

# SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

TODAY'S EDITION

See page 3  
for personnel  
information.

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 26 THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1999

## Founders Day celebrates accomplishments of university community

By David Nutter

Virginia Tech celebrates the accomplishments of its faculty and staff members and students at Founders Day, Friday, April 9. The annual convocation in honor of scholarship and service will begin at 3:15 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

President Paul Torgersen will give the keynote address at the celebration. Henry Dekker, former rector of the Board of Visitors, will receive the university's highest award, the William H. Ruffner Medal. Dekker has been instrumental in efforts to revitalize the Corps of Cadets.

The XCaliber Award is being recognized during Founders Day this year. Established last year by Provost Peggy Meszaros and the Center for Innovation and Learning, the XCaliber Award is designed to honor faculty and staff members who are using innovative approaches to teaching using technology.

The 1999 Founders Day Award winners are: Graduate Teaching Assistant

Excellence Award: **Jon C. Cawley**, Department of Biology; Graduate Student Service Award: **Travis O. Brenden**, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences; XCaliber Awards: individual faculty member: **N. Dwight Barnette**, Department of Computer Science; team of faculty and staff members: **Stewart A. Hill, Stephen E. Scheckler, C. David Taylor**, Department of Biology; team of faculty and staff members—Math Emporium: **Robert Olin, Christopher A. Beattie, Monte B. Boisen, Terri A. Bourdon, Kenneth B. Hannsgen, Charles B. Hodges, Gail M. Hunger, Abigail W. Kohler, Gwendolyn M. Lloyd, Margaret P. McQuain, Linda E. Powers, Robert C. Rogers, John F. Rossi, Linda H. Scruggs, Bonnie B. Shealor, Deborah B. Smith, Michael Williams**, Department of Mathematics; Alumni Teaching Excellence Awards: **Bonnie J. Smith**, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology; **J. Reese Voshell Jr.**, Department of Entomology; Alumni Excellence in Academic Advising: **David J. Parrish**, Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences; Wine Awards:

**S. Dru Forrester**, Department of Small Animal Clinical Services; **E. Scott Geller**, Department of Psychology; **David W. Smith**, Department of Forestry; Sporn Award for Teaching Introductory Subjects: **Charles E. Frazier**, Department of Wood Science and Forest Products; Sporn Award for Teaching Engineering Subjects: **T. Roger Chang**, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics.

President's Award for Excellence: **Peggy P. Arnold**, Department of Biochemistry; **John C. Chandler**, Department of Food Science and Technology; **Stephen W. Hiner**, Department of Entomology; **Diane F. Patty**, Department of Chemical Engineering; **Linda G. Smith**, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Alumni Award for Excellence in International Programs: **John A. Ballweg**, Department of Sociology; Alumni Award for Excellence in Research: **Richard A. Winett**, Department of Psychology; **Neal Castagnoli Jr.**, Department of Chemistry.

Alumni Award for Excellence in

Extension: **Gary P. Dingus**, Dickenson County Extension Office; **Robert Ray Meadows**, Extension Specialist, 4-H; Alumni Distinguished Service Awards: **Mary Virginia Jones**; **Samuel Lewis Lionberger Jr.**; Ruffner Medal: **Henry J. Dekker**.

Man of the Year: **Edward J. Maggio**, College of Arts and Sciences; Woman of the Year: **Susan P. Grubbs**, College of Arts and Sciences.

Outstanding Students: **Jodie E. Johnson**, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; **Eric Delsis**, College of Architecture and Urban Studies; **Stacey Smith**, College of Arts and Sciences; **Melissa L. Novosel**, Pamplin College of Business; **Elise Caruso**, College of Engineering; **Elvira Muniz**, College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources; **Christine Grecus**, College of Human Resources and Education; **John F. Guest**, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Schmidt named Commencement speaker

By David Nutter

Eric Schmidt, the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of network computing giant Novell Inc., will be Virginia Tech's Commencement speaker during ceremonies in Lane Stadium on Saturday, May 15, beginning at 9 a.m.

"Because of Virginia Tech's nationally recognized leadership in information technology and our leadership in developing the architecture of the next generation Internet, I felt that Dr. Schmidt will would be an outstanding choice to speak to our graduating class," said President Paul Torgersen. "The students time here in Blacksburg has been defined by the Internet. I think it is appropriate for them to hear from someone who helping shape the future direction of this wonderful

new tool."

At Novell, Schmidt is actively involved in all significant operating and strategic decisions for the company and plays a central role in the technical development of the company.

Novell, which reported revenue of \$1.084 billion in 1998, is a fast-emerging leader in network services and Internet/Intranet software solutions. With its corporate headquarters based in Provo, Utah, Novell products enable customers to securely integrate the global Internet with their private business networks. These "intelligent networks" recognize every user, provide secure access to every network resource, and support every critical computing task.

Schmidt has many ties to Virginia Tech. (See SCHMIDT on 7)



SCHMIDT

## Enrollment reaches record levels at VTNVC

By Carolyn Fray

Graduate enrollments at the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center (NVC) in Falls Church reached record level this spring with 2,409 registrations.

At the center, Virginia Tech offers 36 graduate degree programs, primarily for working professionals, as well as short courses and seminars sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education. The greatest growth was achieved by the computer science program, which expanded by 116 percent spring to spring.

For the same period, college registrations advanced 63.9 percent in Arts and Sciences, 23.8 percent in Human Resources and Education, and 8 percent in Business. Overall, the center's enrollment grew 19 percent spring to spring.

In response to the growth, Virginia Tech has rented and remodeled two 1,500-square-foot classrooms at an office building located at 7115 Leesburg Pike, a five-minute walk from the center. "Our enrollment gains can be attributed to the university's expanding partnership with the region's technology community as well as the center's increasing local and international visibility," said Judy C. Pearson, director of the Virginia Tech Northern Virginia Center.

"The Graduate Program in Information Technology is excellent example of how we can work with the region's business community to identify an educational need and quickly formulate a high-quality program

(See ENROLLMENT on 8)

## Stokes selected men's basketball head coach

Ricky Stokes, who spent last season as the associate head coach at the University of Texas, has been named head coach of the Virginia Tech men's basketball program, according to Director of Athletics Jim Weaver.

"I am delighted that Ricky Stokes has accepted our offer to be the head coach at Virginia Tech," Weaver said. "He is an outstanding individual who has achieved the highest level, both as a player and as a coach. He will be an excellent leader for our program."

Stokes, a native of Richmond, has been involved in eight NCAA Tournaments (once reaching the final eight and twice the final 16) in his 11 seasons as a full-time assistant coach. He also was a part of four NCAA

Tournament teams at the University of Virginia, where he played from 1980-84.

The 36-year-old Stokes has been an assistant coach at Bowling Green, Wake Forest and Virginia.

"I am very ecstatic about being named head coach at Virginia Tech," Stokes said. "Virginia Tech is a great academic and athletic institution. I am looking forward to the challenge, and I'm ready to take the Virginia Tech men's basketball program to new heights."

Stokes joined Rick Barnes' staff at Clemson two weeks before Barnes accepted the head coaching job at the University of Texas last year. This past season, he helped guide the Longhorns to a 19-13 overall record and NCAA first-round appearance. Texas went 13-3 in the Big 12 Conference, winning the league title for

the first time in school history. Stokes also signed three of the top 10 players in the state of Texas during the fall signing period.

