Searchable database created for Diversity Resources Center

By Jean Elliott

Two years of collaborative effort by faculty members and graduate students in the Department of Teaching and Learning has produced the recent unveiling of the Diversity Resources Center (DRC).

The purpose of the DRC is to promote social equality by transforming educational practices and curricula. The DRC offers a searchable database that provides print, media, and web-based resources relevant to developing “diversity-inclusive” curricula and pedagogy for use by students, faculty members, and educators. Materials are selected for relevance to different subject areas (e.g., math, English, science or social studies) and will eventually include resources for college-level teaching.

“By ‘diversity-inclusive,’ we intend a commitment to developing anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-homophobic curricula and pedagogies appropriate to K-12 teaching, as well as for higher education,” project coordinator and associate professor Megan Boler said.

The resources listed in the Diversity Resources Center database can be located either at the Virginia Tech Newman library, on Newman reserve, or (for browsing only) in the collection housed on the third floor of the War Memorial Hall.

An extensive, reviewed collection of more than 300 resources, the DRC has been a combined effort of teaching and learning faculty members, Boler, Kathleen Carico, Peter Dodiliott, and David Hicks, librarian Susan Ariew, and graduate assistants Kelly, Ann Nugent, Evelyn Thornton, and Samantha Christopher.

“We have selected materials carefully with an eye towards quality rather than quantity,” Nugent said. “All included materials (See SEARCHABLE on 2)

A Message to the University Community from President Charles Steger

Dear Colleagues,

The Commonwealth of Virginia continues to experience revenue shortfalls. The governor has announced further cuts for state agencies, including Virginia Tech, in this fiscal year. The governor has asked that we prepare reduction scenarios of 7, 11, and 15 percent. All agencies will incur at least 5-percent reduction in General Fund appropriations. For Virginia Tech (208 and 229 divisions), every 1-percent reduction equates to $2.2 million.

These plans are due to the administration by September 20. In addition to looking for further savings, we will be working to identify other sources of revenue. In anticipation of possible budget adjustments, we have been identifying strategies to minimize the impact on core academic programs. Guidelines will be promulgated by the provost and executive vice president later this week.

While it is distressing that we must again incur losses on top of those already mandated, we must remain focused on why we are here. Most of us work in academe because we are committed

(See MESSAGE on 4)

BOV approves Stadium expansion, WFU partnership

By Sarah Newbill

The Board of Visitors met this week and unanimously voted to move forward with the west-side stadium expansion. The board authorized the university to proceed with the original concept for the West Side Stadium Expansion project at a cost of $47.8 million, once the university administration has confirmed the “reasonableness of the fund-raising target in accordance with the cash-flow requirements of the financing plan.”

At the June BOV meeting, the university recommended a delay in finalizing a decision regarding the updated design, which included adding 5,500 seats to the original west-side plans, allotting time to evaluate the financial feasibility of such an endeavor.

The exterior face will mimic the gothic look of Burruss Hall, with two illuminated VT logos on the elevator towers. The fence will be removed to provide a landscaped front area, and a parking lot there will serve visitors on non-game days who want to buy tickets, visit the Hall of Fame or see employees housed in the structure. Also included in the plans is an extensive student athletic academic area with computer rooms and study halls to accommodate the 500-plus university athletes.

“We looked at as many scenarios as possible for the most effective expansion,” said Tom Gabbard, associate director of athletics, internal affairs. Gabbard added the original plan was the best way to go, since it did not compromise any of the programmed areas needed. “The academic situation was most critical—we want

(See BOV on 4)

EDA provides $2 million for incubator

By Jean Elliott

The U.S. Department of Commerce, through its Economic Development Administration, is providing a $2-million grant to the Virginia Tech Foundation for the construction of a small business in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. The announcement was made by Congressman Rick Boucher at the CRC on Monday.

(See EDA on 4)

Governor Warner’s Bond Kick-Off Event

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 10 a.m.
Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke
For more information about the bond campaign, go to http://www.unirel.vt.edu/bonds/
Events

Friday, 30
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
Last Day to Add.

Sunday, 1
Football, 2:30 p.m., Lane Stadium: LSU.

