Niles appointed named interim dean of CHRE

By Jean Elliott

Jerry Niles has been appointed interim dean of the College of Human Resources and Education (CHRE) effective July 1 for approximately one year. The search for a permanent dean will be re-opened in the fall.

“I am delighted that Jerry Niles has been chosen as my successor,” said Janet Johnson, who will retire as dean of CHRE the end of June. “No one is more familiar than Jerry with the diverse reaches of the college. He knows the issues and goals of the Human Resources programs. He is a familiar name in the public schools and among teacher educators. He has been a leader in the integration of technology in teaching and outreach, and supported the college efforts for Cooperative Extension. In addition, he has experience with major international projects.”

Niles has served as the associate dean since the college merged with the College of Education in 1995. He has also served two stints as chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning (1993-96, 2001-2002). A professor in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction since 1974, Niles’ expertise is in literacy and reading assessment. He worked with the placement and supervision of student teachers, and with several counties’ program evaluations. He was also the director of the Center for Educational Diagnostic and Remedial Services.

Named the Outstanding Teacher Educator Leader of the Year by the Virginia Association of Teacher Educators in 1998, Niles has a long list of Excellence in Teaching Awards, including the Wine Award and induction into the University Academy of Teaching Excellence.

Niles is currently in Malawi, where he is co-investigator in a USAID grant. In what is essentially a human-resource-development project, the goal is to develop a cadre of Malawians who can prepare teacher educators. In another administrative area, Roger Avery will serve as interim vice provost for Graduate Studies and dean of the Graduate School, effective May 15 until Karen DePauw’s arrival in early August.

Joe Merola began his assignment as senior administrative fellow on May 15, working with Provost Mark McNamee on restructuring.

Diversity Incentive Grant recipients chosen for 2002-03

The Office of the Provost has announced awards for 12 Diversity Incentive Grant proposals for 2002-03.

The small-grant program is in its thirteenth year of providing seed money for projects in departments and units across campus for a wide array of activities designed to increase awareness and understanding of diversity, to assist in recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff, and student body, and to foster improvements in the campus climate.

The Selection Committee especially valued projects that were well developed and described, and that would have a broad impact on the university community. Recipients for 2002-03 will work on pipeline programs such as the pre-college initiative for Virginia American Indians in grades 8-12, Richmond-area minority high-school students enrolled in an environmental sciences summer program, and high-school students involved in a special program in the Martinsville area; programs for faculty and staff members related to dialect discrimination, affirmative action, and general awareness building; a mentoring project for undergraduate women in forestry; a virtual museum project for women in engineering; and several projects focused on minority graduate-student recruitment.

Chair of the Selection Committee, Pat Hyer, expressed appreciation for the “wonderful array of projects proposed by faculty members and departments throughout the university. While these are small grants, our hope is to keep nurturing the efforts of many faculty and staff members who are finding creative and meaningful ways to contribute to reaching our diversity goals. When there is so little discretionary money available to support special initiatives of any kind in the coming year or two, the Diversity Incentive Grants Program takes on even more importance to those who are involved in this work.”

Graduate housing survey shows most satisfied

By Julie Kane

At the beginning of the 2001-2002 academic school year, the Graduate School and the Division of Student Affairs commissioned the Center for Survey Research to survey first-year graduate students regarding their recent search for housing. The survey was conducted to determine their level of satisfaction as to available housing and to elicit their suggestions for determining the type of housing needed for future graduate students.

Out of a pool of 788 eligible students, telephone surveys were completed with 602 individuals. A majority of first-year graduate students (80.1 percent) had positive experiences with finding suitable housing for the school year. Eight in 10 said finding housing (See GRADUATE on 4)
**Events**

**Friday, 24**
Summer Arts Festival Concert, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: “No Strings Attached.”

**Monday, 27**
Memorial Day Holiday for Faculty and Staff Members. (No Classes).

**Tuesday, 28**
CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.

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**Activities**

**Wednesday, 29**
CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.

**Wednesday, 5**
“The Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTW.

**Friday, 31**
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

**Monday, 3**
Economics beyond Neoclassical Limits, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 1045 Pamplin (through 6-7).

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**Bulletin**

**AM1260 adds NPR talk program**

AM1260, also known as WWVT, which serves the New River Valley, has added another talk program from National Public Radio (NPR) to its broadcast schedule. AM1260 is now broadcasting “The Connection,” in addition to NPR’s “Talk of the Nation,” “The Diane Rehm Show,” and “The Todd Mund Show.” BBC news programs; and “The World,” from Public Radio International (PRI).

