Turner’s service earns Tech’s Ruffner Medal

By Amy Mortensen

The Board of Visitors has named alumnus James E. Turner Jr. as the 2004 William H. Ruffner Medal recipient in recognition of his outstanding service and generosity to the university.

The Ruffner Medal, the university’s highest honor, is awarded annually in conjunction with the university’s Founders Day and goes to individuals who have performed notable and distinguished service to the university.

“James Turner is an inspiration to his peers in the Virginia Tech community as well as an exemplary example of the university’s motto, ‘That I may serve,’” said President Charles Steger. “We are proud to add Mr. Turner to our long list of distinguished Ruffner Medal recipients.”

A class of 1956 graduate, Turner was an involved student who spent two years in the Corps of Cadets, played football, and was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi honor fraternities. He graduated with a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering/ engineering.

Turner has maintained a close relationship with his alma mater throughout the years, serving on the Academy of Engineering Excellence, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, the Engineering Advisory Committee, and the past Regional Campaign Committee.

More recently, Turner has worked to maintain and further the excellence of the university by serving eight years on the Board of Visitors including three years as rector, on the Engineering Committee of 100, and the Virginia Tech Foundation Board and the Virginia Economic Development Advisory Board.

Congressman Goodlatte to give keynote address

By Amy Mortensen

U.S. Congressman Bob W. Goodlatte will give the keynote address at the Founders Day celebration at 3 p.m. Friday, April 23.

First taking place in 1972, Founders Day Convocation is Virginia Tech’s annual celebration of the academic and professional achievements of the university and recognizing service to Virginia Tech.

Goodlatte, of Roanoke, is in his sixth term representing the sixth congressional district of Virginia. He has made a name for himself in Congress as an expert on Internet and high-tech issues. He was chosen to serve as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee in January, becoming the first Agriculture Committee chairman from Virginia since 1947.

Cannon to receive Distinguished Achievement Award for 2004

By Amy Mortensen

For distinguished professional service to Virginia Tech, the Board of Visitors has awarded alumna and retired U.S. Army Major General Archie S. Cannon Jr. the 2004 University Distinguished Achievement Award.

The University Distinguished Achievement Award is awarded annually in conjunction with the university’s Founders Day and recognizes nationally distinguished achievement in any field of enduring significance to society.

Cannon, of Williamsburg, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1950 with a B.S. degree in business administration and his commission as an officer through the ROTC program. He continued his education at George Washington University, where he earned an M.S. degree in international affairs, and later engaged in law and behavioral-sciences graduate work.

Three outstanding graduates win Alumni Distinguished Service Award

By Amy Mortensen

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association has named alumni Gene A. James, James Eugene Justice, and L. Preston Wade as 2004 Alumni Distinguished Service Award winners, an honor bestowed to recognize outstanding service and support on behalf of the university and the association.

The award is given annually in conjunction with the university’s Founders Day celebration.

Gene A. James

James, of Richmond, has achieved remarkable professional success and played a prominent role in Virginia agriculture. After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1953, he embarked on a 43-year career with Southern States Cooperative, the last 17 of which he served as president and chief executive officer.

James has served Virginia Tech over the years as president of the Virginia Tech Foundation, president of the Alumni Board of Directors, and as a Leadership Council of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences member. James has provided additional support and encouragement for programs of the Virginia Tech Foundation by serving two years on the Investment Committee and four years on the Executive and Finance Committee.

“Mr. James embodies the motto of our university: Ut Prosim, ’That I may serve,’” said former President Paul E. Torgersen. “He is an active volunteer who has worked diligently over the years to help this university fulfill its mission to the commonwealth of Virginia as the largest land-grant university in the state.”

The foundation and the university have prospered through James’ leadership in a number of other university associations. He has been a member of the Campaign Steering Committee, co-chairman of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Development Council during the Campaign for Virginia Tech, and a member of the Virginia Tech Economic Development Advisory Board.

In 1997, James and his wife, Ina Mae, established the Gene A. and Ina Mae James Graduate Fund Scholarship to benefit agriculture students at the university.

An important leader in Virginia agriculture before his retirement in 1997, James is a former member of the Virginia Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors.

