, including e-mails, will be addressed.

The session will be two hours in length; one hour of presentation followed by a one-hour question/answer session. It will be held in 2150 Torgersen from 3 to 5 p.m. Anyone planning to attend who has not previously responded to an earlier e-mail notice should make their workshop reservation request as soon as possible. E-mail responses to Jerry Palmer at gejer@vt.edu.

VTIP invites inventor input

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP) is reviewing its support of Virginia Tech inventors. A short survey of researchers’ and others’ impressions of the service.

Fullbright to speak during GSAW

The Geography of Nowhere’ lecture set

By Julie Kane
Author and former Rolling Stone staff member James Howard Kunstler will present a lecture (with photographs) calling for a return to better town planning, livable communities, and an end to sprawl Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. The presentation is free.

Natural History Museum program offered

The Natural History Museum program on Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to noon will be about fossils. The program will include information on how fossils form and what they can reveal about the past. Activities integrate games and crafts with key science concepts. Pre-registration is requested at 1-3001.

From 1 to 5 p.m., after Science Saturday Morning Programs, SEEDS Saturday watershed field trips for children in grades 4 to 8 will meet at the museum. Participants should dress appropriately and bring a snack. Pre-registration at 1-3001.

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(See FULLBRIGHT on 4)

Arctic Arts Festival slated for this weekend

By Sally Harris
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Inuit sculptors Bill and Yule Nasogoluak, Ruth Wright, an Indian artist who does mixed Inuit sculpture, and Allyson Simmie, a jeweler, will travel to Virginia Tech to demonstrate their work at the festival. They will...
### Research agenda announced

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has released a document entitled “NIAID Counter-Bioterrorism Research Agenda for CDC Category A Agents,” which describes the institute’s accelerated plans for research aimed at protecting civilian populations from the most threatening bioterrorism agents. The document also contains a copy of the “Strategic Plan for Counter-Bioterrorism Research of the NIAID,” which provides a general overview of the institute’s broad plans for research.

### Human-development master’s degree announced

By Kelly Corace and Sarah Weaver, University Relations interns

The Department of Human Development is offering a new master’s degree in human development, which prepares students to become professionals in the human-service field through skill development and professional experience. The program can be completed in a minimum of two semesters (30 credit hours) and will be offered every other year. The first class will form in the fall of 2002. The program was designed based on competencies identified by professionals in the field.

### 2002-2004 CAPITAL OUTLAY PLAN

**EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL PROJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Division (208)</th>
<th>State Support</th>
<th>BOND BILL</th>
<th>Non-General Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Reserve</td>
<td>6,395</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct Bioinformatics Building, Phase II</td>
<td>20,436</td>
<td>20,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct Addition to Main Campus</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chilled Water Central Plant</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct Fine Arts Center and Renovate Henderson Hall</td>
<td>6,542</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>26,542</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct New Engineering Facility (VTRI Phase II)</td>
<td>13,996</td>
<td>17,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct Biology Building</td>
<td>14,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renovate Classroom Improvements, Phase I</td>
<td>4,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct New Vivarium Facility</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>4,750</td>
<td>16,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construct Building Construction Facility</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair Lifton Reaves Hall</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exterior Structural Repairs</td>
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**Cooperative Extension/Agricultural Experiment Station Division (229)**

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<th>BOND BILL</th>
<th>Non-General Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>23,168</td>
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### Classified Positions

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-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 process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

#### FULL TIME

- Fiscal Technician Senior, 00479R, PB 3, OIRD.
- One full-time food-service position available. Laboratory Specialist Senior, 007933R, PB 4, VBI.
- Office Specialist, 00242H, PB 2, RDP.
- Office Specialist, 002237H, PB 2, RDP. Program Support Technician, 000451B.

#### POST OFFICE REQUESTS

**Correct Zip Code**

An article printed in Spectrum on March 1 requested that departments using ancillary statements on out-going mail use zip code 24060 instead of the unique zip code for Virginia Tech, which is 24061. This was an attempt by the Federal Post Office to facilitate the collection of endorsement fees. After further discussion with the Blacksburg Postmaster, he has asked that 24060 not be used on any address at Virginia Tech. Employees should continue to use 24061.

