President Steger’s Remarks to the Senate Finance Committee Education Subcommittee

( Editor’s note: On January 9, President Charles Steger addressed the Senate Finance Committee Education Subcommittee on behalf of higher education. Steger was recently elected chairman of the Council of Presidents of the public colleges and universities. The text of his remarks follows.)

On behalf of higher education, I would like to express our gratitude for the Senate’s strong support of the Higher Education Bond referendum. The 73-percent approval by Virginia’s voters indicates strong support for higher education among our citizens. The presidents look forward to moving ahead with these projects as quickly as possible in order to be able to meet the demand for higher education in the coming decade.

However, the state’s fiscal crisis, and the General Fund reductions to higher education, cast doubt on higher education’s ability to respond to this rapidly increasing demand.

Next fall there will be about 1,500 fewer faculty members in our classrooms. Nearly 3,000 courses [sections] have been eliminated due to these reductions. Students will find it more difficult to graduate in four years, adding thousands of dollars to the cost of their educations. At some time, the Council of Higher Education is projecting an increase of at least 32,000 new students in public institutions over the next eight years.

Our colleges and universities are facing the third year in a row with no salary increases for faculty or staff members. Institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified faculty and staff.

The experience is mirrored throughout the country as institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to attract and retain qualified faculty and staff.

Engineering graduate program research funding exceeds $100 million for first time

By Karen Gilbert

Right on track with Virginia Tech’s goal to be among the top-30 research institutions in the nation, the grand total of research dollars spent this year in the College of Engineering graduate program reached over $100 million.

The graduate program came close to spending this amount last year, with research expenditures of $98 million. The College of Engineering faculty members continue to be recognized for their excellent efforts in fundamental and applied research through positive growth in the success of their funded proposals. Some of our strongest efforts are in the areas of transportation, power electronics, materials, coal and energy, and wireless communications,” said Ed Henneke, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the college.

The graduate research spending total of the College of Engineering was just compiled for the annual report about graduate-school activities to U.S. News and World Report, which uses such information to rank the best engineering schools in the nation. Currently, the engineering graduate program is ranked 23rd in the nation, according to the April 2002 U.S. News and World Report survey. The entire college was ranked fifteenth in the nation by corporate recruiters and eighteenth by engineering-school deans who also ranked five of the college’s programs among the top 25 in their

Internal search opens for New College dean

By Clara B. Cox

A committee has been formed to conduct an internal search for a dean for the New College, the temporary name of the college that will combine the liberal-arts departments in the College of Arts and Sciences with the departments in the College of Human Sciences and Education. The person selected for the position will have a term appointment of up to three years.

“As with the dean search for the new College of Science, I believe it is to our advantage during this period of transition to fill the deanship of the New College with an internal candidate. Fortunately, Virginia Tech has a wealth of talented individuals within the faculty and administration who could provide the leadership we seek,” said Mark McMahan, university provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Richard Sorensen, dean of the Pamplin College of Business, will chair the Search Committee. Other members of the committee include Bill Snazek, alumni distinguished professor of sociology; Valerie Hardcastle, associate professor in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Patty Raun, associate professor of theatre arts; Karen Roberto, professor and director of the Center for Gerontology; Rosemary Goss, the Residential Property Management Advisory Board professor in apparel, housing, and resource management; Matt McAllister, associate professor of communication studies; Ronald Vorster, associate professor of teaching and learning at the Northern Virginia Center; Lucinda Roy, head of the Department of

CHSE leads nation in FCS dissertations

By Annette Calhoon

The College of Human Sciences and Education (CHSE), formerly the College of Human Resources and Education, was recently ranked number one in the nation in the number of dissertations completed in family and consumer sciences in colleges and universities throughout the United States. An article published in the December 2002 issue of the Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal ranked Virginia Tech first in the nation for the number of dissertations completed (22), third in the number of theses completed (25), and third in the total number of theses and dissertations completed (47). The article summarized 451 titles of theses and dissertations completed in 2001 in all national family and consumer-sciences programs.