AM1260’s weekday broadcast schedule is as follows: “BBC World News Briefing,” 6 to 8 a.m.; “News Hour” from BBC, 8 to 10 a.m.; Dane Rehm Show, 10 a.m. to noon; “The Connection,” noon to 2 p.m.; “Talk of the Nation,” 2 to 4 p.m.; Todd Mund Show, 4 to 5 p.m.; “The World,” 5 to 6 p.m.; and “News from BBC,” 6 to 7 p.m.

“The Connection,” hosted by news correspondent Dick Gordon, handles a variety of topics, such as politics, literature, religion, science, music and medicine.

Complete program listings are available at AM1260’s web site, www.am1260.org.

In addition to AM 1260, WVTW Public Radio, a National Public Radio (NPR) member station, broadcasts news, classical and jazz music, public information and affairs, and other cultural programming.

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**Flood victims still need clean-up supplies**

The people of Hurley and Buchanan County have sent their thanks to everyone in Blacksburg for the clean-up supplies that arrived over the weekend. The supplies were delivered by Bobby Swain, coordinator for field services support at the Extension Distribution Center.

Swain said cleaning supplies are still needed, especially paper goods and rubber boots and gloves. He asks that people not donate chlorine bleach or other cleaning supplies that are classified as hazardous materials and cannot be shipped.

Members of the Virginia Tech community can take their donated items to the Extension Distribution Center at 112 Lansdowne St., Blacksburg. (From campus: take South Main Street to the second street past the Gables Shopping Center traffic signal and turn left. The center is the large building on the right with a loading dock and two stair towers.) The drop-off box will be available from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. week days, except Memorial Day, May 27, through Thursday, May 30, at 1 p.m. The items will delivered to Buchanan County the next day.

Those who wish to help monetarily can make tax-deductible donations to Clinic Independent Living Services with Hurley flood through Thursday, May 30, at 1 p.m. The items will be shipped.

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**University receives international e-learning award**

Virginia Tech has been named winner of the 2002 e-Learning Success Stories Higher Education Virtual Learning/Collaboration Award.

The Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (IDDL) prepared and submitted, on behalf of the university, the nomination: “Utilizing Virtual Classrooms and New E-Learning Models to Broaden Reach.” The nomination used as a case study the cross-university, collaborative efforts of placing the masters-of-information-technology (MIT) degree and certificate program on line. Over 100 nominations were evaluated by a panel of judges made up of professionals from Fortune 100 companies, government, and higher education.

Virginia Tech was one of only 10 organizations to be recognized in April at the international e-Learning 2002 Conference and Exposition held in Washington D.C. Other award recipients include Intel Ireland, Department of Defense, Nebraska National Guard, EMC Corporation and PPG Industries.

“Virginia Tech is pleased to be recognized for its e-learning efforts. E-learning is an integral part of the university’s mission and strategic plan to offer new knowledge for the world community through research, scholarship and outreach,” said President Charles Steger.

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**Governor authorizes additional July 5 holiday**

Governor Mark Warner has authorized additional holiday time for all state employees in celebration of Independence Day. State offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, and Friday, July 5.

President Charles Steger has confirmed that classes will be held on July 5, but that it will be a holiday for all university employees who are not required to support classes or other essential university services.

Employees who are eligible to earn compensatory leave for holidays worked will be granted leave on request at a later date.

Offices that do not provide class support or essential services may be closed. Department heads and directors are asked to determine which employees are essential, and to communicate their plan for closing with their employees as soon as possible. Personnel Services will send instructions to department HRIS users and leave representatives as the holiday approaches.

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**Tech database user group holds first meeting**

The first Virginia Tech Database User Group Database Users Group (VTDBUG) meeting was held at Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) April 17.

Olga Bzhanik (VBI) facilitated the meeting, which focused on the needs and capabilities of database users at Virginia Tech. According to Bzhanik, the group’s mission parallels Virginia Tech’s goal to lead in research at a time when nearly every scientific activity relies on data bases. With integrated resources, the group will contribute to knowledge sharing, systems acquisition and database education on campus.