"Our entire staff is excited for Ricky Stokes," Barnes said. "We are going to miss him, both on a personal and professional level. There is no one more deserving or more ready for the challenge of being a Division I head coach than Coach Stokes. Having spoken with him before he left for the interview, I know how excited he was about Virginia Tech and the tradition of its basketball program. There is no doubt in my mind that he is a perfect fit for the job."

During the past 11 seasons as a coach, Stokes has recruited and/or coached such talent as 1997 college player of the year and number-

(See STOKES on 7)

# NEWSMAKERS

Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and students are often the subject of significant national and state-wide news coverage. To better inform the university community about these accomplishments, the Office of University Relations has compiled this monthly report. This report excludes coverage in the Roanoke news-media market. For more information about the articles mentioned, call Julie Kane, university public relations coordinator, at 1-9934, or contact your college public-relations office.

**Los Angeles Times** (September 20, 1998): **Steve Markham**, professor of management, was quoted in a story, "Less Qualified Tend to Lie More on Tests," about the tendency of some job applicants to lie on pre-employment personality tests to get jobs they aren't qualified to have.

**The Farmville Herald** (December 1998): **David Smith**, forestry professor, was featured in an article about the establishing of a natural-resource center by the 4-H Educational Center. He was quoted several times on the relevance of teaching natural-resource management to children.

**Prism** (January): The College of Engineering's Green Engineering program was featured as one of the leaders in the country in the American Society for Engineering Education's magazine, *Prism*. The article featured the efforts of the following engineering faculty: **Ron Kander**, **John Novak**, **Ron Gordon**, and **Malcolm McPherson**.

**SmartMoney.com** (January 20, February 2): **Don Chance**, finance professor, was the featured expert in two "Ask SmartMoney" columns in this Internet magazine published by the *Wall Street Journal*: "Locking in gains with collars," and "Reading the S&P 500 futures."

**Access** (January 27): The cover story was about Virginia Tech and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications Scientists' research to evaluate usefulness of virtual-reality (CAVE) applications. The principal investigator is **Deborah Hix** of computer science. The story is at: <http://access.ncsa.uiuc.edu/CoverStories/VRApps/>

**New York Times** (February): The work of **William Velder**, director of the Pharmaceutical Engineering Institute, was featured in an article citing the American Red Cross' work on the production of bandages that could seal a bleeding wound. The article cited the ARC's support of Velder's work with transgenic pigs which will produce the proteins needed to mass-produce the bandages.

**Infectious Diseases in Children** (February): **Journal of the American Medical Association** (January): The work of **Sheldon Jacobson** of industrial and systems engineering was featured. Jacobson has developed an algorithm that could increase child-immunization rates and still save money. His work was done in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control.

**ABC Radio, UPI Radio**, (Washington, D.C.) **WTOP Radio** (February 5): Professor of History **William Ochsenwald** discussed the implications of the death of King Hussein of Jordan.

**Richmond Times-Dispatch** (Home Section-February 13): The Shelton H. Short Jr. Professor of Forestry, **David W. Smith**, was the lead quote in a article about the future of hemlocks in Virginia forests.

**Broadband Networking News** (February 16): **George Morgan**, finance professor, was quoted in a story, "Friends in the ivory tower," about Virginia Tech's plans to deploy broadband-radio-

spectrum technology known as LMDS (local multipoint distribution service) to area residential users in May. Morgan, who directs the Space and Wireless Business Center, says the project will collect information that could be used to lower the cost of LMDS to homes and to gauge its effectiveness as a solution to the "last-mile" problem.

**Black Entertainment Television** (February 23): English Professor **Nikki Giovanni** was featured in a live one-hour interview broadcast from Virginia Tech.

**Richmond Times-Dispatch Metro Business Monthly** (March): **Barry O'Donnell**, associate director of the MBA program in the Pamplin College of Business, was quoted in a cover story, "Does it pay?" about the possible impact of an MBA on the salaries and career prospects of those who earn the degree.

**Time Digital** (March): **Ray Pethtel**, university transportation fellow, was featured in a special supplement of *Time* magazine. Pethtel was mentioned in the cover story called "Dream Machines." The story focused on the smart road.

**Richmond Times Dispatch** (March 7): **Roe-Hoan Yoon** of the Mining and Minerals Engineering Department was featured for his work on the development of a clean coal-recovery process known as "Microcel."

**Mutual Radio** (March 16): Chemistry Professor **Joseph Merola** discussed how water weakens paper on "Why is It?" a program that explains basic scientific principles.

**The Virginian Pilot** (March 17): **Don Chance**, finance professor, was quoted in a story, "Dow hits 10,000, slips back," about local reaction to news of the industrial average surpassing the 10,000 mark.

# ACHIEVERS

**Albert E. Moyer**, chair of the Department of History, gave guest lectures at two commemorative gatherings—the 150th anniversary of the Nautical Almanac division of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington and the 200th anniversary of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London. He also began a three-year term on the advisory editorial board of *Isis*, the international journal of the History of Science Society. Moyer will be an invited speaker at the Royal Institution of Great Britain as part of this London scientific organization's bicentenary celebrations and the 200th anniversary of Alessandro Volta's announcement of the production of electricity by chemical means. Moyer presented a paper titled "Mr. Faraday, Prof. Henry, and the Hunt for Electromagnetic Induction" in a conference on the theme of the history of electricity. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Royal Institution, the British Society for the History of Science, and the History of Technology group of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

**Robert Carlsen**, a psychology doctoral student, has been invited to participate in The National Forum on Psychology Partnerships sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA). Distinguished psychology teachers from high school through graduate institutions will convene to discuss ways that academic partnerships can promote more effective psychology education. Conference participants were selected on the basis of their long-standing contributions and leadership in the psychology community. During the week-long forum at James Madison University in June, they will formulate strategies to address compelling issues influencing the direction of psychology education in the 21st century. Carlsen teaches at Averett College in Danville.

**Kay Castagnoli**, senior research associate in the

chemistry department, was recently notified she has been selected as one of the elite 100 musicians from all over the world to compete in the Van Cliborne competition.

Applicants cannot be professional or play the piano for a living. Castagnoli was chosen because her repertoire was one of the most outstanding. The competition is scheduled for Dallas in June.

**Harold McNair**, professor of chemistry, directed a four-day workshop on Gas Chromatography at the University of Messina, Messina, Italy. The workshop was based on the popular American Chemical Society workshop that McNair has taught for the past 28 years at Virginia Tech. Sixteen scientists from Italy participated. Lectures and laboratories were conducted in Italian, and the workshop was printed in Italian. Sponsor of the workshop was Giovanni Dugo of the pharmacy faculty of the University of Messina. Dugo and McNair have written research proposals that have generated Italian National Science Foundation support for three post-doctoral students from Messina to study for one year at Tech.

**Orson K. Miller Jr.**, professor of botany and curator of fungi in the Department of Biology, received this year's Thomas Jefferson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science from the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Miller is an internationally recognized authority on mycology. During his career, he has served as a consultant and principal investigator on many projects both in the United States and abroad. He spent the first 15 years of his career as a research scientist for the U.S. Forest Service. For the past 27 years, he has been a teacher and researcher at Virginia Tech, and, during that time, the mycology lab has become very well known both nationally and internationally.

