Aref named dean of College of Engineering

By Lynn A. Nyström

Hassan Aref, a professor and head of the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will portray the generalship of the College of Engineering on April 1.

Provost Mark McNamie made the announcement, saying, “After conducting a nation-wide search, Virginia Tech is pleased to be able to bring to the university an individual of Dr. Aref’s scholarly and administrative accomplishments. As the dean of our highly acclaimed engineering college, he will play an important role in our university’s aspirations to attain top-30 status.”

Aref, in accepting the offer, said, “I am pleased and honored to have been given this opportunity to help realize Virginia Tech’s aspirations, in which the College of Engineering is poised to play a leadership role. I hope to draw on my experiences at elite private and public academic institutions over the past two decades to find creative ways to enhance the college in today’s challenging environment.

The constructive, ‘can-do’ attitude of the College of Engineering and the central administration has been very refreshing in these otherwise uncertain times for public higher education.”

The College of Engineering is currently ranked fifteenth in the country for the quality of its undergraduate programs and 23rd for the quality of its graduate programs, according to a survey by U.S. News and World Report. In the latter survey, the college was rated fifteenth in the nation by corporate recruiters and eighteenth by engineering school deans, and the deans (See AREF on 2)

New portal offers personalized view of campus web

A new computer application at Virginia Tech offers a customizable view of the campus web to every member of the university community. The My VT web portal (http://my.vt.edu), launched January 6 by the university’s Internet Application Development (IAD) group, provides users with personalized pages of content and services, allowing each user to view and use information that is relevant to his or her role in the university.

For students, this feature means a one-stop destination for class, financial aid, and personal information. Faculty and staff members can access payroll, leave, and benefit information. VT offers all users tools such as announcements, discussion forums, and newsgroups that foster community building and communication within the university.

“Using open-source software enables Virginia Tech to provide cutting-edge technology without licensing or support fees. It also provides access to the innovative research and experiences of other universities and gives developers flexibility to modify applications to better suit the university’s needs,” said Project Leader Ken McCrery.

Virginia Tech has had a portal since 1998, but the latest release of My VT represents a new and improved framework based on open-source uPortal software. Developed and implemented by the Java in Administration Special Interest Group (JA-SIG) in collaboration with participating institutions, uPortal is currently used by approximately 35 universities around the world.

Using open-source technology, Virginia Tech information developed by IAD’s Middleware Group.

“The goal of My VT is to improve communications and simplify access to Virginia Tech information and services,” Portal Team Project Leader Ken McCrery said. With a community of approximately 60,000 users, the My VT portal provides different layouts according to a user’s role as faculty or staff member, student, or alumnus. This distinction is made by authenticating users through the university’s new Enterprise Directory, a database of user information developed by IAD’s Middleware Group.

Virginia Tech has a portal since 1998, but the latest release of My VT represents a new and improved framework based on open-source uPortal software. Developed and implemented by the Java in Administration Special Interest Group (JA-SIG) in collaboration with participating institutions, uPortal is currently used by approximately 35 universities around the world.

Gods and Generals director/producer to visit campus

By Clara B. Cox

Want a hefty sample of the much-heralded and anxiously awaited movie Gods and Generals, along with the opportunity to ask questions of the director himself, nearly three weeks before the sweeping Civil War epic actually debuts in movie theatres across the nation?

Ken Maxwell, who directed and produced the movie and wrote the screenplay, will present 30 minutes of excerpts from the four and a half-hour-long movie, explain why and how the long-anticipated film was made, and answer audience questions during a visit to campus on Tuesday, Feb. 4. The special event, sponsored by the Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom and is open to the public free of charge.

Maxwell’s visit to Virginia Tech won’t be his first association with the university. James I. Robertson Jr., alum distinguished professor of history and executive director of the university’s Civil War center, was the leading historical consultant for the film. Robertson’s award-winning biography Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend served as Maxwell’s main source of material on the famous general, according to a spokesman for Ted Turner Pictures.

The book was also used extensively by Stephen Lang, who plays Jackson in the movie. When asked how he was able to portray the general so accurately, Lang responded, “I had the Bible in one hand and Bud (See GODS on 3)

Steger elected CIT board chairman

President Charles W. Steger has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors for Virginia’s Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), effective April 1.