MACRO 2002 Review to update industry

During the last 25 years, synergies of proven macromolecular design and synthesis capabilities have been integrated with expertise in characterization, analysis, modeling, and physical property determination at Virginia Tech. The interdisciplinary teams of investigators plan to integrate their skills and to describe activities in several emerging technological areas of national importance. These include polymer synthesis, structure-property-processing behavior, adhesives, sealants and interfacial science, and biomaterials.

The joint MACRO 2002: An Update of Macromolecular Education and Research at Virginia Tech, scheduled for September 4 through 6, will be held at the Squires Student Center. There will be opportunities for scientists and engineers from industry and government to learn new aspects of the integrated research and education programs at Virginia Tech, with special focus on the Center for Adhesive and Sealant Science and the Polymer Materials and Interfaces Laboratory, through faculty presentations and student posters.

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, the program will begin at 1 p.m. with welcoming remarks by James Blair, associate provost for research and interdisciplinary programs, and will conclude with a student poster session, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Owens Banquet Room South.

Thursday’s joint program begins at 8 a.m. with remarks by Leonard Peters on research opportunities and how the university and industry can work together and continues until noon and then picks up again at 1:30 p.m. and continues until 5 p.m. The day concludes with a student poster session, beginning at 5:15 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Commonwealth Room.

The university community is invited to attend any part of the technical program.

On-line registration and more information is available at www.cass.vt.edu/Meetings/Events.htm.

Activities

Monday, 2
Labor Day for Staff Members. (Classes Meet)
Art Gallery Exhibit Opening. Squires Perspective Gallery. (through 10-10).

Tuesday, 3
Art Gallery Exhibit Opening. Armory Art Gallery. (through 9-20).

On-campus Bloodmobile. (through 9-5).

Wednesday, 4
Farm Family Showcase. Kentland Farm. (through 9-7).

“With Good Reason.” 7 p.m., WVTI.

Friday, 6
Rosh Hashanah Begins.

Bullnet

Provoast issues WMAS call for proposals

The Office of the Provost has issued the annual call for proposals for the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Series for 2002-2003. The deadline for applications is September 20.

The fund, as in past years, provides up to $50,000 to supplement departmental or college funds in support of guest lectures and performances from women and minority members.

The primary purpose of the program is to increase the number and diversity of scholarly voices and artistic expressions from groups that are under-represented on the faculty. Typically, guest lecturers or performers meet with students, faculty members, and administrators; attend or assist in related classes; and do a public presentation open to the university and larger community where appropriate.

The program may lead, in some cases, to new or strengthened collaborative endeavors or even a serious interest in pursuing an appointment to the faculty. Students should have a significant opportunity to interact with each of these guests so that we can increase their exposure to successful women and minority role models.

Application forms are available on line at http://www.provoast.vt.edu/WMASLSI/overview.htm.

‘Super Job Search Saturday’ scheduled

Career Services is sponsoring “Super Job Search Saturday,” a one-day seminar September 7, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown front auditorium.

Topics include evaluating offers and benefits, behavioral interviewing, transitioning from college to work, and job-search strategies. The registration fee is $12; lunch will be included. Register in Career Services, Henderson top floor. The registration deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 3, at 5 p.m.

Printing Services now on line

Virginia Tech Printing Services is now on line at http://www.printing.vt.edu. Visit the web site for information about services, billing, and policies for students and departments. Questions and comments may be directed to printing@vt.edu.

International forestry symposium set

The Department of Forestry in the College of Natural Resources and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) will present a “Symposium on Statistics and Information Technology in Forestry” September 8 through 12 on campus. Professors, graduate students, and forestry professionals will present their research work and advancements to the international forestry world.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a scientific forum for the exchange of information related to the advancement of statistics and information technology in the practice of forestry. The forum will include oral and poster presentations by participants, as well as computer demonstrations of recent advances relevant to the symposium theme. Meeting sessions will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Computer demonstrations will be held in the Advanced Communications and Technology Center.

The registration fee is $350. To register, visit www.con ted.vt.edu/afro.htm.

IUPRO is a non-profit, non-governmental scientific organization open to organizations and individuals involved in forestry research and forest-related sciences.