(See THREE on 4)
**Events**

**Friday, 16**  
Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

**Academic-Advising Lecture, 1:30 p.m., War Memorial Chapel:** Betsy McCalla-Wriggins.

**Theatre Program, April 16 through 17, 20 through 24 at 8 p.m., April 17 through 18, 24 through 25 at 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:** [sic]

**Saturday, 17**  
Chamber Music, 8 p.m., April 18, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Claremont Trio.

**Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.**

**Sunday, 18**  
Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

**Monday, 19**  
**Administrative Professionals Week.**

**University Council, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.**

**Arts Fusion Kick-Off Event, 7 to 9 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre.**

**Tuesday, 20**  
**Faculty Senate, 7 to 9 p.m., 32 Pamplin.**

**Wednesday, 21**  
**Administrative Professionals Day.**

**Special Presentation, 5 p.m. 100 Hancock: John Seelye.**  
*With Good Reason,* 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

**Thursday, 22**  
**Master Plan Open House, 5 to 8 p.m., Squires Williamsburg Room.**

**Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre.**

**Friday, 23**  
**Ut Prosim Weekend.**

**Founders Day Convocation, 3 p.m., Donaldson Brown auditorium.**

**Dance Ensemble, 5:30 p.m., Performing Arts Building.**

**Sunday, 25**  
**Ensemble Concert, 3 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.**

**Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.**

**Wednesday, 28**  
**Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Open House, 5 to 9 p.m. VTTI.**

*“With Good Reason,”* 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

**Friday, 30**  
**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.**

**NSF CAREER Award Program Special Faculty Workshop, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Fralin auditorium.**

**Friday, 16**  
**MSU, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Nurdan Demirci, Julie Un-Zo-li.**

**Friday, 23**  
**MSU, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: ZoranaDicic, Yeuk Kit Cheung.**

**Friday, 30**  
**Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Shlomo Neuman, University of Arizona.**

**MSU, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Gary Shiflet, UVA.**

**Activities**

Art Fusion 2004 showcases local talents  
The Virginia Tech School of the Arts (SOTA) announces Art Fusion 2004, the inaugural week-long celebration of the arts on campus and in the Blacksburg community, April 19 through 25. Art Fusion 2004 will feature a variety of events in music, art, theater, dance, film, and poetry.

The Kick-Off Celebration from 7 to 10 p.m. Monday, April 25, in Squire's Haymarket Theatre will be a musical program featuring bluegrass and jazz group the Jeff Midkiff Quartet; the University Jazz Ensemble with guest artist John Daniel E.; and the Department of Theatre Arts' student-run workshop, Side by Side by Sonheim. Melissa Gibson's [sic] will run April 20 through 25 in Squire's Studio Theatre.

For complete calendar information, go to http://artsfusion.sota.vt.edu/calendar.html. For general information, call the School of the Arts at 1-5200.

President's Award nominations sought  
Nominations are now being accepted for the 2004 President's Award for Excellence. The purpose of this award is to annually recognize up to five selected employees who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act.

All salaried classified staff members at any pay band level, as well as administrative or professional faculty members, with at least two years of university service are eligible for consideration. Specific exclusions for the award are instructional faculty members, academic-department heads, deans, assistant and associate deans, vice presidents, Extension agents, and wage employees. Previous award recipients are not eligible until five years after receiving the award. For more information regarding eligibility, contact Personnel Services at 1-7784.

Award recipients will receive a certificate and a $2,000 award. The award will be publicized internally and externally. Nominations can be made by any employee; however, self-nominations are not acceptable. All nominations must be submitted on an Award for Excellence nomination form that is available through deans, directors, and department heads, or may be downloaded from the Personnel Services web page, http://www.ps.vt.edu/.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Tuesday, April 20, to the President's Award for Excellence Committee, c/o Personnel Services, Southgate Center 0318. Call 1-7784 for information or additional forms.

Seelye to present Plymouth Rock lecture  
Internationally renowned scholar and public speaker John Seelye will give a special presentation at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, in 100 Hancock.

The presentation will be a humorous and informative slide show, "Moby Rock: The Iconography of America’s Oldest Monument," which explores how Plymouth Rock has been presented in American history and popular culture. Designed for the lay audience, the presentation is based on Professor Seelye's book Memory's Nation: The Place of Plymouth Rock. The event is free and open to the public.