Paula S. Gulak, a principal and founding partner of SyCom Technologies, was elected vice chairman. Linda L. Gentry, CIT’s senior vice president of finance and administration, was elected treasurer and secretary.

“Charles Steger’s extensive experience on a wide range of boards and commissions is a tremendous asset to this organization,” said George C. Newstrom, Virginia’s secretary of technology and acting president of CIT. “CIT’s relationships with Virginia’s colleges and universities are an integral part of our mission, and as the current chairman of the Council of Presidents, Charles is uniquely positioned to provide a unified vision of how CIT can best serve to enhance federal research funding and accelerate technology commercialization at these institutions,” Newstrom said.

“The board extends its thanks to Paul Brubaker for his dedicated and valuable service as chair,” Steger said. “I am excited to accept this role and continue to oversee the transformation of CIT into a recognized participant in the global digital economy. I am confident that CIT’s newly defined goals and performance measurements will provide a measurable and significant return on the Commonwealth’s investment.”

Steger’s ties to Virginia Tech span four decades. He has been a consultant to a variety of federal agencies the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and The Newstrom said.

New public radio service now on air

Beginning January 20, RADIO IQ, a new public-radio service, aired in the Roanoke, Charlottesville, Ferrum, and New River Valley regions.

RADIO IQ, featuring news from the BBC, talk programs from National Public Radio (NPR), and public-affairs programs from Public Radio International (PRI), airs 24 hours a day on 89.7 in Roanoke and Charlottesville, 89.9 in Ferrum, and during daylight hours on 1260AM in the New River Valley. Programs offered on RADIO IQ include the BBC’s World Briefing and The World Today, NPR’s Talk of the Nation and This American Life.

The new public-radio service is a joint effort of Virginia Tech, Ferrum College, and Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Foundation.
**Events**

**Friday, 24**
- Art Gallery Exhibit Opening, noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, Armory Gallery (through 2-28).

**Saturday, 25**
- Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: St. John's.
- Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

**Sunday, 26**
- Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

**Monday, 27**
- ULD Computer Skill Course, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 3080 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.
- Theatre Event, 7:30 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theater: The Laramie Project.

**Tuesday, 28**
- On-campus Bloodmobile (through 1-30).
- ULD Computer Skill Course, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 3080 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.
- Women's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At Miami.

**Wednesday, 29**
- ULD Computer Skill Course, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 3080 Torgersen.
- YMCA Mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Luther Memorial Church.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.
- Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Boston College: "With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

**Thursday, 30**
- ULD Computer Skill Course, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 3080 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1140 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.
- Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.

**Friday, 31**
- Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
- ULD Computer Skill Course, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 3080 Torgersen.

**SEMINARS**

**Friday, 24**
- Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Frank Richter, University of Chicago.
- STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane: Gary Downey.

**Friday, 31**
- Geological Sciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Joel Blum, University of Michigan.

**BULLETS**

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.cc.vt.edu/fdi/public/index.php?term_pk=319. Most workshops feature hands-on activities.


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.

The center also invites applications for the William R. Walker Graduate Research Fellowship Award of up to $2,500 for individuals preparing for a professional career in water resources. The deadline is March 31. The center will also award two undergraduate research summer fellowships with a March 10 deadline Guidelines for proposal and fellowship application preparation are at www.vwrcc.vt.edu. Recipients will be announced by May 30. For more information, contact Tamim Younos at 1-8039 or e-mail tyounos@vt.edu.

Women's Center announces call for nominations

The Virginia Tech Women's Center announces the 2003 Advancing Women Awards (formerly the Women’s Center Awards.)

The Women’s Center Advancing Women Awards will be given in recognition of efforts in promoting the advancement of women and/or addressing the needs and concerns of women at Virginia Tech. Nominees can be students, faculty or staff members at Virginia Tech, or members of the surrounding community. In an effort to recognize the many male allies in our community, we invite nominations of men as well as women.

Award recipients will be determined by a committee that includes representatives of the Women’s Center, university faculty and staff members, and last year’s recipients.