Student mentoring program begins fourth year

By Clara Cox

Newly placed classified staff members working in pay bands 2, 3, and 4 office/clerical positions have the opportunity to participate in a mentoring program designed to provide professional support from mentors in existing similar positions. The Mentoring Program for Classified Employees of Virginia Tech, initiated in 1999, will hold its Fourth Annual kick-off luncheon on September 12.

According to Robin Atkins, Vickie Carroll, Shelia Collins and Carolyn Dudley, the four writers of the original Affirmative Action Incentive Grant, and members of the Office Managers Development Group (OMDG), which developed and operated the mentoring program, the luncheon will target those mentors identified by membership in the OMDG, attendees of the April Mentoring Evaluation Program, mentors from last year’s program, and any prospective mentors who may wish to participate. The event will be held September 12, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Hilless Hall.

Employees interested in learning more about the upcoming program or becoming a mentor or mentee should contact Terri Tishman at ULD@vt.edu or 1-6727 today.

One of the objectives of the program is to facilitate initial and continuing professional support to Virginia Tech classified employees within the pay bands 2 through 4. Other objectives of the program are to enhance a communication network within the office-management positions, to encourage present staff members in office-management positions to exercise leadership skills, to provide an opportunity for cross training and shared learning between departments and colleges as a method of improving the quality of service, and to maintain a reference handbook that includes URL’s, and contact information concerning university policies and procedures.

The program provides a significant opportunity for new employees to create or enhance their comfort level and allows the ability to “tap into” an already existing network of experienced office managers.

The original committee that operated the program has expanded to an advisory board with seven initial staff members and one ULD representative.

The program is supported by the Office Managers Development Group, University Leadership Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Personnel Services.

For more information, contact any Advisory Board member at http://uld.vt.edu/4.1program.htm or ULD at 1-6727.

TechStart offered to entrepreneurs

Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology, with support from the Virginia Tech Intellectual Property Foundation and the New Century Technology Council will present TechStart BootCamp at the Donaldson Brown Center on September 12 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The program is designed for university technology researchers, as well as local start-up technology companies and entrepreneurs, to attend the event. President Charles Steger will present opening remarks on Entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech.

Topics include financing your tech business, federal funding, IP protection, elements of a successful business plan, assessing a technology’s commercial potential, regional support services, balancing academic and entrepreneurial demands, technology transfer from university, entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech, and more.

For more information or to register, go to <http://cit.registrationonline.com/citcroft/events.asp> or <http://cit.registrationonline.com/citcroft/events.asp> or call 703-689-3080.

Searchable Continued from 1

have been reviewed to ensure their integrity according to the ‘social justice’ criteria our group developed.

The project has been made possible by funds from the Department of Teaching and Learning, the College of Human Resources and Education, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

The database is at http://edpsychserver.ed.vt.edu/diversity.
PARKING LOT UPDATE

The bus lane that ran through the length of the B-Lot has been removed and replaced by approximately 115 new parking spaces. This was necessary to accommodate the construction of the Chemistry/Physics building.

For more information, contact Dale Huff, transportation planner, at 1-7641.

ELEKTRON SOFTWARE TRAINING EXPANDED

Educational Technologies has negotiated a new contract with Element K to increase the number of free online software tutorials from 200 to more than 500 and to include Books24x7 on-line reference manuals.

Technical courses such as Oracle, Windows 2000 system administration and Visual Basic are now available to all students, faculty and staff members. Microsoft Project is included with Office products (Windows, Excel, PowerPoint), while other popular titles include web design (Dreamweaver, Flash), graphics (Photoshop, Freehand) and multi-media development (Authorware, Director).

A complete list of tutorials is available at elementk.vt.edu. A user name is required to access the tutorials and may be obtained by signing up through the Hokie Portal at portal.vt.edu or my.vt.edu (when it becomes available). Detailed instructions are provided at www.elementk.vt.edu. To maximize the value of Element K under today’s budgetary constraints, inactive user names must be dropped at the end of each semester. Users may re-register at any time, however, by obtaining a new user name via the Hokie Portal.

For staff members who need to get away from the office to concentrate on the tutorials, the New Media Center (1140 Torgersen Hall) is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and welcomes Element K users.