He has earned many honors for his work. In 1981, he received the Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology from the North American Mycological Association (NAMA). In 1989, that society presented Miller with the William H. Weston Award for Teaching Excellence in Mycology. In 1995, he was voted a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in August of 1997, he was awarded the Distinguished Mycologist of 1997 Award by the Mycological Society of America. (MSA) He is vice president of MSA and will be president-elect later this year.

Miller is the author of many papers and books, including the monumental *Mushrooms of North America*. That book, according to the Virginia Museum of Natural History, "bridges the gap between a basic field guide and a scientific monograph" and is used "in the classroom and in the field by many mycologists in North America, Asia, and Australia." The book, according to one person who supported Miller for a previous award, "has probably done more to promote mycology and interest in mushrooms than any other book in American publishing history."

Miller is a member of a variety of editorial boards and professional societies and has served on a broad selection of committees for Virginia Tech, the state, and MSA. Students at Virginia Tech have completed 28 theses in mycology under Miller's direction, and he keeps a full schedule of visiting professors and post-doctoral candidates from around the world working and studying with him. He leads many workshops and forays in the United States and abroad for NAMA and for mushroom clubs.

Miller and his wife, Hope Miller, have collaborated on several books and projects. "The Millers' love of mycology and natural science has been a life-long family affair for the Millers," according to the museum.

*Next week's Spectrum will feature detailed information on Founders Day award winners.*

# Grants help students meet tough academic standards

By Catherine Doss

Student Success grants, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, have proven to be successful not only in helping students meet tougher academic standards but also in designing collaborative intervention efforts among varied departments, according to David Ford, vice provost for academic affairs.

"At least part of the student success under the new academic-eligibility policy can be attributed to excellent programs the university has put in place to assist students who are at risk of falling below the minimum standard," Ford said.

Under the new policy students must maintain a cumulative QCA of 2.0 to remain in good standing. Academic performance is reviewed at the end of each semester.

The Student Success grants project provides funds for departments and/or units to pilot various programs or research to help students be academically successful at Virginia Tech. Thirteen such projects are currently underway, and some have already shown positive results.

For example, a campus-wide cooperative academic-intervention project between the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Human

## VIRGINIA TECH RECYCLING

Readers are reminded that Virginia Tech Recycling will no longer collect mixed paper, due to the decision by the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority to cease processing mixed paper at its Recycling Center as of today.

VTR will continue to collect white paper and newspaper at all customary locations, on (See RECYCLING on 7)

## AMPLIFICATION

A March 25 article about recent *U.S. News & World Report* rankings cited the involvement of only two departments—chemistry and chemical engineering—in Virginia Tech's polymer research program, which was ranked fifth nationwide. Researchers from engineering science and mechanics, materials science and engineering, mechanical engineering, and wood science and forest products also participate in the polymer program.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Resources and Education and the Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence is working with students to help identify different factors affecting their academic performance and develop a plan for changing detrimental behaviors.

"The goal of the program is to get parents and students working together to improve grades," said Ellie Sturgis, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) who implemented the project along with Jerry Via, CAS assistant dean; Jane Abraham, instructor in teaching and learning; Carol Slusser, enrollment services assistant in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; and graduate student Saranette Miles.

Parents of first-semester undergraduates were invited to an information session during Parents' Weekend last fall. More than 80 took advantage of the opportunity to meet with faculty members, student advisors, and counselors to learn more about the resources available to ensure student success at Virginia Tech. In addition, student-success fairs were held in October and January for first-year students for them to learn more about such topics as time management and study skills. Participants were asked to develop their own contract outlining behaviors they would like to change to help them improve their grades. From mid-term last fall to the end of the semester, the number of participants in the October student success fair who were considered academically ineligible decreased from 71 to 32, and the number of students with a QCA of less than 1.0 decreased from 29 to 7.

"The most potent message we got from students was that this project has given them confidence that they can indeed succeed at Virginia Tech," Sturgis said. "By mid-term, most of

those who were in trouble academically had already given up."

A Student Success project in the Pamplin College of Business provided first- and second-year students who were at the lower levels of academic probation with the support of an upper-division undergraduate advisor. Seventeen students completed the program last fall, and data indicated an average improved academic GPA performance by the participants of 0.65.

"The success of this project hinged on the peer advisors modeling habits that lead to improved academic performance," said Norrine Bailey Spencer, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the college. "The students in academic trouble had developed habits of not attending class, not thinking of their life after college, and not managing their time well."

An innovative Student Success project out of the Office of the Dean of Students provides the opportunity for two graduate-student "coaches" to work with a select number of undergraduates who have been diagnosed with attention-deficit disorder (ADD). Students and coaches meet weekly to develop and maintain strategies for academic, career, and personal success. The program also works to increase the participants' ability to successfully use campus resources.

"Most of the participants were diagnosed with ADD before entering college; however, some of them didn't know they had ADD until they started college," said Susan Angle, assistant dean of students for students with disabilities. "The one thing they all had in common was the need to participate in a program that offered the opportunity to amend problem situ-

ations that deal with procrastination, disorganization, and poor time management, which they had struggled with over the years."

Coaches review participants' schedules each week, and help them organize their work and plan ahead for tests, papers and daily activities.

Student Success grant money also helped fund an on-going effort in the chemistry department to improve overall performance by students enrolled in Chem 1035 and 1036, freshman-level general-chemistry classes.

"The average class size for this course is 175 students, which makes it very difficult to give homework assignments and quizzes to help reinforce the concepts," said Patricia Amateis, instructor of the course.

The problem was rectified with an approach spearheaded by Amateis and Jim Viers, associate professor of chemistry. The lecture portion of the class meets Mondays and Wednesdays; however, instead of a large lecture on Fridays, students are split into groups of 30 and attend informal problem-solving work groups lead by upper-level undergraduates. During these weekly work groups, students are given homework assignments, quizzes, and have their questions answered about the material covered in the lectures.

"We have found that students really connect with their peer instructors," Amateis said. "They are much freer to ask questions, and some even thank us for giving homework assignments!"

An evaluation of the project last year showed that the QCA for Chem 1035 classes with work groups was 0.5 higher than that of

(See GRANTS on 7)

## PERSONNEL INFORMATION

### Retirement sessions offered

A university pre-Retirement program has been scheduled for April 12 and 13, in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. All faculty and staff members are welcome.

Anyone who cannot attend a complete session can attend those specific programs that may be of interest. The presentations scheduled for each day are listed below. Please note that several presentations are presented both days and you may attend either presentation as schedules permit. Pre-registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Carolyn Pratt at 1-7776 or e-mail [cpratt@vt.edu](mailto:cpratt@vt.edu). A schedule of sessions includes:

#### Monday, April 12

8:30 a.m.—Retirement Overview  
9:15 a.m.—Social Security

10:45 a.m.—Estates, Wills, Trusts  
1:15 p.m.—New Dimensions  
1:45 p.m.—Health Insurance after Retirement  
2:15 p.m.—Healthwise by CommonHealth\*  
3:15 p.m.—Virginia Retirement System

#### Tuesday, April 13

9 a.m.—Virginia Retirement System  
10:30 a.m.—Retirement Overview  
11:15 a.m.—Healthwise by CommonHealth\*  
1:15 p.m.—Social Security  
2:45 p.m.—Fraud and Scams  
3:45 p.m.—Health Insurance after Retirement

\*Participants in this session will receive free the book *Healthwise for Life: Medical Self-Care for Healthy Aging*.