“This positions us as a major graduate institution in the fields included in human sciences,” CHSE interim Dean Jerry Niles said. “It also reflects the good work of the faculty in partnership with the graduate students in the pursuit of scholarly discovery.”

Virginia Tech has consistently ranked at or near the top in graduate degrees granted in areas such as health, education, family relations, marriage and family therapy, adult development and aging, counseling, consumer behavior, clothing and apparel, child development and education, adult learning and human resource development.

University-wide Commencement Moves to Friday Night

By Larry Hincher

Bowing to on-going space constraints, Virginia Tech will move the university-wide Spring Commencement ceremony from Saturday morning to Friday evening, beginning this year. The event scheduled for May 10 at 9 a.m. will now be May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the same location, Lane Stadium.

“For as long as anyone here can remember, the university-wide ceremony has been held on Saturday mornings. However, we are running out of venues for the larger college ceremonies,” said Ed Henneke, chair of the University Commencement Committee. Traditionally, the Spring Commencement ceremony in Lane Stadium kicks off undergraduate Commencement activities. College or department ceremonies follow.

The College of Human Sciences and Education ceremony has outgrown Rector Fieldhouse and now must be held in Cassell Coliseum. The Pamplin College of Business
Faculty Development Workshops offered
The Faculty Development Institute has announced the Spring 2003 workshop schedule starting Monday, Jan. 27 and continuing through Thursday, March 13. Over 70 workshops will be offered ranging from basic desktop computing techniques to using streaming video and QuickTime virtual reality for teaching and learning. Although the presentations are designed for instructional and research faculty members, all workshops are open to staff members and graduate students.

Seating is limited per workshop and on-line registration is now open at http://www.fdi.vt.edu (select Spring Short courses link) or directly at http://spyro.ccvt.edu/fdi/public/index.php. Most workshops feature hands-on activities.

Included in the workshops is a mini-series on digital video content creation and a session on selecting and using personal digital assistants (PDA's). Several other workshops will feature updated versions of computer software, such as Microsoft Powerpoint, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop, and Blackboard. There will also be weekly one-on-one help sessions.

For more workshop information, contact Ed Schwartz at 1-4875, ed.schwartz@vt.edu. For more information on Educational Technologies, contact John Moore, at 1-8991, John.Moore@vt.edu or http://www.edtech.vt.edu.

Water Center invites proposals
The Virginia Water Resources Research Center invites proposals for research funding and applications for fellowships for the fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004).

The center is requesting research proposals for seed grants up to $5,000, to help develop full proposals, and is requesting proposals for competitive research grants up to $25,000 for one year. The deadline for submitting the proposals is March 31.

Proposals will be considered in all areas related to water environment, water supply and water-resources management. Proposals on developing innovative urban storm-water treatment and re-use will receive high priority.

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the Center’s Technical and Program Committees. Proposals should demonstrate the potential for significant contribution to advancing the scientific foundation for water-quality and/or water-supply management in Virginia. The proposed project should provide research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. A detailed budget justification is required. Approved projects will be eligible for additional funding in future competitions.

The center also invites applications for the William R. Walker Graduate Research Fellowship Award up to $2,500 for individuals preparing for a professional career in water resources. The deadline is March 31. The center will also award under-graduate research summer fellowships with a March 10 deadline.

Guidelines for proposal and fellowship application preparation are at http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu. Recipients will be announced by May 30. For more information, contact Tamim Younos at 1-8039 or e-mail tyounos@vt.edu.

Majors Fair announced
The VT Majors Fair for undergraduates will be held Wednesday, Jan 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. The event is an opportunity for undergraduates to talk to representatives of over 30 colleges and departments to learn more about various majors offered at Virginia Tech.

The fair is sponsored by the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence and the University Academic Advising Center. For more information, call Elaine Humphreys at 1-5499 or Becky Howell at 1-8440.

Workshops offer habitat-evaluation procedures
The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Outreach Program Development Office will offer two workshops this spring on habitat-evaluation procedures (HEP). The workshops will be held in San Diego, California, March 3 through 7, and in Syracuse, New York, July 14 through 18.