Seelye is the graduate research professor of American Literature at the University of Florida. Winner of Guggenheim, Mellon, and National Endowment fellowships, he has published fiction, poetry, and scholarly studies of Melville, Twain, and the river in American literature and life.

For more information, contact the English Department at 1-6501.

Master Plan Open House set for April 22  
The Office of the University Architect has scheduled a Master Plan Open House event for 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 in Squires Williamsburg Room (second floor).

At the Open House Public Forum, the planning team will display the results of the Analysis Phase of the Master Plan process. Information will include preliminary diagrams for land-use planning, initial systems diagrams for transportation and parking, utilities infrastructure, and storm-water management.

The campus master plan guides physical development in concert with the university’s mission and current or future academic and student-life programming. The plan identifies future development sites, guidelines for building design, assesses campus utilities, and integrates transportation and parking strategies.

The university architect’s office is sharing the preliminary findings and recommendations with the university community through the web site listed below. A final plan will be presented to the Board of Visitors this summer.

More information is available online at [http://www.unirel.vt.edu/MasterPlan/index.html](http://www.unirel.vt.edu/MasterPlan/index.html).

Public invited to VTTI open house  
The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) will hold its annual spring open house from 5 to 9 p.m. on April 28. Members of the community are invited to tour the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Smart Road and to get a first-hand look at VTTI’s cutting-edge transportation research.

Visitors will have the opportunity to survey the Smart Road from the state-of-the-art control room where researchers will demonstrate how information from Smart Road research is monitored and collected. Weather-generation equipment, lighting and power controls, and the roadway surveillance camera system also will be shown.

Blacksburg Transit will provide rides on the Smart Road. The evening tour will highlight VTTI’s lighting research.

For more information, contact Lisa Young at 1-5148 or lyoung@vtti.vt.edu.

NSF CAREER award workshop offered  
There will be a special faculty workshop focusing on the NSF CAREER award program on Friday, April 30, in the Fralin auditorium, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the workshop will be to explore strategies for developing successful proposals.

CAREER awards are a major funding opportunity for untenured faculty members. They are awarded for a five-year period, with a minimum overall budget of $400,000 ($500,000 in biological sciences). There is no upper limit to the proposed budget.

In addition to reviewing program guidelines, the workshop will feature short presentations and a panel discussion by recent Virginia Tech CAREER award winners, with time for questions and answers.

Untenured faculty members in any discipline supported by NSF are eligible: biological sciences, computer/information sciences, education, engineering, geosciences, math/physical sciences, and social/behavioral sciences.

To register for the workshop, contact Debbie Nester at debbiell@vt.edu or 1-5410. The current CAREER program announcement may be found at [http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02111/nsf02111.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02111/nsf02111.htm). For more information, contact Porter at reporter@vt.edu or phone 1-6747.

Students encouraged to 'flex out' hunger  
The Virginia Tech Office of Student Programs and Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity will team up to give students an outlet to serve the community with the fourth annual Flex Out Hunger program May 3 through 5.

Students can make a contribution from their Flex Plans to help support the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP). Members of SAE will staff tables outside of the Student Programs dining centers, where students can make their donations.

Student chefs debut at DBHCC  
Junior and seniors in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) are preparing and serving dinner for the Donelson Brown Hotel and Conference Center’s Old Guard dining room under the supervision of sous chef and lab instructor Mike Arrington program from the Pamplin College of Business. Dinner is prepared and served by students Monday through Friday evenings.
Three grad students receive first AdvanceVT fellowships

By Clara B. Cox

AdvanceVT, a comprehensive program that promotes and enhances the careers of women in science and engineering, has awarded its first three Ph.D. fellowships as part of an ongoing effort to increase the number of women electing to pursue academic careers.

The fellowships went to Megan Elwood Madden, a graduate student in the Department of Geological Sciences in the College of Science; Olga Pierrakos, a graduate student in the biological sciences—“an area that’s experiencing tremendous growth,” said the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering; and Miriam Stewart, a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, also in the College of Engineering.

Madden, is developing new isotopic methods to measure the nature of aqueous environments in the solar system and the impact of meteorites on fluid-bearing materials and is examining chemical weathering patterns on Mars. Now a third-year Ph.D. student, she has been a teaching assistant, an active member of the Graduate Student Association, and serves as a graduate representative to a number of university commissions.

