Tech teams prepared to move to ACC

By Jean Elliott

After a frenzied six weeks and a whirlwind of media attention, it appears that Virginia Tech is headed toward membership in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

An emergency meeting of Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors (BOV) was held at the Hotel Roanoke on Wednesday afternoon and after more than an hour in closed session, it passed a resolution granting President Charles Steger the authority to negotiate membership with the ACC on mutually agreeable terms.

"The university is prepared to accept an invitation from the Atlantic Coast Conference," Steger said following the meeting. "We look forward to this very special opportunity."

While the board met in executive session, a group of ACC officials was in Blacksburg, touring Lane Stadium and other places in town on July 1. The Upward Bound/Talent Search Outreach and International Affairs, effective July 1.

Outreach-and-support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes six outreach-and-support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college, and disabled students while they progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

Thomas G. Wilson is director of the joint Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search office at Virginia Tech, which will join Outreach Program Development, part of Outreach and International Affairs, effective July 1. The Upward Bound/Talent Search office manages the two federal TRIO programs for the region, both of which target potential college students from families with parents who did not earn four-year degrees and/or with low incomes. The programs have a very high success rate, with 95 percent of the students from Tech's Upward Bound program and 70 percent of the Educational Talent Search students enrolling in college. A national survey shows Upward Bound students are four times more likely to graduate from college.

"The Upward Bound office is a good fit with our other programs that serve populations from economically depressed areas in southwestern Virginia to receive training and preparation for bioinformatics studies. Out-of-town students will receive room and board at Virginia Tech, as well as a stipend for their participation.

The VBI research platform centers on understanding the "disease triangle" of host-pathogen-environment interactions. With bioinformatics, an interdisciplinary merger of information technology and biology, faculty researchers at VBI have been able to interpret and apply biological data generated from basic research. With over $27 million in research funding, VBI researchers are working to find cures for many diseases of humans, crops, and animals; create high-yield, insect- and disease-resistant crops; and provide bioinformatics information and tools to support further discoveries.

For more information, visit https://www.vbi.vt.edu.
Virtual-reality, 3-D workshops to be held

By Jane Todd

Two summer workshops—one on digital video and virtual reality, the other on 3-D design, will offer aspiring middle-school web designers, writers, and computer gurus a high-tech learning adventure that will beef up brainpower in math, science, computers, and oral and written communication. Virginia Tech’s Outreach Program Development and the Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education have teamed up with the support of Montgomery County schools to bring interactive and creative workshops to Montgomery County’s 2003-2004 middle-school students. Classes will be held on campus and will be small in size to ensure personalized attention.

The one-week workshops will engage students in hands-on exercises using computers and real-life scientific puzzles as well as introduce them to careers in fast-growing, high-tech fields. Students will form new friendships while improving their ability to think critically, solve problems, and work in teams.

“Digital Video and QuickTime Virtual Reality” will be offered July 14 through 18. Students will explore the many aspects of movie production as they learn to use digital cameras, tripods, and other equipment, as well as QuickTime Virtual Reality panorama and object-creation software to record spaces and objects. Using digital video cameras and iMovie software, students will be part of a team creating a series of short movies. Opportunities to play the part of scriptwriter, director, actor, cameraperson, and editor are available. Finally, students will use Dreamweaver to create a web page to showcase creations.

“3-D Design Modeling and Animation” will be offered August 4 through 8. This workshop offers students the opportunity to explore the world of virtual reality. Students will create three-dimensional models and animate them using Cinema4D software. Everyone will collaborate and interact through desktop virtual environments—and see such things as virtual insects, historical cathedrals, or even walk “inside” parts of biological cells while visiting the VT CAVE. Students will learn to use Dreamweaver to create their own personal web page.

Workshops are held from 1 to 5 p.m. each day. The fee for each workshop is $275 and includes materials, afternoon snack, and a field trip. Information and registration is also available on line at www.conted.vt.edu/bsyt.