### DERC Conducts Training

The Department of Employee Relations Counselors (DERC) is conducting training programs on the grievance procedure, conflict-management and mediation skills. Grievance Procedure training for non-supervisory personnel is also being offered.

Individuals interested in one of the classes should contact Personnel Services at 1-9331 for additional information and the registration form. To register, the training registration form should be completed and returned to the Department of Employee Relations Counselors as soon as possible.

Cancellations will be honored up until three days before the class.

The schedule of classes is:  
*Responding to Employee Grievances*, no cost, offered in Richmond April 27, 9 a.m.-noon; and Lynchburg, May 25, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

(See DERC on 7)

## Rotary Club supports Tech's international programs

### Club donates \$1,000 to UOIP

By Catherine Doss

The Rotary Club of Blacksburg recently awarded \$1,000 to the University Office of International Programs (UOIP) to help support study-abroad activities by needy and worthy Virginia Tech students seeking an international experience. In making the donation, Rotary Club President Ken Martin said that support for inter-

national study falls within the core mission of Rotary International.

Lyn Gray, director of international programs, accepted the donation on behalf of UOIP. Gray said increased interest in study abroad on the part of Virginia Tech students has focused attention on the need for more scholarship support.

"Many Tech student wishing to participate have a difficult time finding sufficient funds to cover the additional costs associated

with international study," Gray said. "Contributions of this type are very welcome indeed."

Gray also commended the club for its outstanding international work, which is well known in the community and throughout the world.

For more information about study-abroad opportunities and/or financial aid available for international study, contact UOIP by telephone at 1-5888, or visit the office's web site at <http://www.vt.edu:1002/international/>.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Thursday, 1

**Art Exhibit Opening**, Armory Gallery.  
**STS Thursday Discussion**, 2 p.m., 132 Lane: "Feminist Contribution to Science and Technology Studies."

### Friday, 2

**International Week Begins**, Through 4-10.  
**International Week Activity**, 5-6 p.m., Alumni Mall: Interactive African Dance.  
**International Club Coffee Hour**, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: "A Thousand Hands: Recycling in India," by Nancy Galloway.  
**Student Recital**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Jon Pratt.

### Saturday, 3

**YMCA Hike**, 10 a.m., meet in parking lot 403 Washington. St.: New River Trail.  
**International Week Activity**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Downtown Blacksburg: Street Fair.  
**Student Recital**, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Josh Wirt.  
**Student Recital**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Dan Wilner

### Sunday, 4

**Easter Buffet**, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC.  
**International Week Activity**, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center: Slideshow.

### Monday, 5

**University Council Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.  
**International Week Activity**, 6-8 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room: "China—Approaching the Millennium." Panel Discussion.

### Tuesday, 6

**International Week Activity**, 7-8:30 p.m., DBHCC: Talent Show.  
**VTU Program**, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

### Wednesday, 7

**Multicultural Program**, noon, Squires Multicultural Center: "Comparing Voluntary and Involuntary Immigration." Discussion facilitated by Richard Shingles.  
**International Week Activity**, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center: "The Role of Women in Different Cultures."  
**"With Good Reason,"** 7 p.m., WVTF.  
**Music Ensemble Concert**, 8 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom: University Symphony Band.

### Thursday, 8

**Multicultural Program**, noon, Squires Multicultural Center: "The Holocaust: Too Painful to Remember or Too Important to Forget?" Panel Discussion.  
**STS Lunch Discussion**, 2 p.m., 132 Lane: Topic TBA, by Leslie Bochensky.  
**CEUT Videoconference**, 2:30-4 p.m., DBHCC Room C: "Faculty on the Frontlines: Reclaiming Civility in the Classroom."  
**International Week Activity**, 3 p.m., Cranwell Center: "Alcohol Awareness: An International Perspective."  
**Book Signing and Reading**, 7 p.m., Volume Two: Jeff Mann, author of *Bliss*.

## SEMINARS

### Thursday, 1

**Physics**, 3:30 p.m., 2030 Pamplin: Topic TBA, by T.K. Lee, Taiwan.  
**Statistics**, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: "A Variable Sampling Rate Control Chart Method for Simultaneous Monitoring of Mean and Variance," by Christopher Hughes.

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, 4 p.m., 654 Whittemore: "Fundamental Concept, Theory and Applications of the Global Positioning System," by Wayne Scales.

**Entomology**, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Graduate Student Presentations, by Sarah Engel and Theresa Dellinger.

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 2044 Derring: "Use of Metaphors in Teaching Geology," by Susan Eriksson.

### Friday, 2

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: "Wurster's Crowns: The Synthesis, Properties and Coordination Chemistry of a New Class of Redox-Active Macrocycles," by John Sibert, ECU.

**MCBB**, noon, 102 Fralin: "Molecular Mechanisms of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor/Estrogen Receptor Crosstalk," by Stephen

Safe, Texas A&M.

**Communication Studies**, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Did We Make A Movie? A Blow By Blow Account of a Wild Ride and Its Results," by Barbara Carlisle.

**Economics**, 3:30-5 p.m., 3001 Pamplin: "Intertemporal Substitution of Births and Fertility Decline in Iran," by Djavad Salehi.

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, 4 p.m., 457 Whittemore: "Predictive Signal Processing in Control Instrumentation," by Seppo Ovaska.

**STS**, 4-5:30 p.m., 132 Lane: "A General Scheme for Historical and Philosophical Appraisal of Eugenics," by Jean Gayon, Paris.

### Monday, 5

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, noon, 654 Whittemore: Topic TBA.

**Biochemistry**, 4-5 p.m., 223 Engel: "Statistical Genetics and Education in Bio-informatics/Genomics" by Ina Hoeschele.

**CSES**, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: "Pathogen Derived Resistance," by Irfan Gunduz.

**Horticulture**, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: "Exploiting the Secondary Growth Potential of Arabidopsis to Study Protoas from Vascular Tissue," by Bob Johnson.

### Tuesday, 6

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, 3:30 p.m., 300 Whittemore: "Propagation Prediction Over the Ocean," by Daniel Dockery.

### Wednesday, 7

**Water Science**, noon, 108 Seitz: "The Role of Risk Management in Farmers' Decisions to Adopt Recommended Conversation Practices," by Jim Quinton.

**Electrical/Computer Engineering**, 4 p.m., 654 Whittemore: "Parameter Identification in Hysterisis," by R. Rogers.

### Thursday, 8

**Statistics**, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: "Non-informative Prior Bayesian Analysis for Statistical Calibration Problems," by Dan Eno.

**Entomology**, 4 p.m., 220 Price: "The Value of Biotechnology in Crop Agriculture," by Dave Simcox, FMC Corp.

### CEUT sponsors video-conference

The Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching will sponsor a video-conference, Faculty on the Front Lines: Reclaiming Civility on Thursday, April 8, from 2:30-4 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, room C.