The meeting featured presentations by Russell Kruzelock (VBI), Bzhanik, Morgan Allen (CNS), Dwayne Marlowe (ISiC DBMS), Thomas Dunbar (IWA), Paul Toffenetti (VBI) and others. VTDBUG will start a listserv (vtbug@listserv.vt.edu), create a web site, and conduct its first technical workshop—featuring several data-base design tools—in May. The group will identify topics for discussion during an informal luncheon in June, and hold its next group meeting in July. Interested parties are welcomed to attend any VTDBUG activity.
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/A employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME
Three full-time food-service positions available.

Administrative Assistant, 002459Y, PB 3, DBHCC.
Assistant Manager, 00061H, PB 3, RDP.
Assistant Ticket Office Manager, 007154J, PB 3, UUSA.

Banquet Manager, 001118Y, PB 3, DBHCC.
Boiler Operator Assistant, 000338F, PB 2, Power Plant.
Business Manager A, 004560B, PB 4, VALME.
Data Entry Operator, 002527C, PB 3, University Controller.
Development Associate, 007914S, PB 3, University Development.
Executive Secretary Sr., 001445J, PB 3, Teaching/Leaning.
Housekeeping Leader Senior, 000945H, PB 1, RDP.
Large Animal Veterinary Technician, 001996M, PB 4, VTH.
Pharmacy Assistant, 002617M, PB 2, VTH.
Project Leader, Middleware Services, 000613Y, PB 6, IAD.
Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, Victoria.
Windstream NT Systems Administrator, 002143G, PB 4, LSD.

PART TIME
Animal Care Technician, W022190M, PB 2, VTH.

Only five recipients are chosen, but all of the nominees are being recognized at a reception on May 31 that is held solely to recognize their accomplishments. The final recipients will not be chosen until the selection committee meets again in June.

The individuals recognized for their extra-ordinary contributions to the university are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Rene P. Armstrong, Provost’s Office; Catherine L. Barker, College of Natural Resources; Bonita S. Beasley, Office of Sponsored Programs; Sharon P. Box, University Relations/Publications; Charlotte R. Breeding, Virginia Tech Police Department; Patricia C. Bryant, educational leadership and policy studies; Billie R. Cline, Virginia Cooperative Extension; Eric R. Day, entomology; Patricia F. Donovan, crop and soil environmental sciences; Ellen S. Douglas, Risk Management; Glen Dunn, University Relations/Publications; Linda B. Fountaine, history; Carolyn L. Furrrow, College of Arts and Sciences; James M. Hall, chemistry; Amelia G. Hill, materials science and engineering; Mary D. Hunter, civil and environmental engineering; Shelley R. Johnson, Center for Wireless Telecommunications; Barbara M. Kellison, teaching and learning; Leon A. Law, Physical Plant; Peggy H. Lawson, international research and development; Delores B. Lee, biology; Betty Lou Mayton, Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Martha M. Moretz, human development; Phyllis I. Neece, accounting and information systems; Wanda W. Nolley, marketing; Rhonda M. Owen, dairy science; Mark S. Raby, Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning; Terry T. Rakestaw, food science and technology; Charles E. Randel, Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital; Janet Sanders, physics; Mary A. Schaeffer, biology; Richard A. Shankin, animal and poultry sciences; S. Lyn Sharp, Natural History Museum; Melinda P. Shaver, University Relations/Publications; Nancy W. Shields, crop and soil environmental sciences;

**President’s Award for Excellence nominees to be recognized**

The President’s Award for Excellence Selection Committee is reviewing nominations of individuals submitted from throughout the university community. Thirty-five employees were nominated this year to receive one of five President’s Awards, which are presented during the Fall Convocation.

Virginia Tech annually recognizes selected employees for their contributions to the university. All salaried classified staff or administrative or professional faculty members with at least two years of service are eligible for consideration. Awards are given to those who have shown consistent excellence in the performance of their job, or for a single incident or extraordinarily contributing yielding heroic actions.

**VA TECH**

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 Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hinckle, associate vice president for University Relations; Jean Elliott, acting director of college and media relations.

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Letters to the editor and questions for “Ask Spectrum” should be addressed to the editor, 302 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Email: spectrum@vt.edu. Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employ- ees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religious or political affiliation. Any- one having questions concerning discrimination or ac- cessibility regarding the programs described in this newspaper should contact the Equal Opportunity Affirm- ative Action Office, 540-231-7500 (V), 540-231-9460 (TDD).

**Engineering**

Continued from 1

submitted as principal investigator or co-principal investigator four successful research proposals, with his share at $103,000.

The second award went to Stefan Duma of the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the University. The award is for the development of a novel algorithm for the detection of object movement in video sequences. The algorithm is designed to be used in applications such as surveillance, robotics, and computer vision.