The HEP workshops are geared toward managers who are required to assess potential impacts of projects on natural habitats to develop management plans.

Instructors for the workshops include Dean Stauffer, associate professor of wildlife sciences at Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources.

The fee for each workshop is $695 and includes workshop materials. Registration and lodging information can be found on line at http://www.conted.vt.edu/hec/. For more information, contact Stauffer at 1-7349 or e-mail dstauffe@vt.edu.

Hokie Passport Office moves
The Hokie Passport Office has moved from 41 Owens Hall to the new Student Services Building, which is located across from the Cassell Coliseum parking lot on Washington Street.

IP seminar focuses on economic, social transformations
By Susan Traile
The annual Virginia Tech Intellectual Property, Inc. (VTIP) seminar, “University IP: Economic and Social Transformation,” will focus on opportunities and issues related to intellectual property, including business-academia relationships, venture capital, forming new companies, technology transfer, and changes in the law. The seminar will be February 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will be held concurrently at the Northern Virginia Center and the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center in Blacksburg.

Michael Martin, VTIP executive vice president, said, “Universities are being asked to do much more than education and research. State legislators and investors are looking to universities as a source of new businesses and jobs. These are novel concepts for universities and a new perspective on their social impact. It requires an understanding of the value of intellectual property in these types of transactions.”

Martin said, “Virginia Tech has been selected as one of the most entrepreneurial universities by the Southern Growth Policies Board. The workshop will focus on the societal and economic changes that a university needs to enable it to do business with business and to have a direct impact on the state.”

The morning sessions will be simultaneously web cast from Falls Church and Blacksburg. The afternoon sessions will be conducted separately at each site.

Highlights of the morning program are a 9 a.m. welcome from Leonard Peters, Vice Provost for Research, Virginia Tech, and VTIP president, speaking from Blacksburg, then remarks on Doing Business with Virginia Tech by Provost Mark M.romanee, speaking from Blacksburg. At 11:20, there will be a panel discussion on “University IP: Economic Transformation,” with Mike Martin; Claudia Hamilton, director of IP and research compliance at Old Dominion University; Patricia Buehnewey, director of Sponsored Programs at James Madison University; Andrew Alms, general manager of Spinner Technologies (University of Virginia Patent Foundation); and Ivelina Metcheva, licensing associate with the Office of Tech Transfer at Virginia Commonwealth University.

At 10:30, Robert Gruetzmacher, director of technology commercialization for the DuPont Center for Collaborative Research, will discuss “University Business Research—New Relationships.” At 11, J. Hiram Ewald, managing director, Tall Oaks Capital, will discuss the “Expanded Role of Venture Capital in Economic Development.” At 11:30, Robert Buehnewey, director of Virginia Patent Foundation; and Ivelina Metcheva, licensing associate with the Office of Tech Transfer at Virginia Commonwealth University, will discuss “New Company Formation through Tech Transfer.”

The luncheon speaker in Northern Virginia will be Peter Jobse, executive vice president of Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology. The luncheon speaker in Blacksburg will be Edward Murphy, president and CEO of Carillon Health System.

Concurrent sessions from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Blacksburg will be “IP 101—Issues in University IP Policy,” and “IP in Business Development,” featuring Keith Jones, VTIP director of commercialization, Michael Drizal of LeClair Ryan, Brandon Price of Goodwin Biotechnologies Inc., and Leagh Huff of Gryphon Capital Partners; and “Changes in IP Law,” with Michael Whitharn of Whitham, Curtis & Christoferson, Brian Tollefson of Arent Fox, and Peter Skiff of Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis.

Lunch is provided; registration is required to participate in the luncheon. On-line registration is available at http://www.conted.vt.edu/svtip/. For more information, contact Debbi Lucas at 951-9374 or lucasd@vt.edu.
VTCC may lose most of $1.2-million annual state budget

By Richard Lovegrove

The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets will lose nearly $1.2 million annually in state money—essentially its whole budget—if the General Assembly follows a recommendation by Governor Mark Warner.