Pierrakos is modeling the flow-past mechanical heart—age-programmed and the left ventricle of the heart to gain a better understanding of prosthetic hardware and to help doctors improve the clinical procedures associated with these prosthetic devices. A third-year Ph.D. student, she has been a teaching assistant in both math and mechanical engineering and is a representative for the graduate honor society.

Stewart is looking at a new technology called columnar reinforcement, which stabilizes roadway embankments, thereby speeding up the roadway-construction process and minimizing impacts on society and the environment. She is using existing data sets from field applications to model these elements with the goal that her research will result in the development of new and improved practical methods for designing these systems. She is a third-year Ph.D. student who has taught courses at Virginia Tech as part of the Department of Education GAANN program and has been an adjunct instructor at Montana State University.

“The vision for Virginia Tech’s Advance VT program is to encourage cultural changes and to remove barriers to success so that all members of the Virginia Tech community—faculty members, students, and staff members—can reach their greatest potential,” said Nancy G. Love, team leader of the Pipeline Element for AdvanceVT and associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. The fellowships were awarded through AdvanceVT’s Pipeline Element.

A faculty panel reflecting diverse disciplines reviewed the fellowship applications, and selection was based on the quality of each applicant’s career plan and potential for success, academic and professional record, and letters of recommendation. Nominating departments or academic units were required to propose a plan for mentoring each nominated student in ways that would prepare the student for success.

The fellowship awards resulted from a collaborative effort between the Pipeline Element of AdvanceVT and the Graduate School.

The NSF Advance program awarded Virginia Tech a $3.5-million institutional-transformation grant in fall 2003 to identify barriers that can keep women faculty members at Virginia Tech and other universities from excelling in research and teaching. The overall goal of the NSF program is to get more women involved in the scientific-and-engineering workforce by increasing the representation of women in academic science-and-engineering careers at all levels, particularly in leadership roles.

Families invited to participate in programs

Local families are invited to participate in a series of programs that promote positive parent-child interactions on Monday, April 19, from 4 to 30 p.m. in the Wallace Hall atrium. Registration will be held at 4 p.m. in Wallace Hall just before the sessions. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include supervised activities for children, refreshments, and door prizes.

The sessions have been developed and will be coordinated by Virginia Tech students enrolled in the course, “Parent Education and Practice” taught by Tammy Henderson, associate professor of human development.

Henderson started this program three years ago and collaborated with Cathy Jacobs, director of family and work/life resources in Virginia Tech’s Office of Personnel Services.

Programs include understanding infant and toddler development for children from nine months to three years of age. A mother-daughter bonding program focuses on the “shaping of a woman,” specifically targeting girls age six to 12. Another session focuses on a family workshop for elementary-school-aged children who face physical and/or developmental challenges.

The Virginia Tech students will also address methods to promote healthy family development for transcultural and transracial adoptive families and their parents. Nutrition and health promotion in general is another topic, with a session targeted to helping adolescent girls who are in the beginning stages of an eating disorder.

There is also a program for teenagers and their parents with information and activities to promote positive self-esteem, sexual identity, good health and nutrition. Another session, entitled “Outdoor Excursions,” is designed to assist families whose teen drug users are at risk of becoming a repeat offender. In addition, there is a session that provides meaningful and stimulating activities for older adults in assisted living and adult day services.

For more information, contact Henderson (1-2701, thender@vt.edu) or Jacobs (1-3213, cazjacobs@vt.edu).

Philosophy, Humanities activities highlighted

The Philosophy Department is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the joint philosophy department, the 50th anniversary of the master’s program, and the 50th anniversary of philosophy in the curriculum.

The celebration revolves around the Philosophy Spring Conference and Humanities Symposium “Peirce-pectives on Metaphysics and the Sciences,” scheduled for April 23 through 25. The department also is hosting a reception for alumni from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, April 23, at Al’Arche. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the death of Charles Sanders Peirce, the philosopher who is the focus of the conference.

The department also has planned talks by faculty members who have been influenced by Peirce’s ideas in their fields. Hans Rottwill discusses “Architecture and Pragmatism: An Uneasy Relationship” at 2 p.m. Friday, April 16, in Lane Hall.