This videoconference will analyze the major causes for disruptive and apathetic student behavior; show how other colleges and universities are reclaiming civility; and evaluate strategies for dealing with classroom behavior. Pre-register at [ceut@vt.edu](http://ceut@vt.edu) or 1-6995.

### International Week begins Friday

The Fortieth International Week will take place in Blacksburg from April 2-10. This year's theme is *40 Years of Celebration: Discover the World in Blacksburg*.

The Council of International Student Organizations and its member organizations conduct this event, already a tradition at Virginia Tech. Among other events, the week will feature the International Street Fair, guest speakers, food, games, films, and performances from all around the world. Special events include an International Street Fair located at downtown Blacksburg. There will also be a rice tasting. Rice dishes specially prepared for this occasion will be sold. Each item will be no more than \$3 a plate.

There will be a tea and coffee tasting with tea and coffee prepared and sold during this event at minimal charges.

The African Students Association will present African Night; they will wear attire in a fashion show accompanied by

## BULLETINS

the beat of rhythmic African music. There is no admission fee.

A Talent Show will exhibit the talent that the International students bring to Virginia Tech. The Thais, Turkish, Indians, Greeks and Iranians will each present an item. There is no admission fee.

### Giovanni's "Hush Harbor" returning

Nikki Giovanni's classes at Virginia Tech will repeat the "hush harbor" slave-choir concert this year on Tuesday, April 20, 5-6 p.m., in the Black Cultural Center in Squires.

Slaves gathered in hush harbors—the fields or swamps away from the owner's house—to sing their spirituals. Such gatherings were illegal and punishable by whipping, being sold, or even being killed; but the slaves sneaked off to sing songs about their tribulations and their faith, Giovanni said.

She wanted her students to be able to empathize with the slaves' situation more than they would by just reading about it. So she formed the slave choir, which is called The Denmark Vesey Voices after Denmark Vesey, a former slave who led an aborted revolution.

The songs will include traditional hush-harbor gospels and other beloved gospel songs. Also, whereas last year's class had only 12 students, this year's has 50. Several groups, including Warm Hearth, St. Paul's Church, and the Virginia Tech gospel choir, have been invited to join the students in song.

The singing is open to the public at no charge.

### Original comedienne to perform

Before there was Whoopi Goldberg, there was Moms Mabley. Unknown on the national scene until the 1960s, Jackie "Moms" Mabley "was the first female to gain recognition and respect in the field of comedy," according to Ruby L. Perkins, who has developed a one-woman Moms Mabley skit. Perkins will bring her act to Virginia Tech April 13 in a type of cabaret setting, with two students from Nikki Giovanni's Harlem Renaissance class acting as emcees. Carol Crawford Smith will perform 1920s-style dances, and a student group will open the show with cabaret singing. The performance will be at 7 p.m. in the Colonial Room of Squires Student Center. Admission is free.

The purpose of the performance, titled "Renaissance Ruby: A Reincarnation of Jackie Moms Mabley," "is to celebrate and keep alive the contribution and memory of Jackie Moms Mabley, the Matriarch of Comedy," Perkins said. Mabley "paved the way and set the stage for future comediennes in a male-dominated profession."

In addition to her Moms skit, Perkins formed a non-profit community performing-arts company that includes a great deal of humor. She has studied selected areas of Mabley's life, analyzed and lectured on the content and structure of her humor, and begun work on a biography of Mabley as part of The Jackie Moms Mabley Memorial Project.

Perkins's performance at Virginia Tech is being sponsored by the Harlem Renaissance Class and the Department of Theater Arts.

### Spring clean-up slated for April 17

Volunteers can still sign up for Broomin' and Bloomin', an annual clean-up effort sponsored by the Montgomery County Improvement Council (MCIC). This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17.

Volunteers gather at specific sites around Montgomery County to pick up litter from roadsides and to clean up illegal dumpsites and waterways. Since 1997, Broomin' and Bloomin' has also included a litter pick-up on the Virginia Tech campus.

"Virginia Tech is very important to this effort. Tech students are a big part of our volunteer force," said Larry Bechtel, Tech's recycling coordinator.

Volunteers should report to the parking lot behind Derring Hall at 7 a.m., where they will load onto Blacksburg Transit buses for transportation to various clean-up sites. Following the clean-up efforts, the buses will transport the volunteers to a picnic and then back to the Derring lot.

The Virginia Department of Transportation will participate in this year's clean-up efforts by providing vehicles to load and transport the litter gathered by volunteers.

To volunteer for this sixteenth annual Broomin' and Bloomin', call Crable at 382-5793.

### Business/technical writing program offered

The professional writing faculty in the Department of English will host a colloquium Saturday, April 24, for teachers and business professionals interested in business/technical communications.

Participants will talk about communication requirements and problems faced by those in the workplace. The colloquium runs 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Hillcrest, with morning snacks and lunch provided. Admission is free.

Guest speakers are Paul Anderson, professor of English at Miami University, and Camille Wright Miller, business columnist and consultant. Anderson, who will open the colloquium, is a leader in the field of professional communication and the author of highly acclaimed texts on business and technical writing. Miller is a business columnist

for the *Roanoke Times* and a consultant on workplace issues and problems for companies in Western Virginia. She will speak at lunch.

Participants will include Tech faculty members who teach professional writing, interested faculty members from other schools, the Pamplin College of Business, and the University Writing Program, and representatives from local business and industry. Representatives from companies that publish professional communication texts, including Allyn & Bacon and Houghton Mifflin, also will take part.

Topics of discussion include concerns and expectations about communication skills, business/professional communication curricula, internships and co-op opportunities. Also, participants will discuss newsletters, brochures, and web pages; conferencing software, the Internet, and e-mail; in-house workshops on workplace communication; the importance of grammar and usage; and the role of style manuals.

A panel consisting of faculty members and members of the business community, including Rep. Jim Shuler, will make presentations, followed by a roundtable discussion.

Registration is due by April 10, and attendance is limited to the first 50 registrants. To register on line, go to <http://athena.english.vt.edu/~dubinsky/vtprocmm/brochure.htm>. For information, call Jim Dubinsky at 1-7909 or e-mail [dubinsky@vt.edu](mailto:dubinsky@vt.edu).

### April 22 is a day for daughters

Take Our Daughters to Work Day is April 22 and for the fourth year the Women's Center at Virginia Tech will be running programs on campus for girls in grades 1-6. The day is planned to expose girls to non-traditional careers through a series of hands-on, educational experiences around the Virginia Tech campus. The theme for this year is "The Future is Me." There is no charge for activities, though lunch will cost \$6.50. Scholarships are available to defray the cost of lunch. For more information on the day, or to request a registration and schedule, please contact Jessie Meltner at 1-7806 or [jmelt@vt.edu](mailto:jmelt@vt.edu).

### Giles residents can have water tested

Virginia Tech employees who are residents of Giles County and rely upon wells, springs, or cisterns for drinking water have an opportunity to obtain a comprehensive analysis of their water.

Testing for a wide range of both nuisance and health-related household water contaminants, including iron, total hardness, and coliform bacteria, is being offered for \$20 per sample through the Giles County Household Water Quality Education Program. The program is being sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Tech Department of Biological Systems Engineering, with funding support from the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

A sample kit will be provided to take a water sample to be delivered to one of several collection points in the county on Wednesday, April 7. Samples will be analyzed at laboratories on campus and the results will be kept completely confidential. Personal test reports will be available at a meeting in Pearisburg, scheduled for April 29, at which time information will be provided regarding the interpretation of the results.