Construction changes noted for Ag Quad Lane, Hutcheson Lot

By Stewart Machlin

More than 13,000 middle-, high-school, and college students in Virginia will have learned about biotechnology by the end of the current school year, thanks to equipment and assistance provided by the Fralin Biotechnology Center. In addition to 79 middle and high schools across the state, the Fralin Center also loaned equipment to four community colleges.

“Biotechnology is about science, but it’s also about economic-development opportunities for Virginia’s communities and the potential for the creation of new-cutting-edge companies that will need these very students as employees in the future,” said Dennis Dean, acting director of the Fralin Center.

“Our equipment-loan program is designed to familiarize young people with the promise and limitations of biotechnology,” he said. “At the same time we hope to interest a number of these bright young people to set their sights on an educational path that would prepare them for every part of the industry.”

To accomplish this, the center conducts training sessions for secondary-school teachers and college instructors on a variety of laboratory techniques used in biotechnology. With that training, those teachers are eligible to borrow three specialized laboratory kits that allow them to introduce to their students certain concepts and advanced laboratory techniques that are central to biotechnology.

By borrowing the kits, the teachers have access to laboratory equipment most schools cannot afford to purchase. They are also provided with all of the supplies they will need to use during experiments.

“The teachers who have borrowed our kits tell us that their students really like the experiments because they are designed to get these concepts across in ways that are relevant to them and that are fun,” said Kristi DeCourcy, the center’s lab manager and manager of the equipment-loan program.

The five types of kits loaned by the Fralin Center provide the equipment and supplies necessary to conduct experiments and teach concepts concerning DNA science, column chromatography, immunology, and protein electrophoresis. In addition, the center also has several thermal cyclers available which can be borrowed to perform additional experiments.

The experiments made possible with the kits teach students about DNA fingerprinting, the spread of diseases in a population, the relationship of different species through an examination of their proteins, and how and why scientists can separate individual components from a mixture.

The Fralin Center also loans other equipment whenever possible to help teachers with experiments they design themselves.

Fralin Center helps state students learn about biotechnology

By John E. Dietrick

A program that helps bring interactive and creative workshops to Virginia’s population. We hope this consolidation is effective.”

The Upward Bound program headquarter was previously part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

UPWARD BOUND

Continued from 1

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UPWARD BOUND

Continued from 1
Vice provost for outreach and international affairs retires

By Susan B. Felker

After 32 years of service at Virginia Tech, C. Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach and international affairs and former director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, retired on June 1. President Charles Steger said, “Jones distinguished himself by his vision and his integrity and has made a lasting contribution to Virginia Cooperative Extension and Outreach and International Affairs. He has won the respect and admiration of those who have worked with him over the years.”

According to Provost Mark McNamee, “Jones brought coherence, focus, and leadership to the mission area of the university that includes outreach, Extension, and international affairs.”

Jones joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1971 as a program associate and instructor at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education, today the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. In 1974, he was promoted to associate director and instructor and in 1975 to associate director and assistant professor of continuing education.

In 1977, Virginia Cooperative Extension recruited Jones to serve in Richmond as program leader/continuing education/resource development. He became a full professor with the Extension division in 1987. In 1991, he guided the formation of the Institute for Leadership Development and its educational program.

Later the same year, Jones was named assistant to the director of Extension and was promoted to full professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). In July 1995, he became interim director of Extension for one year before becoming director and CALS associate dean for Extension. Jones served in that dual role until 1999, when he was selected as vice provost for outreach and international affairs (OIA).

Under his leadership, OIA undertook extensive reorganization to align program areas with related missions and to facilitate collaborative endeavors, which involved moving several units that serve the off-campus public to OIA. Major projects, including the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Southwest Virginia and Virginia Tech’s new hotel/alumni/conference center complex, moved closer to reality through his efforts.

He also combined the offices of International Research and Development and International Programs to form the Office of International Research, Education, and Development and reorganized the Center for European Studies and Area Research. “It was during his years at Virginia Tech, Jones received numerous awards and honors. The Virginia Cooperative Extension administration at Virginia Tech cited him for meritorious leadership, and the Virginia Extension Service Association and its three affiliate professional associations gave him an advocacy award in 1999.