Nominations should include a one-page letter explaining how the nominee has worked to support and advance women and address women’s concerns on the Virginia Tech campus. Other supporting materials are welcomed. Staff members of the Women’s Center are ineligible for the awards. Awards will be announced on a reception on March 26.

Submit nominations by February 17 to Advancing Women Awards Committee at the Women’s Center, Price House (0270). For more information, contact Jessie Meltsner at 1-7806 or jmelts@vt.edu.

AREF

**Continued from 1**

ranked five of the college’s graduate programs among the top 25 in their fields.

Aref will assume an endowed position on the faculty, the Reynolds Metals Professorship, and he will be tenured in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, pending approval from the Board of Visitors at its March meeting.

Until Aref’s arrival in April, McNamara has appointed Ed Henneke as the interim dean of the College of Engineering. Henneke’s appointment follows the retirement of Malcolm McPherson, who has served as interim dean from October of 2001 to December of 2002. Henneke joined the faculty in 1971 and has served in a variety of administrative positions.

Aref has spent the past 10 years in his current position, except for a one-year appointment as interim chief information officer for the institution. Before his tenure at the University of Illinois, Aref was a faculty member at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). He joined UCSD as an associate professor of fluid mechanics in 1985, when he also received a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award. He was promoted to full professor in 1988. From 1989 until 1992 he held the concurrent position of chief scientist at the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

Aref received his undergraduate degree in physics from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1975. He earned his doctorate in physics, with a minor in mechanical and aerospace engineering, from Cornell University in 1980. In the fall of 1980, he joined the engineering faculty at Brown University as an assistant professor, where he remained until he joined the UCSD campus.

Aref has received the 2000 Otto Laporte Award of the American Physical Society, Division of Fluid Dynamics. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Academy of Mechanics, the Danish Center for Applied Mathematics and Mechanics, and the World Innovation Foundation. His research interests are in theoretical and computational fluid mechanics, particularly vortex dynamics, the application of chaos to fluid flows, and the mechanics of foams. He is co-editor of two books and author of some 70 papers in premier journals.
Giovanni publishes book of poetry

By Sally Harris

Internationally known poet and University Distinguished Professor Nikki Giovanni has published Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea, a book of “poems and not-quite poems.”

“Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea” is the publisher’s book of 30 new poems “her revelatory gaze at the world in which we live—and her hopeful declaration of the world she dreams will one day call home.” The poems in the book are about “nature and the environment, her own battle with illness, relationships between mothers and daughters, legendary historians, the System and racist attacks.” But no matter the subject matter, each work “bears Nikki’s trademark of being at once unfalteringly political and intensely personal.”

The poems range from an exaltation of “the might and grace of women” to a commemoration of Africa and Giovanni’s family legacy. In poems such as “Making James Baldwin” and “Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea,” the publisher said, “Giovanni gives us reason to comfort, to share, to love, to change, and to be human.”

The book also includes a prose poem honoring “Rosa Parks on Her 80th Birthday.” Giovanni recently received the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award “for her words, vision, courage, voice, her artistry, commitment to change, inspiration to others, and her distinguished career as a writer, teacher, and leader.”

In the 60s, Giovanni, with her poetry, was recognized as a symbol of resistance and inspiration for black people. For 30 years, she has written poetry, essays, and children’s books. She has focused on the struggle for equality, women’s liberation, the environment, the individual, family, and personal observations of her world. Throughout the years, she has been honored with keys to cities, honorary doctorates, and numerous awards, including the Langston Hughes Award and two NAACP Image Awards. She has been named Woman of the Year by several magazines (including Mademoiselle, Ebony, and The Ladies Home Journal) and earned the Virginia Governor’s Award for the Arts 2000.

Medical transportation program supported by VTTI florishes

By Ennis McCerry

A community-run medical-transportation program in Bedford County covered more than 42,000 miles in 2002.

“Bedford Ride,” established in 2001 by the Bedford Community Health Foundation with the support of Aaron Schroeder and Michelle Stehner of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), provided 2,172 rides to 269 clients last year.

“We could not have achieved this successful implementation of “Bedford Ride” without the support and guidance of VTTI,” said Roger Henderson, the foundation’s executive director.