If the assembly approves Warner’s budget-cutting plan, the corps’ “unique military activities” (UMA) appropriation would be reduced by 50 percent, or $586,412, for the fiscal year that begins July 1, and completely cut by July 2004. The UMA appropriation, equivalent to $1,900 per cadet, finances leadership programs, corps staff members, uniforms, obstacle courses, and band equipment—practically all extra costs that make the corps a military unit.

Warner’s budget also recommends cutting the same appropriation the Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership (VWIL) at Mary Baldwin College. The UMA appropriation given to the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) would remain in place.

“That money is virtually all the money the Corps of Cadets has,” said Major General Jerrold P. Allen, commandant of the corps. “We hope that the legislature will approve an amendment that restores the money.” Barring that, Allen hopes that the university sees enough value in the corps to replace the funding.

VMI has received the UMA appropriation since the early 1980s. VWIL and Tech started getting the same appropriation in the mid-1990s as part of the state’s effort to keep VMI from being forced to admit women. Before the UMA, the corps was funded by university appropriations (including state funds), auxiliary income, and student fees.

Warner spokeswoman Ellen Qualls told the Roanoke Times that the governor believes VWIL and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets are commendable programs that should continue, but when you have to make large budget cuts “you have to make choices about what state tax dollars should go for.”

Allen pointed out that VMI has done very little to integrate women into its corps compared to the job Tech has done. About 20 percent of the VTCC is female, higher than any of the senior military colleges. The VTCC commissions 80 percent of its graduates as officers in the military, while VMI, the Citadel, and Texas A&M commission about 35 percent.

“We’ve got a valuable product that the nation needs,” Allen said.

This action also comes at a time when enrollment in the Tech corps, which was 724 this past fall, is at its highest in 30 years.
Centralization of services continues in Tech's Student Services Building

By Susan B. Felker

The centralization of student services continues this semester with the relocation of key services, including the Bursar’s Office, the Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid, and the Hokie Passport Office to the new Student Services Building on Washington Street across from McComas Hall.

Communications Network Services will have a permanent satellite office on site to help students with their connectivity. There will also be a satellite office for Parking Services and an ATM machine.

The new building has more parking available and is closer to most residence halls than Burruss Hall, which now houses most of these services.

According to David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs, the late James McComas, president of Virginia Tech from 1988 to 1994, pioneered the concept of centralized student services on campus. “Since the development of this important approach to making student services more accessible before the beginning of each semester, we have become more oriented toward information technology,” says Ford. “Students have access via their computers to many on-campus services, but there are still times when personal contact is important.”

Not all student services could fit into the new building. Recreational, health, and counseling services will remain in McComas Hall. Other services will migrate to the new “quad” as more buildings are completed. These include the Dean of Students Office and Placement and Career Services, according to the master plan developed by University Architect Scott Hurst.

Undergraduate and graduate admissions will remain in the central part of the campus since the admissions process takes place before one becomes a student. “I think a visit to the undergraduate admissions offices in Burruss makes a good impression on prospective students and parents,” Ford said. But for those already enrolled, one convenient location where students can update their Hokie Passports, pay their bills, renew their parking permits, talk with a financial-aid counselor, and check their academic records has obvious benefits.

CHSE

Continued from 1

“We can articulate our impact in many ways, one of which is through this numerical ranking data, but our real impact revolves around the contributions we’re making in addressing human needs and significant societal issues,” said LuAnn Gaskill, head of CHSE’s Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management. “That’s where CHSE is clearly making a difference.”

“While I’m pleased with the number of dissertations, I’m also pleased with their quality and impact,” said Fred Piercy, head of the Department of Human Development. “Each year a number of them win university, state, and national awards. Our students are studying education, educational leadership and policy development, political science; and Jim Bohland, executive technician in the Department of Music; Dave Badinelli, Residential and Dining Programs, who received four tickets to a women’s basketball game; Richard Shingles, political science, who received four tickets to a men’s basketball game; and Jim Westwood, plant pathology, physiology and weed science, who received lunch for two at the Donaldson Brown center.

As of the end of the campaign, the university had raised $203,957.24 or 88.7 percent of goal, with 15.9-percent participation.