Deferred-compensation plan representative here July 17

A representative of the Great West 457 plan will be on campus Thursday, July 17, for general-information sessions and individual appointments.

The 457 plan allows employees to save for retirement in a voluntary, payroll-deducted, tax-deferred savings plan. Virginia Tech employees may contribute the maximum amount for which they are eligible to both the 457 plan and the 403(b) program.

General sessions (no appointment necessary) will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center July 17 in conference room G. To make an individual appointment for July 17, send a fax or e-mail to Nancy. Rotten@vt.edu. For more information regarding the 457 or 403(b) plans, contact Gloria Smith at gsmith@vtsm.vt.edu.

VET

Continued from 1

for chimpanzee populations in the jungles of a nation home to the famed Mount Kilimanjaro, Kaur said.

To accomplish this greater goal, she plans to focus on the immediate task of helping the Tanzanian National Park Authority (TANAPA) develop science-based management strategies that will protect the free-ranging chimpanzee population from tourism-related problems like disease transmission, habitat destruction, and competition for resources. Because of genetic similarities between chimps and people, both are highly susceptible to influenza, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

That information will enable those officials to determine a more accurate understanding of the area’s capacity for tourism, as well as support the development of more effective management and training programs for professionals and tourists.

A key part of Kaur’s program is designed to develop “interesting and compelling content for integrated research and educational opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional students at Virginia Tech.” Some of those will be involved with the “bush-to-base-bio-informatics” and the “geographic-information-systems” components of the program, she said.

Field researchers will gather physiological data on the chimps, and code and process the data using handheld modules with global-positioning system capability, Kaur said.

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 “Number beginning with W” are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday, an EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

EMPLOYMENT

Accountant, Plant Fund, 004526S, PB 4, Controller’s Office.
Assistant Manager Senior, 000514H, PB 3, RDP.
Budget Analyst Senior, 002705S, PB 5, BFP, Building Code Engineer, 008118Y, PB5, Physical Plant.
Business Manager, 008125J, PB 4, CLAHS, Compensation Analyst, 0081105, PB 4, Personnel Services.
Enrollment Services Assistant, 008126J, PB 3, CBS.
Fire Protection/Building Code Engineer, 008085F, PB 5, CDC.
Government Documents Assistant, 001959G, PB 2, VTF.
Grants Specialist, 000705J, PB 4, CLAUS.
Housekeeper, 001189U, PB 1, UUSA.
Housekeeping Lead Worker, 001181J, PB 1, UUSA.
Housekeeping Worker, P002005G, PB 1, Physical Plant.
Information Services Manager, 007466J, PB 3, U.SA.
Laboratory Specialist, 008123J, PB 3, Vet- tech/Infectious Disease.
Medical Technologist Senior, 001154J, PB 4, Schiffer Center.
Parking Enforcement Officer, 007042S, PB 2, Parking Services.
Prep Line Worker, 006524F, PB 3, Facilities.
Prep-prep Supervisor, 000394H, PB 2, Student Services.
Research Assistant, 007723G, PB 2, Police.
Sous Chef, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.
Systems Architect, 007434Y, PB 6, IAD.
Telecommunications Database Techni- clan, 006818A, PB 3, CNS.
Telecommunications Network Operations Technician, 007665A, PB 4, CNS.
Telecommunications Vendor Billing As- sistant, 008127A, PB 3, CNS.
Telfund Administrative Supervisor, 004125S, PB 3, University Development.
PART TIME
Administrative Assistant, W003527K, PB 2, VBI.
Field Technician Assistant (Telecommuni- cations), W002303A, PB 2, CNS.
Interior Design/Space Programmer, 008119F, PB 5, Physical Plant.
Radiologic Technologist, W002238M, PB 3, Schiffer Center.
OFF CAMPUS
Human Resources Coordinator, CCCCCC, PB 2, VTF.
Nursing Shift Supervisor, 002996M, PB 2, EMC.
Research Specialist Sr, 004119M, PB 4, ESREC.
Unit Support Staff, 006891C, PB 2, VCE.
Wildlife Worker, 006643B, PB 2, Biology.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Large Animal Clinical Sci- ences. Assistant Professor of Large Ani- mal Surgery. Contact: Craig D. Thatches (0442).
Department of Animal/Poultry Sciences. Assistant Professor of Ruminant Nutri- tion. Contact: Mark A. McCann (0306).
Bradley Department of Electrical/Computer Engineering. Faculty Search and Department Head. Contact: Nathaniel J. David (0111). Department of Communication. Instructor (two positions). Contact: Valerie L. Giddings (0426).
Department of Teaching/Learning. Assis- tant Professor (Instructional Technology). Contact: Valerie L. Giddings (0426).