Moore hired as management programs director

Barry N. Moore has been appointed director of Management and Professional Development Programs with the Pamplin College of Business. He will oversee the college’s initiatives in meeting the continuing-education needs of business, industry, and government organizations through faculty-led courses, seminars, and workshops.

Moore was formerly an executive vice president and chief of staff at a manufacturing company. He has been an executive-level management consultant in strategic planning, public relations and marketing, executive-leader search, Danville. Director of Finance and Operations Barry N. Moore has been appointed director of Management and Professional Development Programs with the Pamplin College of Business. He will oversee the college’s initiatives in meeting the continuing-education needs of business, industry, and government organizations through faculty-led courses, seminars, and workshops.

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MOORE Continued from 3

ship development, and crisis management and human resources for the federal government and such companies as BFGoodrich, Sheraton Hotels, and Fortune Brands.

Before working in business, Moore completed a 20-year active duty career with the U.S. Marine Corps. He served on humanitarian, combat, and training assignments, including those in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean Basin, Europe, and the Horn of Africa.

He has experience as a board director, officer, and member of different organizations, including industry, charitable foundations, professional associations, and local government boards and study groups.

Moore has a Ph.D. in business administration from Pepperdine University and a master’s in human-resources management from Pepperdine University. He is a graduate of several professional schools in industry and the military in management, leadership development, public relations and marketing, and facilitate and civil engineering.

“Focus groups got together on day two of the conference to discuss the future of learning 10 years from now and methods we can take today to achieve this vision,” Wenrich said. Exploring the Future of Learning, the theme of the ThinkQuest conference, is a hands-on participatory exploration of today’s most promising emerging technologies, educational ideas and applications. During in-depth discussions, participants debated critical issues in the future of learning, analyzed tools and applications, and defined implications for research, policy and practice.

ThinkQuest has been selected as an Internet2 K-20 Initiative representative project. This initiative brings together Internet2 member institutions, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and museums to get new technologies such as advanced networking tools, into the hands of innovators across all educational sectors in the country.

The ThinkQuest project was created in 1995 by Advanced Network & Services, Inc. with the underlying philosophy of student-centered, Internet-enhanced project-based learning. ThinkQuest programs involve more than 100,000 students and educators in 100 countries, who have created a library of more than 5,000 educational web sites used by more than 2.5 million people monthly.

Advanced Network & Services, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to advancing education by accelerating the use of computer and networking technology.

BOV Continued from 1

to graduate people. We want them wearing a mortar board when they leave here.”

“We’re enthusiastic about moving forward with the original expansion plans,” said President Charles Steger, who also said proceeding with the project in the current low-interest environment is a smart decision for the university.

If fund raising is on target, construction will begin at the close of the 2002-2003 football season, and be ready for the 2005 season. In other business, the board also approved the university’s budget-amendment request for the 2003 General Assembly session. The university will ask for $9.5 million of state funds.

In OTHER NEWS

Internet2 links educators and students from Seattle to Blacksburg

By Beth Bottom

The Institute for Connecting Science Research to the Classroom (ICSR) successfully used Internet2 technology to link 500 educational leaders and high-school students at the ThinkQuest conference at the University of Washington in Seattle with the Virginia Tech Cave Automatic Virtual Environment (CAVE) in Blacksburg.

The CAVE at Virginia Tech, a project coordinated by Associate Professor of Engineering Ron Kriz, is a multi-person, room-sized, high-resolution, 3-D video and audio environment which, when viewed through stereo glasses, appears to extend infinitely. The ICSR has collaborated with Kriz in using the CAVE to create K-12 learning applications where students can view such virtual subject matter as DNA strands and insects up close.

Thanks to Internet2 technology, Kriz and ICSR Associate Director John Wenrich, linked ThinkQuest conference participants to the Virginia Tech CAVE where they interacted with teachers on the east and west coast in a live virtual-classroom environment. Carmel Vaccare, professor of instructional technology at Radford University, and Michael Moore, graduate student in instructional technology at Virginia Tech, helped coordinate the live CAVE interaction during the conference. After experiencing the virtual lesson, ThinkQuest participants provided insight into future possibilities for using the CAVE environment and Internet2 capabilities for K-12 audiences.