The third award went to Hesham Rakha of the College of Engineering. The award is for the development of a novel algorithm for the detection of object movement in video sequences. The algorithm is designed to be used in applications such as surveillance, robotics, and computer vision.

The fourth award went to Mary D. Hunter, civil and environmental engineering. The award is for the development of a novel algorithm for the detection of object movement in video sequences. The algorithm is designed to be used in applications such as surveillance, robotics, and computer vision.

The fifth award went to Richard A. Shankin, animal and poultry sciences. The award is for the development of a novel algorithm for the detection of object movement in video sequences. The algorithm is designed to be used in applications such as surveillance, robotics, and computer vision.

Only five recipients are chosen, but all of the nominees are being recognized at a reception on May 31 that is held solely to recognize their accomplishments. The final recipients will not be chosen until the selection committee meets again in June.

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**University**

Continued from 2

development and delivery of the on-line MIT are the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Pamplin College of Business, Provost’s Office, International Institute for Information Technology, Center for Innovation in Learning, Information Systems, Graduate School and University Outreach.

IDDL piloted a number of e-learning innovations as part of the on-line MIT program. To offer a quality program that was both scalable and cost-effective, the distance-learning-instructor (DLI) model and the distance-learning-procuring model were implemented. In addition, a number of administrative and course-developmet-and-delivery processes were automated. These efforts increased efficiencies and econom-ies of scale that are transferable to other university e-learning efforts. Program assessment results have been positive and indicate that this university-wide collaborative effort to create a high-quality and accessible virtual-learning environment has succeeded.

**Graduate**

Continued from 1

either “very easy” or “somewhat easy,” and most (96 percent) live off-campus. The strongest reasons were the fact that they were tired of residence-hall living. In addition, 46 percent received lower cost of off-campus housing, and 46 percent lived in off-campus housing. More than half (67.3 percent) had the opportunity to visit Blacksburg to look for housing before their first semester. The second most important factor in selecting housing was its proximity to cam- pus. To get to and from campus, most students rely on the Blacksburg Transit (41.4 percent). Others (37.5 percent) drive cars or car pool. Eleven percent walk and 3.5 bike to Virginia Tech from off-campus residences.

Those individuals who expressed problems in finding specific housing cited the following reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- lowing reasons: they started looking too late; others had problems finding specific housing cited the fol- follow-
Outreach, CPAP conduct study

A class of graduate students in the Center for Public Administration and Policy recently finished conducting a performance-measurement and benchmarking study for Pulaski County. The course, “Performance Measurement and Benchmarking for Local Government,” was taught by University Outreach faculty members J. Douglas McAlistier, John Aughtenbaugh, and Chisholm Miller.

The basic purpose of the course, according to Aughtenbaugh, is to further a central tenet of the university’s mission statement: advance social and community development. In particular, the course and project are designed to emphasize service-learning opportunities for students and expand the university’s technical assistance and community-development efforts, which are key components of the University’s 2001-2006 Strategic Plan.

The course is split into two parts; in the first third of the semester, the students are taught the basics of performance measurement and benchmarking, the pros and cons attached to the same, and the contextual issues surrounding the movement to measure what government does. In the second third of the course, the students studied three Pulaski County departments: general administration, Building and Zoning, and Refuse Collection. The result of this examination was a report that measured the inputs, outputs, and outcomes of these departments, pinpointed areas in which the departments were doing well, and suggested recommendations for improvement.

The Pulaski County project was the second for this kind of Outreach and CPAP collaboration, as last spring the units did a similar study for Smyth County. According to McAlistier, the course and project tap into the growing movement at all levels of government to develop more professional management.

“This need for performance measurement and benchmarking assistance for local government seemed like a great opportunity to apply the knowledge of Virginia Tech to the state,” Aughtenbaugh and Miller modeled the course upon the International Market Planning Program, a course/project offered in the Pamplin College of Business. Instead of an expert plan for a business, the student teams in the performance-measurement course provide a thorough examination of local government.

DIVERSITY

Continued from 1

and seniors from the metropolitan Richmond area who are enrolled in a summer environmental studies course. Students will be involved in hands-on field studies.

Building a Digital Diversity Resource Database: Toward a University-wide Multicultural Resource Center. Megan Boler, Kathleen Carico, Peter Doolittle, David Hicks, teaching assistant: $1,200

The Diversity Resource Database offers a searchable data base with annotated references to books, articles, web sites, videos, and other materials that have been carefully screened and selected to meet standards of curricular integrity. The database provides access to a rich array of print, media, and web-based resources for pre-service and practicing teachers and faculty members who are developing “diversity-inclusive” curricula and pedagogy.