The program, which is run by 151 local volunteers, provides non-emergency medical transportation for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents whose medical care is limited because of the lack of public transportation. “Bedford Ride” is based on Montgomery County’s “Access to Rides, a similar transportation system established in 1998 by Schroeder and Stephanie Herbert of VTTI in partnership with other organizations. In addition to providing financial, administrative, and technical support for “Access to Rides,” VTTI produced software technology that enabled dispatchers to match passengers and volunteer drivers through an Internet database. This original framework led to the development of “Bedford Ride.”

The commitment of the local community has raised more than $350,000 in support of “Bedford Ride,” and the number of rides provided by the program is expected to grow by 50 percent—to more than 3,000—in 2003.

For more information on “Bedford Ride” or “Access to Rides,” contact Schroeder at 1-1544 or aaron@vti.vt.edu.

EMPLOYMENT

Fiscal Technician, CCCCCC, PB 0, Virginia Tech Foundation.
Grounds Worker, 000842F, PB 1, PPG.
Highway Equipment Operator A, 000020F, PB 0, PPG.
Highway Equipment Operator B, 000202F, PB 2, Physical Plant.
Housekeeping Worker, P000205C, PB 1, Physical Plant.
HVAC Technician, 008046H, PB 3, RDP.
Laboratory Specialist, 007840B, PB 3, Biology.
Laboratory Specialist Senior, 008045M, PB 4, PFW.
Powerline Assistant, 000632F, PB 3, Facilities, Electric Services.
Powerline Worker, 000305F, PB 3, Facilities.
Pre-prep Supervisor, 000394H, PB 2, RDP.
Unit Manager, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.
Animal Care Technician, W023013M, PB 2, CVM.
Fiscal Technician, W020810M, PB 3, VTH.
ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.
Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.
Production Personnel Scheduler, W025314J, PB 3, UUSA.
Public Affairs Assistant, W023384J, PB 3, CNR.

CAMPUS

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL
Department of Art and Art History: Assistant Professor of Medieval or Renaissance Art History. Contact: Bailey Van Hook, 201 Draper Road, 0103.
College of Human Resources and Education: Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Valerie Giddings, 260 Wallace, 0426.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
Minority Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) Assistant Director. Contact: Denise Collins, 350 Burruss, 0132.
Agriculture and Natural Resources: Restricted, Extension Agent (Re-advertised), Commercial Horticulture, Frederick County. Contact Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.
Survey of Chesapeake watershed residents may help save the bay

By Sarah Kayser, University Relations intern

With the population of the Chesapeake Bay watershed projected to increase by more than 10 million people during the next 15 years, efforts to educate individual citizens about their impact on the bay is becoming more critical. To address this issue, the Conservation Management Institute of Virginia Tech has conducted a survey of the current residents of the bay watershed as part of an effort to help achieve the restoration goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Julie McClafferty, human dimensions division coordinator for the Conservation Management Institute, led the survey with support from Virginia Tech’s Center for Research Survey. “The protection and restoration of the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is perhaps one of the greatest and most complex large-scale conservation efforts of all time,” McClafferty said.

The large geographic area of the bay is home to a wide range of natural resources and a large, growing population of diverse people with varied interests and backgrounds. “Because the residents of the watershed are intricately involved in the processes and events that occur within the watershed, working with these people to achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program is inevitable and essential,” McClafferty said.

Two years ago, the governors of the bay states and the Environmental Protection Agency signed Chesapeake 2000, a $19-billion cooperative plan to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution and to improve water quality by 2010. The plan calls for steep reductions in nutrient pollution from wastewater-treatment facilities and urban and agricultural lands to help insure the future of the bay.

Since 1984, populations in the parts of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania in the bay watershed have reached about $16 million—an increase of 33 percent. While the bay has seen a major growth in development, revenues have remained stagnant. With budget deficits plaguing the bay region, funding for the clean-up is harder to come by.

To enhance progress on the bay cleanup, the Conservation Management Institute conducted a telephone survey in March and April of 2002 of 1,988 residents of the bay watershed, including those living in parts of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

The objectives of the survey were to assess residents’ level of knowledge about, perceptions of, attitudes towards, and behaviors in relation to pollution and environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay region.