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

University Bursar’s Office. University Bur- sar. Contact: Kenneth Miller (0312).
Institute for Distance/Distributed Learn- ing. Coordinator of Faculty/Student Support. Contact: Mark S. Ruby (0445). Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES). Research Associate. Contact: Alex Huang (0179).
Conservation Management Institute. Project Associate/Human Dimensions Spe- cialist. Contact: Julie McClaflerty, jmcclaf@vt.edu.
VCE. Extension Agent (Agriculture/Natu- ral Resources) Augusta, Rockingham, Rockbridge Counties. Contact: Judith Jones (0011).
VCE. Extension Agent (Animal Science) Fairfax County. Contact: Judith Jones (0001).
VCE. Associate Extension Agent (Crop/ Soil Science) Greenville County/City of Emporia. Contact: Judith Jones (0001).

Notes:

Letters to the editor and questions for “Ask Spec- trum” should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003 SPECTRUM 3
Jones part of network to protect traumatized children

By Sally L. Harris

If, as happens in science-fiction movies, we could push a button to activate a shield between us and danger, there would be no need for the Terrorism and Disaster Branch (TDB) of the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS). But since there are no such shields, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is forming a nationwide web to help protect children in times of trauma, disaster, or terrorism.

The NCTSN is designed to combine the expertise and resources of an extensive national network to develop and carry out a comprehensive national child mental-health disaster and terrorism program. Virginia Tech psychology Professor Russell T. Jones has been named a member of the Terrorism and Disaster Branch.

The main goal of the group is to reach across the United States, “to foster a truly integrated, state-of-the-art readiness, response— and recovery program for our nation’s children and families,” according to RobertPyneos of UCLA and John Fairbank of Duke University, co-directors of the NCCTS.

Since joining the group, Jones has coordinatelseveral meetings with members of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), for which he has done previous work, and the TDB. In fact, he serves two roles. He is co-leader of the research working group that will design short- and long- term research strategies to build an infrastructure and identify important topics for short-term research before, during, and after terrorism events as well as identify research gaps and build a research agenda for long-term projects. He also is a member of the pre-planning working group charged with coordinating a federal mental-health response strategy, establishing health communications, and developing a collaborative research effort.

“I am continuing to apply my knowledge and clinical skills in the research domain to events of disaster and terrorism,” Jones said. “It is my desire to apply my knowledge and experience to assist people who are hurting to cope with tragedy.”

“I am continuing to apply my knowledge and clinical skills in the research domain to events of disaster and terrorism,” Jones said.

He has done so by providing information for the media to disseminate to the public after 9-11 and other trauma-related events—information such as how to help children and their parents cope with and get over the trauma. His expertise has been sought by the New York Times, Essence, the New York Times, The LA Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, and USA Today as well as by foundations and agencies such as the Casey Foundation, the American Red Cross, the International Society of Fire Fighters, the CDC, and the National Institutes for Mental Health.

Because of his work with the CDC, Jones has been asked to serve a second term as a member of the Advisory Committee for Injury Prevention and Control (ACIPC). He recently served as chair of the Science and Program Review Subcommittee for the August meeting. Last year, he served as a member of a workshop for NIMH that identified key psychological, biological, and neuropsychological predictor variables to be measured after trauma. He was involved in analyses and refinement of the procedures and helped develop plans for intervention strategies to prevent long-term pathological reactions to trauma.