INTERNAL

Continued from 1

English: Shelby Cole, program-support technician in the Department of Music; Dave Alexander, head of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Janet Wimmer, laboratory specialist in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management; Richard Rich, professor of political science; and Jim Bohland, executive director of Northern Virginia operations.

The New College will consist of the departments of English, foreign languages and literatures, history, interdisciplinary studies, music, philosophy, political science, sociology, theatre arts, communication studies, apparel, housing, and resource management; human development, educational leadership and policy studies, and teaching and learning, as well as Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC. A School of Education will also be part of the college.

The Search Committee will meet next week to draw up qualifications for the position. Nominations for the dean of the New College should be sent to Sorenson in care of the Office of the Provost at campus mail code 0132.

ENGINEERING

Continued from 1

Graduate-research dollars are included in the annual survey because research activities reflect the impact the university is making by increasing the knowledge base. Conducting related research enhances the knowledge faculty members can share with their students. Graduate students benefit directly, especially in the area of job preparation, from participating in various research projects.

The total graduate-engineering research spending includes all direct and indirect expenditures on sponsored research, state expenditures through cost sharing, equipment, the portion of faculty time spent on research and gifts for research from the Virginia Tech Foundation. The college is anticipating even greater growth in the areas of biomedical engineering, aerospace, and new critical technologies. These growth areas are expected to be the result of a new partnership with the Medical College of Virginia and the NASA Langley Research Center in the Virginia Tech Insti- tute for Aerospace, and the new college initia- tive with the VT Institutes for Critical Tech- nologies (VTICT), respectively.

The complete engineering Faculty Ex- pertise resource guide is available under “pub- lications” on the college web site http://eng.vt.edu.

Final CVC Winners

The winners of the final Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign drawing held December 10 were Kimberly Badinelli, Residential and Dining Programs, who received four tickets to a women’s basketball game; Richard Shingles, political science, who received four tickets to a men’s basketball game, and Jim Westwood, plant pathology, physiology and weed science, who received lunch for two at the Donaldson Brown center.

As of the end of the campaign, the university had raised $203,957.24 or 88.7 percent of goal, with 15.9-percent participation.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE

Continued from 1

and the College of Engineering also use the coliseum. There were simply too many large events on Saturday and something had to get moved. We were faced with either having a college Commencement late in the day or move the university ceremony to Friday,” Henneke said.

Moving the university-wide ceremony creates a domino effect on the schedule. Major events are as follows:

Graduate School: Friday, May 9, 9 p.m., Cassell Coliseum;
University Ceremony: Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Lane Stadium;
Northern Virginia Center: Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.;
Army Commissioning: Friday, May 9, 3 p.m.;
Corps of Cadets: Friday, May 9, 1 p.m.;
Virginia Commissioning: Friday, May 9, 3:30 p.m.

This is not a comprehensive list. Other events may change also. Henneke said the university has not yet published the complete Commencement schedule because, “It is impossible that other college or department ceremonies will change times now that Saturday morning is open.”

The University Commencement Committee considered several options and deliberated throughout the fall semester. “We were concerned about the impact on students and families. But most people arrive in town Friday evening anyway, so we think this new scenario will be the least disruptive,” Henneke said.

Finals will be notified, as is customary, later this semester. The schedule will also be posted on the university web site as information becomes available at http://www.vt.edu/ academic行事/Spring03Commencement.html.

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Virginia Tech student Richard Zombori, a PlD graduate who was killed in an automobile accident December 23 near Spokane, Washington.

The memorial service will be followed immediately by a gathering at the University Club for friends to share food, drink, and remembrances of Zombori.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003

Memorial service scheduled for forest-products graduate

By Lynn Davis

A memorial service will be held on campus Thursday, Jan. 30, at the War Memorial Chapel beginning at 4 p.m. for Balazs Zombori, a recent forest-products PhD graduate who was killed in an automobile accident December 23 near Spokane, Washington.

The memorial service will be followed immediately by a gathering at the University Club for friends to share food, drink, and remembrances of Zombori.