Virginia Tech/Virginia American Indian National Farmers’ Association-College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Samuel R. Cook, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies: $2,500

The purpose of this project is to build upon the network established in 2001-02 between Virginia American Indians in grades 8-12 and Virginia Tech; to mentor these students through to graduation from high school to recruitment to Virginia Tech; and to visit the eight tribal councils in Virginia to promote the Pre College Initiative and enhance participation in the program.

Development of an E. Lucy Braun Scholars Program. Carolyn A. Copenhaver, forestry: $2,500

This project provides a scholarly mentor group for 10 female students within a traditionally male field of forestry; creates the opportunity for female forestry students to interact professionally with successful women in the discipline and related professions; provides opportunities for a field experience and discussion of texts; and increases the representation of female presenters in the department’s seminar series.

Towards an Understanding of Dialect Diversity. Clare J. Dzbenski, English: $2,500

The dialect-awareness project intends to serve students and faculty members by debunking myths about language use, structure and history through hands-on experimentation with a number of different varieties of English, including but not limited to African American Vernacular English, Appalachian English, and Native American English.


Twenty high-school students in the Martinsville area will be selected to participate in this program designed to develop greater self awareness, appreciation of social and cultural differences, leadership and conflict-resolution skills. Students will meet twice a month over a ten-month period and will participate in one or more visits to the Tech campus to provide exposure to university life and Tech programs. The Race and Social Policy Center will provide a qualitative evaluation of the project and its impact.

Building a Diverse Community of Learners. Joan Hirt, David Alexander, educational leadership and policy studies; Lanny Cross, Student Affairs; and Brian Johnson, Residential and Dining Programs: $1,000

The graduate-preparation program in Higher Education and Student Policies (HESA) has a proven track record of recruiting, retaining, graduating, and placing graduates into under-represented groups. Faculty members and current graduate students are involved in extensive recruitment efforts through visits to HBCUs’s and contacts with other minority-serving institutions.

Theatre for Community Dialogue. Ann Kilkenny, theatre arts and women’s studies; and Charlotte Waggoner, environmental health and safety: $2,500

The project will provide training in Image Theater to members of the university community who are willing to be facilitators for other groups. The technique provides a powerful and creative approach to building awareness and understanding of diversity and multicultural issues.

Recruitment and Educational Development: The Annual Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). Reinhard Laubenbacher, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute: $1,000

Funds will provide partial travel support for students and the faculty sponsor to attend the National Conference of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, an ideal venue for the professional development of students from those ethnic/racial groups and recruitment of new graduate students in the sciences.

Virginia Tech Virtual Museum for Women in Power Engineering. Yiu (Ellen) Liu, electrical and computer engineering: $1,000

This project will create a virtual museum on the web of women in engineering, with a focus on power engineering. The museum will document the lives and careers of successful women of the past, not only those who have received much notoriety but those who have received little or no recognition. It would be the only virtual museum in the world dedicated exclusively to recognizing the contributions of women engineers.

Supporting Affirmative Action: Learning from Experience. Ann Potts, teaching and learning; Patrick Council, near environments; April Few and Fred Piercy, human development: $1,500

A panel of representatives from both on and off campus will be invited to discuss how university administrators, faculty and staff members can effectively negotiate changes in affirmative-action legislation. The event is designed to create important campus dialogue about the national debate on affirmative action and educate future leaders about the changing legal and political climate for affirmative action for Virginia Tech.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Staff Senate President James Martin (right) and Faculty Senate President Leon Long present their gifts to President Charles Steger.

Staff Senate President James Martin (right) and Faculty Senate President Leon Long announce the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund goal.

DOD

Continued from 1

long-range uses of such materials might include military uniforms that are smart enough to cool soldiers in extreme heat and automatically provide a barrier to chemical and biological reagents, Long said. Other applications might include the manufacture of miniaturized microchips, displays, sensors, and actuators.

“This need for performance measurement and benchmarking assistance for local government seemed like a great opportunity to apply the knowledge of Virginia Tech to the state,” Aughtenbaugh and Miller modeled the course upon the International Market Planning Program, a course/project offered in the Pamplin College of Business. Instead of an expert plan for a business, the student teams in the performance-measurement course provide a thorough examination of local government.