Call the Giles County Cooperative Extension office at 921-3455 or e-mail John Scott, extension agent, at [scottja@vt.edu](mailto:scottja@vt.edu) by noon, Tuesday, April 6.

### Talk will center on Jefferson, slavery

"Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemmings, and Slavery" will be the topic of an address at Virginia Tech Thursday, April 8, at 4 p.m. in the rear auditorium of the Donaldson Brown Center.

Speaker Paul Finkelman is the John F. Seiberling Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Akron Law School. His talk is sponsored by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia and the Virginia Tech Department of History.

The lecture is open to the public at no charge.

## Beliveau Department presentation focuses on construction-industry innovations

By Sandy Broughton

Yvan Beliveau will present "Raise the Level of the Lake and All the Boats will Rise Together" on Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m. in 100 Hancock.

Beliveau is the Georgia Anne Snyder-Falkinham professor in building construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. His lecture will be a study of professionalism, communication, and teamwork in the construction industry.

After earning his doctorate from Purdue University, Beliveau became an assistant professor in Purdue's Department of Construction Engineering and Management. In 1986, Beliveau joined the faculty at Virginia Tech in the Department of Civil Engineering, where he participated in the initiation and development of the construction engineering and management pro-

gram. In 1995, he was named head of the Department of Building Construction in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. A year later, he was named the Snyder-Falkinham professor in building construction.

Beliveau has authored more than 60 publications, more than 30 refereed papers, and more than 30 conference proceedings. He also holds or shares six patents. He has been the principal investigator for more than \$1 million in research grants, \$300,000 in research gifts, and his projects have included work for such organizations and companies as the National Science Foundation, the Center for Innovative Technology, Bechtel Corp., the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Jacobus Technology. Beliveau is co-founder and chairman of the board of Arc Second, Inc, which

specializes in infrared-based positioning systems for robotics control and automation of construction processes.

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Transportation Research Board. He was one of two professors nationwide honored by the Construction Innovation Forum with a NOVA Award for developing revolutionary laser-based technology for real-time positioning and surveying. He has earned Excellence in Teaching Awards from both Purdue University and Virginia Tech. He was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Recognition by civil engineering students at Virginia Tech in 1994. He has also been awarded a Citation of Excellence from *Engineering News Record*.

Before his entry into the academic world,

Beliveau was involved in all aspects of the construction profession—from carpenter foreman to project engineer to company owner. His work has included single- and multi-family residences as well as commercial and industrial facilities. His long-range goals include providing a better understanding of the issues of building systems integration for single-family homes and construction of the future. He hopes this work will help direct the construction design industry to more affordable and better value housing.

Beliveau's presentation is the second in the newly initiated series of lectures by individuals holding endowed professorships in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.



### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVITIES

International Week activities include the Street Fair scheduled for Saturday, April 3 in downtown Blacksburg. See this week's calendar and bulletins section for more information. (J. Ashby)

### Veterinary College announces winners

By Cindy Harris, Public Relations intern

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's chapter of Phi Zeta announces the winners of a local manuscript contest. Graduate student Jonathan Fox was honored in the basic-research category for his manuscript on "Naturally occurring GM2 gangliosidosis in two Muntjak deer with pathological and biochemical features of Tay-Sachs disease." The manuscript was published in the academic journal *Acta Neuropathologica*.

In the clinical-research category, third-year surgery resident student, Kim May was recognized for her manuscript on "Urinary bladder marsupialization for the treatment of obstructive urolithiasis in male goats," which was published in the journal of "Veterinary Surgery."

The award-winning manuscripts have been submitted for Phi Zeta's national competition, which will be judged on originality, scientific significance, study quality and clarity of writing and illustrations.

Phi Zeta is a national veterinary honorary society that recognizes high scholarship, promotes research into matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals, and stands for the constant advancement of the veterinary professions.

# EMPLOYMENT

## CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures and position-closing dates may be found on the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Available positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service: Office/Clerical: 1-6196; Technical/Research: 1-6160; Service/Trades: 1-6176; Professional and Managerial: 1-4649; Information Technology: 1-2233. Some of the following positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with a "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Comments about this shortened listing should be made to [perserv@vt.edu](mailto:perserv@vt.edu) or by calling 1-5301 or 1-6258 for persons with hearing impairments. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline.

To better serve applicants, the closing date for advertised positions has been changed to 1 p.m. Monday unless otherwise stated. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

### Full Time

**Accountant**, 4526P, Grade 9, Controller's Office.  
**Administrative Liaison**, 2325D, Grade 8, Communications Network Services.  
**Agricultural Technician B**, 3251M, Grade 5, Animal and Poultry Sciences.  
**Computer Network Support Tech Sr**, 2758J, Grade 10, Mechanical Engineering.  
**Executive Secretary Senior**, 2800W, Grade 7, University Development.  
**Fiscal Assistant**, 7437D, Grade 5, University Development.  
**Food Operations Assistant B (3rd Baker)**, 2986H, Grade 2, Residential and Dining Programs/ Southgate Bakeshop.  
**Food Operations Manager A (Assistant Manager)**, 1205H, Grade 8, Residential and Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.  
**Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef**, 0029H, Grade 10, Residential and Dining Programs/Owens Dining Center.  
**Housekeeping Lead Worker/Special Projects Crew**, 300H, Grade 2, Residential and Dining Programs.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, 7261G, Grade 1, Recreational Sports.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, 1076H, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 1175G, Grade 1, University Unions and Student Activities.  
**Instructional Technology Systems Manager**, 2122D, Grade 16, Educational Technologies.  
**Laboratory Mechanic A**, 7419J, Grade 4, Materials Science and Engineering.  
**Licensing and Trademark Director (Business Manager B)**, LC055D, Grade 12, Trademark and Licensing.  
**Medical Technologist**, 2637S, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 6844T, Grade 5, Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence.  
**Office Services Specialist**, W010359D, Grade, Test Scoring Services.  
**Programmer Analyst**, 6990T, Grade 12, Budget and Financial Planning.  
**Programmer**, 7405D, Grade 10, Administrative Information Systems.  
**Programmer**, 7434D, Grade 10, Administrative Information Systems.  
**Programmer**, 7289M, Grade 10, Animal and Poultry Sciences.  
**Programmer**, 2256D, Grade 10, University Libraries.  
**Programmer/Analyst**, 7433D, Grade 12, Administrative Information Systems—User Services.  
**Public Relations Assistant Specialist**, LC076D, Grade 8, Alumni Relations.  
**Research Specialist**, 7412M, Grade 8, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences.  
**Senior Programmer Analyst**, 6896D, Grade 14, Information Technology Acquisitions.  
**Senior Programmer/Analyst**, 7328D, Grade 14, Administrative Information Systems.  
**Storekeeper Senior**, 2968D, Grade 6, Communications Network Services.

**Part Time**  
**Electronic Technician Senior**, W022588J, Grade 10, Engineering Science and Mechanics.  
**Enrollment Services Assistant (Academic Adviser)**, W022613T, Grade 7, Computer Science.  
**Fire Extinguisher Trainer (Security Officer Senior)**, W022637T, Grade 7, Environmental Health and Safety Services.