For more information, contact Rosa M. Mayorga at rmayorga@vt.edu, or go to website www.phil.vt.edu.
By Clara B. Cox

The university has named three final candidates for its search for dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) and has scheduled campus interviews for each of them. The interviews will include an open forum at which each candidate will speak on the topic “The Role of the College of Veterinary Medicine in major land-grant research universities in the 21st Century.”

Equality for the position are Joe N. Kornegay, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri; Gerhardt G. Schurig, interim dean of Tech’s VMRCVM and professor of immunology; and Warwick A. Arden, professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Interviews will begin with Kornegay April 18 through 22 with his forum presentation scheduled on April 19. Schurig’s interview will be held April 25 through 29 with his forum presentation on April 26. Arden will be interviewed May 2 through 6 and will make his forum presentation on May 3.

Each open forum will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the VMRCVM College Center, Phase III.

“I encourage the entire university community to attend these open forums. The College of Veterinary Medicine will play a critical role as the university moves toward its goal of becoming one of the nation’s top institutions of higher education, so the leadership of that college is very important. We would value input from faculty and staff members and students as we go through this phase of the selection process,” said Mark G. McNamee, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Information about the candidates is available on line by clicking on “Searches in Progress” at www.provost.vt.edu.

In his keynote address, Goodlatte will address the future of our region, the role of universities in advancing America’s economic competitiveness, and the inter-relationship with American agriculture.

Goodlatte’s service to the people of the sixth district began in 1977 when he became district director for former Congressman Caldwell Butler. He served in this position until 1979, when he founded his own private law practice in Roanoke. He was a partner in the law firm of Bird, Kinder and Huffman until taking office in 1981.

Since being elected to serve as chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Goodlatte has helped guide the President’s Healthy Forest Initiative through the committee process and ultimately to final passage on the House floor. He also was a conferee on the 2002 Farm Bill, working to provide programs to rural Americans who are in need of a stable farm economy and provide a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply to suburban and urban Americans.

During the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Goodlatte was chosen to serve on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which was created to address the growing security threats on the nation. He tackles similar homeland-security issues both in his capacity on the House Judiciary Subcommittee and on the Agriculture Committee, which has jurisdiction over issues such as bioterrorism.

TURNER’S

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Executive Committee.

Turner’s remarkable generosity makes him a member of the Ut Prosim Society and a charter member of the President’s Circle. His donations have provided generously to the support of the College of Engineering, the Alumni and Conference Center, and University Priorities and Athletic Programs. He has been the honoree of gifts to the university ensuring aid to students, providing current funds for operations, and helping to meet capital needs.

Turner applied his education throughout a successful and distinguished 40-year career in management positions with Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Waddell & Reed, and United Marine Corporation. He retired in January 2000 as the executive president and chief operating officer of General Dynamics, the nation’s largest nuclear submarine builder.

Turner’s service in the larger community serves as a model for other alumni. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, the American Society of Naval Engineers, the American Defense and Preparedness Association, the Navy League of the United States, and the Naval Submarine League, where he was awarded the Naval Submarine League Distinguished Civilian Award in 2002. Turner also is a Bartels fellow at the University of Notre Dame, and a past member of the USO World Board of Governors and the National Security Industrial Association Board of Trustees.

CANNON

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work. His military education includes the Artillery Advanced Officers Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College.

Before retiring in 1987 as the deputy chief of staff, personnel, for the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Cannon held a variety of command and staff positions throughout the world. He has served in Germany, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. While serving in the continental United States, Cannon played a key role in developing and executing policies and programs affecting more than 500,000 soldiers, family members, civilian employees, and a local national work force comprising the U.S. Army Europe.

Other key assignments held by Cannon include deputy commandant of U.S. Air Force Academy; Director of the Center for the Study of the Military; and director of the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs.

Cannon has received numerous awards and decorations throughout his career: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Following retirement from his 34-year military career, Cannon has continued to support the university under his leadership as the fundraising chair for the 50th reunion of the Class of 1950 was the primary reason the class raised $1.2 million for a mathematics professorship, a Corps scholarship, and library improvements.

Cannon also personally provides support for Virginia Tech’s Pamplin College of Business, the Corps of Cadets, and the athletic programs.

Cannon serves as chair of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni class giving effort and is a key member of the VTCCA Executive Committee and the VTCCA Development Council. He is a member of the Ut Prosim Society and is active in the Tidewater Area Hokie Club and Alumni Chapter.