####燕尾蝶

Spectrum, a faculty staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted. Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the University Relations: Lawrence D. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; David Nutter, director of college and media relations.

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**Marketing**

- Brian Higginbotham, 1-6909

Letters to the editor and questions for “Ask Spectrum” should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Electronic Spectrum: http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Any issues concerning discrimination or accessibility regarding the programs described in this newspaper should contact the Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Office: 540-231-7500 (T), 540-231-9460 (TTY).

### Radio Announcer

Radio Announcer, W20800S, PB 3, UR/WVTF Radio

### Faculty Positions

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

University Development. Director of Development for University Programs. Contact: Rhonda Arsenault, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.

University Development. Director of Donor Relations. Contact: Rhonda Arsenault, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Associate Director, Administration/Finance. Contact: Debi Darrell, 1880 Pratt Dr. Bldg. XV (0477). Open until filled.

A portion of the debt will be issued under the auspices of the Virginia College Building Authority. Both bills must be approved by Governor Mark Warner.

Voters last approved general-obligations bonds in 1992 when $476 million was authorized for state colleges and universities.
Fulbright Continued from 2

to enable students to experience different cultures and return home with a new view as citizens of the world.

Other events for Graduate Student Appreciation Week include a kickoff on Monday, April 1, which will include various outside activities for graduate students.

The 18th Annual Student Research Symposium, organized by the Graduate Student Assembly, will be held Tuesday, April 2. Students’ research will be on display in Squires Commonwealth Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, e-mail shufec@vt.edu or solguan@vt.edu, or call 1-7919.

On Wednesday, graduate students are invited to attend two workshops: academic track (9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) or business and industry track (1 to 4 p.m.). Entitled “Preparing the Grant Application,” presentations will be made by representatives from industry, government, and academics in the Brush Mountain Room in Squires Student Center. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. To register, contact Marilyn Kershaw, mkershaw@vt.edu, or call 1-2494.

Each college has selected an outstanding graduate student to win an award. In addition, awards will be given for the outstanding thesis and dissertation. At the Graduate Student Awards Banquet (invitation only) on Thursday, these awards will be presented, as well as the Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence Award and the Graduate Student Service Award.

Friday is Graduate Student Appreciation Day. Colleges are encouraged to show appreciation for their graduate students.

For more information on these events, as well as time and location, go to Graduate Education Week Under Featured Sites on the Virginia Tech home page, call Jocelyn at 1-9549, or e-mail fellows@vt.edu.

Cheney Memorial Service Scheduled

The English Department plans to hold a memorial service for Emeritus Associate Professor Anne Cheney on Saturday, April 6 at 1 p.m. in the War Memorial Chapel. Cheney died Dec. 17, 2001 in Montgomery County Hospital of cancer.

Cheney came to the English department in the late 1960s and retired several years ago. She specialized in modern American literature and published books on writers Edna St. Vincent Millay (Millay in the Village, Alabama, 1975), Lorraine Hansberry (Lorraine Hansberry, Twayne, 1984), and Jesse Hill Ford (The Life and Letters of Jesse Hill Ford, Southern Writer, Mellen, 1995). Recently, she published a number of volumes of her own poetry and sponsored the publication of younger poets, many of whom are Virginia Tech alumni.

The service is open to the town and university communities.

Research Continued from 3

attacking the full range of potential bioterrorism pathogens.


Professors Continued from 1

more than 60 refereed journal articles focus on instruction and teaching issues.

Her interdisciplinary research focuses on family and friend relationships in adulthood and old age from the perspectives of gerontology, family studies, psychology, and sociology. She has served as associate director for education at the Center for Gerontology since 1983 and has been named as a fellow to four professional societies, including the National Council on Family Relations. She also serves on several editorial boards.

Reinholtz has amassed a number of honors before being named an alumni distinguished professor. He received a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation and a Certificate of Teaching Excellence and the Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching from Virginia Tech. In 1996 he became Virginia Tech’s first recipient of the W.S. White Chair for Innovation in Engineering Education. He is also a member of the Academy of Teaching Excellence.

Two of Reinholtz’s citations resulted from student nominations. In 1995, he received the...