**Fiscal Assistant-payroll**, W022646M, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Fiscal Technician**, W020810M, Grade 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Flight Instructor (Pilot)**, Airport, Grade W020661T.  
**Food Operations Assistant A**, W022314H, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs.  
**Food Operations Assistant B**, W022315H, Grade 2, Residential and Dining Programs.  
**Get Connected Technician**, W022615D, Grade 6, Administrative Information Systems.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, W022490H, Grade 1, Residential and Dining Programs.  
**Laboratory Aide**, W020811M, Grade 2, College of Veterinary Medicine.  
**Office Services Assistant**, W022439C, Grade 4, Personnel Services.  
**Office Services Specialist**, W022560M, Grade 5, College of Veterinary Medicine.  
**Pharmacy Supervisor**, W022501M, Grade 15, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
**Postal Assistant**, W022644D, Grade 4, Alumni Relations.  
**Program Support Technician Senior**, 7436J, Grade 7, Electrical and Computing Engineering.  
**Program Support Technician**, 7413J, Grade 6, Research and Graduate Studies.  
**Programmer**, W022504D, Grade 10, Communications Network Services.  
**Research Specialist**, 4540M, Grade 8, Horticulture.  
**Security Guard**, W020470T, Grade 2, Police.  
**Trades Helper/Carpenter's Assistant**, W020219H, Grade 4, Residential and Dining Programs/Facilities.  
**Off Campus**  
**Distance Learning Specialist**, 7410D, Grade 12, Office of Distance Education.  
**Program Support Technician**, 5540M, Grade 6, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Petersburg Extension Office.  
**Research Specialist Senior**, 6504M, Grade 9, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.  
**Research Specialist Senior**, 6822M, Grade 9, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

**INSTRUCTIONAL**  
**Department of Management Science and Information Technology. Assistant Professor.** Person will teach decision support systems, other information-technology-related courses, and management science/operations research. Ph.D. or equivalent in a related area is required; strong research interest and demonstrated teaching ability. Position requires strong computing ability and OR/MS background. For additional information, contact Bernard Taylor III, Department of Management Science and Information Technology, 107 Pamplin Hall (0235), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061.  
**Engineering Science and Mechanics. Instructor.** The department requests applications for a non-tenure-track faculty position in solid mechanics from applicants with a Ph.D. and a superior academic and/or professional record. Successful candidate will teach one undergraduate course per semester, and conduct and manage an active research program. Research will focus in the area of testing, analysis, and design of adhesive bonds. Individuals with experience in fracture mechanics, fatigue, hygrothermal effects, durability predictions, and finite-element analysis of bonded structures are especially encouraged to apply, as are individuals with interests in applying the principles of mechanics to bonded micro-electronic devices. The starting salary is \$40,000-\$45,000, and the position may be extended. Review begins May 1, and continues until the position is filled. The position may begin as early as June 1, 1999. This appointment is initially for one year; continuation of this appointment beyond one year is contingent upon satisfactory work performance and availability of funding. Interested persons should send a letter of application including personal data, education, publications, research and professional experience to Professor Edmund G. Henneke, Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics (0219), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061.

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Senior Vice President and Provost's Office. Director of**

**Institutional Research and Planning Analysis.** Virginia Tech seeks an experienced professional for this position. The Office of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis (IRPA), which consists of six professional-level associates, conducts research on institutional and educational subjects to inform senior administrative staff on trends and projection within the university, across higher education in Virginia, and in higher education generally. The office advises senior administrators on compliance with university, state, and federal reporting requirements. The director reports to the associate provost for academic planning, resources, and space. Duties: Provide leadership and vision for the collection, analysis, interpretation, use, and dissemination of university data; manage the IRPA office, including faculty and support staff members, and graduate assistants; coordinate and supervise the preparation of reports, including many routine internal and external data reports; determine, jointly with the associate provost for academic planning, resources, and space, what information is relevant for planning and decision-making on major issues and strategic planning; work with administrative information systems to achieve compatibility of systems and consistency of data; coordinate the flow of key information among units of the university; initiate and conduct studies to show implications and consequences of existing and proposed policies; and respond to internal and external requests for institutional data. Requirements: The successful candidate must have documented education and experience to lead institutional research at a research I university, sophisticated understanding of academic programs, strong institutional-research skills, and current knowledge of information technology relevant to university data collection. As leader of a key service office, s/he must possess the ability to build a team within the office, to communicate with many constituents, and to explain conclusions drawn from complex data. A Ph.D. in a relevant

research field is required. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. Anticipated starting date is July 1, 1999. To apply, submit a cover letter that addresses qualifications for, and interest in, the position along with three authored research reports, a comprehensive CV, and contact information for three references to Dixon Hanna, Associate Provost, Search Committee for IRPA Director, 129 Smyth Hall (0433), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061. Review begins May 1 and continues until a successful applicant is found.

**Undergraduate Admissions. Assistant Director.** The ideal candidate will be highly motivated, goal oriented, attentive to detail, well organized, able to manage multiple priorities, and work well under pressure. Additional requirements include a demonstrated ability to work with a wide range of constituencies and a willingness to work a schedule that includes frequent evenings, weekends, and holidays. Extensive overnight travel will also be required. A sense of humor is desirable. The successful candidate will have excellent oral and written communication skills and be comfortable speaking before large groups of people. The candidate should have experience in either college admissions or academic counseling. Experience guiding high-school students in post-secondary planning is preferred. Experience in program planning, organization, management, and personal computer usage is a plus. A master's degree or bachelor's degree with three-plus years related experience is required. The ability to lift 30 pounds and a valid driver's license is required. Employment in this job is currently restricted to two years and will be renewed annually. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Preferred starting date: May 25. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 1999 or until the position is filled. Submit a letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references to Lynda Bailey, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, 104 Burruss Hall (0202), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061.

## Markham goes on line to research Internet book

By Sally Harris

Annette N. Markham felt as if she were in the dark when she decided to go on line to try to understand people who spend a great deal of time in virtual space. She had no idea what she might find there. As a result, her book *Life Online* can serve as an eye opener to the uninitiated as well as an in-depth sociological study.

Markham, assistant professor of communication studies, conducted her ethnography of cyberspace by using chat rooms and other virtual spaces to meet on-line users and to conduct synchronous interviews by computer. She met many people who thought nothing of spending as much as 16 hours a day on line. She talked to students, professionals, hackers and an on-line personality who let Markham use her own virtual room in which to do her interviews. She toured virtual places with virtual people, opening doors to find others "sleeping" or "standing" in virtual rooms. She played frisbee on line.

Markham, who earned a Ph.D. at Purdue University in organizational communication, went on line to conduct this ethnography because she "wanted to learn how heavy users make sense of their on-line experiences. The popular press talks a lot about Internet addiction," she said. "I wanted to know what it felt like from the user's perspective."

To fully engage the context of her study, Markham spent a great deal of time on line, interacting with users and learning their language. She lost herself in on-line life so much that she wondered if it was as real as her life in her physical body. "When I spend a lot of time in disembodied spaces, I forget my body," she wrote. "Often I don't remember it until the physical pain is extreme, and then I resent my body's intrusion on my life on line, and my on-line life's impact on my body."