BOV Continued from 1

The bandwidth available over Internet2 is 10 times greater than the “everyday” Internet people currently use. Net.Work.Virginia is an advanced, broadband network that connects Virginia’s colleges and universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, research facilities and state agencies.

Internet2 is a consortium being led by more than 180 universities working in partnership with industry and government to dramatically advance the speed and quality of the Internet’s infrastructure and thus the ability to evolve new applications and capabilities.

For more information, see http://www.isc.r.org/IK20 or contact Beth Bottom <bbottom@vt.edu> at 1-9191.

EDA Continued from 1

The total project cost is $5.8 million. The remainder of the financing will be provided by the Virginia Tech Foundation through its VT Knowledge Works project. The major focus of the small-business incubator will be the launch of locally owned technology-based companies that will generate commercial market products from university-driven research. The incubator will provide detailed technical assistance, business-management advice, and a broad range of targeted strategic help to the entrepreneurs who are its tenants.

Construction of the 45,450-square-foot building is expected to take 18 months.

FARM/FAMILY Continued from 1

wildlife habitat. Agricultural producers and the general public can watch haying demonstrations, working sheep dogs, and show and work horses, or learn about how to spot birds or protect streams on their property. These are just a few of the numerous events planned for this year’s showcase.

Many activities are scheduled for all three days, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see and participate in the wide variety of programs.

The event is sponsored by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Co-operative Extension, and the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Human Resources and Education, Natural Resources, and the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

For more information and a program schedule, visit web site http://www.farmfamily.vt.edu.

The smelly plant said ready to bloom

By Sally Harris

Just in time for the start of fall semester, the Amorphophallus titanum, or “corpse plant,” is ready to bloom in a campus greenhouse and emit its intensely powerful stench.

A blooming Amorphophallus titanum, or titan arum, is rare, according to Khidir Hilu of the biology department, which operates the greenhouse hosting the plant. The plant’s blooming drew more than 76,000 visitors in 1999 to the Huntington Botanical Garden in California and 5,500 visitors to Fairchild Garden in Florida. At the Botanic Garden of the University of Bonn, Germany, the line to see the flowering titan arum extended over two miles.

Located in the greenhouse complex next to the Horticulture Gardens on Washington Street, the smelly plant can’t help its malodorous contribution to the Floraville. The plant invests a lot of energy during blooming to heat up the sulfur-based compound in the flower stalk, so the carrion-like odor will spread several feet away from the plant to attract pollinators—carrion beetles and flies. The amount of energy needed to bloom causes the plant to do so only every four to 10 years.

The blooms, however, last only two to three days, so visitors will have to be vigilant to see and smell it. A flowering stalk can be seven to 12 feet in height and three to four feet in diameter. After the bloom dies, a leaf stalk resembling a tree sapling will begin to emerge.

The plant was discovered in 1878 in Indonesia, first cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens in England in 1887, and first bloomed in the United States at the New York Botanical Garden in 1937. According to Hilu, the plant has bloomed only about 20 times since its introduction to the United States. The titan arum is in the same plant family as familiar house plants such as Diefenbachia, Philodendrons, and Anthuriums.

The plant is in the fiberglass greenhouse behind the Washington Street glass greenhouse complex. Look for the biology signs.

A web site with information and daily updates on the plant’s status, along with photos of its progress, is at http://www.biol.vt.edu under the “news” heading.

MESSAGE Continued from 1

to certain ideals. I trust that commitment will help us work through these trying times.

Now more than ever, it is extremely important that Virginia Tech protect the integrity of the academic enterprise and preserve educational quality for our students and those yet to come. We spent almost one year evaluating our future and the quest for excellence. The result was a strategic plan that clearly speaks to our ambitions and goals. Funds will be tight, but we will not abandon our efforts to strategically invest in growth areas. We will invest in our future...we will invest in quality...regardless of the state’s inability to do so.

I want to assure you that every action we take will be driven by the overall goal of preserving instructional quality, maintaining the research enterprise, and investing in areas identified in our strategic plan. These times are very difficult, but we can achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Steger, president