A secondary goal of the survey was to track changes in public perception regarding water-quality issues since the Chesapeake Bay Program’s last public-perception survey conducted in 1993-1994. This information was collected, analyzed, and integrated into conservation planning efforts.

McClafferty’s findings were clear: residents are concerned with pollution in the waterways and believe restoration of and protection for the water resources are important ventures. “However,” McClafferty said, “the concern is not matched with an individual level of stewardship activity. To reach the restoration goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program, public agencies must take specific actions in raising the level of resident involvement.

To encourage active participation among residents, McClafferty suggested that agencies help citizens personalize and internalize the pollution problem and its solution. Agencies need to inform the public of how their personal activities contribute to the pollution, what they can do, and how their actions can make a difference in improving water quality.

Virginia’s champion trees make history

By Sarah Kayser, University Relations intern

Big trees are important to everyone. “Not only do they provide useful information about natural history and forest ecology, but they add beauty to our landscape, as well as health, and even economic values. The Virginia Big Tree Program offers recognition to the state’s rich natural heritage. In fact, Virginia is ranked fourth in the U.S. for champion trees,” said Jeff Kirwan, Extension 4-H specialist for forestry.

The program relies on volunteers to search for, nominate, and verify the measurements of big trees in Virginia. When a big tree is reported to the program, it is entered into the Virginia Big Tree Registry, an official list maintained jointly by the Virginia Forestry Association, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources. The largest of each species appears on the big-tree list.

The current Virginia Big Tree Program web site is located at www.vatrees, or Big Tree Info. The Virginia Big tree list, National Big-tree list, directions on how to measure a tree through circumference, height, and crown diameter; how to nominate a big tree; how to identify a tree, a list of common misconceptions about big trees, and a guide to famous and historic trees.

“Most of Virginia’s current champion trees were nominated in the 1970s and have not been verified in years,” Kirwan said. In 2002, a survey was conducted, and it estimated that 38 percent of those trees are now dead. The survey also showed many landowners are not aware that they have a champion tree on their property.

RADIO SERVICE

Continued from 1

WVTF Public Radio, which is licensed to the Virginia Tech Foundation.

“Virginia Tech is excited about working with Ferrum College to bring more public service radio programming to the region,” said Larry Hincker, associate vice president of University Relations. “RADIO IQ is an opportunity for both institutions to expand upon the broad educational missions of both Virginia Tech and Ferrum College.”

The partnership began when WVTF and Ferrum College officials met to discuss bringing more news talk programming to the region using WFFC, Ferrum College’s FM public radio station, along with WVTF’s translators in Roanoke and Charlottesville, and WVTF’s AM station in the New River Valley.

“Radio is a powerful tool in Ferrum’s educational endeavor to offer alternate viewpoints, expansive commentary, and a world-view understanding to the relevant issues of our time,” the collaboration of Ferrum College, Virginia Tech and WVTF will transform the broadcasting voice in our region. It’s a perfect marriage of mission and opportunity,” Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Ferrum’s vice president for Institutional Advancement said.

Bringing more news and talk programs to the area was due in part to requests by WVTF listeners. Last year, when BBC and NPR programs were added to the AM 1260 radio station in the New River Valley on a test basis, the response was enthusiastic, according to WVTF General Manager Glenn Gleixner.

“Thousands of area residents have been asking for more public radio news and information programming,” Gleixner said. “More area listeners will finally have access to the variety of in-depth and substantive news, information, and talk programs that many residents of this region have been requesting for quite a while.”

RADIO IQ helps fulfill WVTF’s mission of bringing high-quality public service programs to the region in an effort to keep listeners informed and educated about state, national, and world events, all of which enhances the quality of life for the area, Gleixner said.

As a non-commercial public radio station, RADIO IQ will depend upon regular financial support from its listeners and corporate underwriters. Similar to WVTF, RADIO IQ will have fund drives on a regular basis to solicit that support.

WVTF will oversee RADIO IQ’s operations from its studio in Roanoke. Listeners who wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to RADIO IQ may call WVTF at (540) 989-8900, 1-800-856-8900 or go on line to the WVTF radio web site, www.radioiq.org.