The TDB will “comprehensively address the understanding of childhood traumatic stress due to disasters and terrorism and disseminate best practices for evaluation, treatment and services,” according to Betty Pfeiferbaum, director of the TDB. The NCTSN “is in a unique position to provide tailored evaluation tools, treatment approaches that are culturally and ecologically sound, and services that respond to community needs in regard to specific types of disasters.”

The members of the group also have expertise to address the needs of different populations and different localities in the wake of a disaster. “The network will further add to national preparedness and response through the requirement of each site to build community partnerships and provide leadership and training within their local networks,” Pfeiferbaum said.

Jones said his colleagues and Virginia Tech have been instrumental in enabling him to contribute to these national efforts to assist people in coping with trauma. “Without the continued support and expertise of my colleagues and both undergraduate and graduate students, I would be unable to contribute to these outstanding organizations,” Jones said.

Research exhibit wins award at International Contemporary Furniture Fair

By Sarah Newsbull

A team of Virginia Tech students won the Editor’s Choice award at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York City in May.

The yearly furniture fest is the nation’s premier event for contemporary design. Virginia Tech, one of only four schools selected to participate, exhibited alongside hundreds of companies showing home and office products from 22 countries. During the four exhibit days, the convention center attracted more than 17,000 interior designers, architects, retailers, facility managers, wholesalers, store design professionals, hotel and restaurant designers, manufacturers, students, and members of the general public.

Associate Dean and Director of Industrial Design Robert Dunay answered a request for proposal advertised in Interior Design Magazine, and the work was selected to receive a complimentary exhibit space. Each year, the ICFF holds a juried competition to select the top design schools to fill these spots which are among the most coveted at the fair because the students are invited to present their works-in-progress alongside the finished products of the international design community’s leading designers and manufacturers.

During the event, a panel of editors from leading design journals judged all the exhibits in 16 categories. Winners were named at an awards ceremony at the event. The Virginia Tech exhibit was chosen winner of the “design school” category. This is the first time Industrial Design has answered the RFP, the first time to have been selected to exhibit, and as rookies came away the top winner in their category.

The 10-by-20 foot exhibit represented a portion of the solar house (designed last year to compete in the National Solar Decathlon held in Washington, D.C.) emphasizing the structure’s materials, and showcasing furniture made by industrial-design students. “We already had the raw material, so when I saw the RFP, it seemed to fit in terms of the industrial-design program and the university and what it could bring in terms of national recognition. I also saw it as an educational opportunity—for seven students to participate in something like this is a chance they’ll rarely get in their academic studies,” Dunay said.

Student team members who traveled to New York included Aaron Emmons (lead), Yousel Nawas, Ross Marks, Stefani Bachetti, Junko Hossokawa, Tor Stevenson, and Chollaporn Oonkomol. Also working on the exhibit were Kelly Blanchard and Joe McCoy.

TECH

Continued from 1

Nearly $68.7 million.

“This increase in funding is due to the excellence in research conducted by the faculty here,” said Greg Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. “Our researchers are focused on the practical needs of our society, and those are the issues that many funding agencies find most relevant.”

While that nearly seven-percent jump in funding kept Virginia Tech among the top 10 universities nationally in that category of research, its standing dropped from the number-seven spot to the number-nine spot. It was overtaken in the rankings by Pennsylvania State University and Michigan State University.

Nationally, funding for agricultural research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion. The top institutions for research increased about 6.2 percent to more than $2.3 billion.

The ACC has long been known. We feel they will be a great addition to our family. Through the ACC’s first 50 years, the conference has earned a reputation for excellence in both academics and athletics. As we look to the future, we are confident that our schools, coaches and student-athletes will maintain that heritage.”

Tech Director of Athletics Jim Weaver said, “It’s a simple fact that we are unique from the other Big East schools. We’re in the geographic footprint of the ACC. We had to do what’s best for this university, for our long-term future.”