Markham details the process of doing research in virtual contexts and also presents the dialogues of several interviews to illustrate how these users frame their experiences on line. The interviewees conceptualized the Internet in many different ways, from a tool with which to communicate to a real place to exist to a way of being with others.

Some of them separated their "real" selves from their on-line selves, but others saw their Internet personality as an extension of their bodily personality. Some saw the computer as a way to get closer to others, even as others saw it as a constant reminder that they were not with the person joining them in conversation. While some used it to reach out and touch other people, some used it to limit others' access to themselves physically and psychologically.

While on-line communities gave some people a support they needed, Markham ultimately discovered that "an on-line hug can satisfy for only so long" and that even the most constant users of the Internet felt the need to rejoin life off line at times.

She discovered that on-line people were not always who she thought they were. For example, when she conversed with one person, she assumed by the language and reactions that she was talking to a female; but the person later identified himself as a male. Markham had no way to verify either as a more valid label. She, too, could project different aspects of herself on line. "Once I engaged in conversations on-line, I realized I could act out a number of personalities," she said. "Every time I described myself differently, others responded to me in particular ways, based on innumerable stereotypes and preconceptions."

If she logged on as Annette, she said, "I was often called and pestered by self-described male users wanting me to talk dirty with them,

or wanting to know what I looked like and if I had the capacity to transmit audio or, preferably, video. When I logged in as Markham, many users mistook me for a male. Once, after working up my nerve for several hours, I logged into an IRC (Internet Relay Chat) as 'Bambi.' Within two minutes, I had several requests for private conversations." One of those requests simply asked, "wanna cybersex?"

Markham began to question truth. "Truth is an elusive term in any context," she wrote. "However, because truth is always tentative on line, it doesn't make sense to dwell on it too much. It's really more about faith and acceptance."

Knowing that her own feelings about the Internet affected the way she asked questions, she also realized that the answers she received began to change the questions, her methods, and the project as a whole. It was a project in which she was both researcher and participant. The result is a book that discusses research methodology as much as the study itself and gives a picture not only of the veterans on line, but also of Markham as a novice participant. It allows the reader to see virtual life from many perspectives.

As for the future of the "technological whirlwind" that allows such interaction and probably will develop more and more ways of connecting without actually being connected, Markham said she has few answers. "I think the Internet is both blown completely out of proportion and completely underestimated regarding its capacity to change us and our world," she said. "I don't think it will take away our humanity, but I think it has the capacity to take us away from a grounded, bound-to-the-earth sort of understanding of what it means to live a full and healthy life.... As much as technology connects us, it also isolates us, with or without on-line

(See MARKHAM on 8)

## Denton to receive outreach award

By Sally Harris

Robert Denton will receive the Southern States Communication Association's 1999 Outreach Award April 10 during the annual convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Denton holds the W. Thomas Rice Chair and is professor of communication studies and director of the Center for Leader Development at Virginia Tech. The award is "to honor SSCA members who have made a significant contribution to the profession by facilitating the success of underrepresented populations in communication." Denton will be recognized for his work mentoring young scholars and publishing the work of women in his Praeger series and in edited volumes.

Andrew King, chair of the Department of Speech Communication at Louisiana State University and chair of the SSCA Awards Committee, said Denton has encouraged people and brought people into the organization who previously had not been a part of it. "He nurtures new members," King said, adding that Denton guides them to particular meetings and encourages them to run for office. Many of those people now hold offices in the organization, he said. Denton received more letters supporting his nomination than all other candidates combined, King said. Members of the SSCA nominate members for the award and then other members can write letters supporting the nomination. "He's kind and welcoming to people," King said.

Denton specializes in the presidency and political campaigns in his own research. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 11 books, including *The Prime Time Presidency of Ronald*

(See DENTON on 8)

## SCHMIDT

Continued from 1

He grew up in Blacksburg and his father was a professor in the economics department.

During the spring convocation, some 3,000 to 4,000 students will receive their bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees. The university also holds a fall Commencement.

Schmidt came to Novell from Sun Microsystems where he was chief technology officer. In his 14 years at Sun, he was recognized as an Internet pioneer. He was instrumental in

the widespread acceptance of Java, Sun's platform-independent programming language.

Before joining Sun, Schmidt was a member of the research staff at the Computer Science Lab at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. He also held positions with Bell Laboratories and Zilog.

Schmidt has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Princeton University, a master's degree in electrical engineering, and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of California at Berkeley.

## DERC

Continued from 3

*Solve it Together: Introduction to Conflict Resolution Skills*, no cost, offered in Richmond May 4, 9 a.m.-noon; and Lynchburg, May 26, 9 a.m.-noon.

*The Grievance Procedure and You* will be offered at no cost in Richmond, April 29, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

*Presenting Your Case at Hearing*, no cost, will be given at Richmond, May 6, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

*Basic Mediation Training* is a three-day course and costs \$220. It will be offered in Richmond, March 31-April 2, 8:30 a.m.-4:30

p.m.

*Solve it Together: Mediation Techniques* is a one-day course costing \$65. It will be offered in Richmond, May 18, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Another one-day course is *Advanced Mediation Training*, which costs \$65. The course will also be in Richmond, April 14, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## STOKES

Continued from 1

one overall NBA draft pick Tim Duncan, and NBA first-round picks Randolph Childress and Rodney Rogers, all of Wake Forest. In addition, Stokes also recruited McDonald's All-American center Loren Woods and 1997-98 ACC Freshman of the Year Robert O'Kelley to Wake Forest.

Stokes went to Texas after working at his alma mater under his former college teammate Jeff Jones during the 1997-98 season. Before his time at Virginia, Stokes spent eight seasons building Wake Forest into a national power.

He joined first-year coach Dave Odom's staff at Wake before the 1989-90 season. In Stokes' eight years at Wake Forest, the Deacons advanced to the NCAA Tournament seven times.

"During the eight years that he was at Wake Forest, nobody contributed more to the success of our basketball program than Ricky Stokes," said Dave Odom, Wake Forest head coach. "Early in that period when we needed players, he worked tirelessly to find those who could be successful academically and athletically. But as our program matured, he

developed into an all-purpose coach who brought much more to the table than just an ability to recruit."

Stokes began his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at Virginia during the 1984-85 season. After one year, he entered the business world for two years. He stayed involved in coaching as an assistant at his high school alma mater, while earning his master's degree in counselor education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1988. Stokes then joined the staff of former Virginia assistant Jim Larranaga at Bowling Green for the 1988-89 season.

Stokes played point guard for UVa's Final Four team as a freshman in 1979-80. The Cavaliers advanced to the NCAA Tournament in each of Stokes' four seasons.

Stokes served as co-captain of the 1983-84 team and earned the Virginia Basketball Leadership Award. Nationally, he was honored with the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, which is presented annually to the country's finest player under six-foot-tall.

Stokes graduated from Virginia in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

## RECYCLING

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schedule, and will respond to special pickup requests in a timely manner, as before. In addition, VTR will pick up glossy magazines and catalogues in quantities of at least 50 pounds upon request. A special compartment for campus community deposit of GMC is located at the Derring loading dock. (Look for the long maroon container with VTR labels.)

White Paper includes photocopy paper, letterhead paper, notebook paper, computer paper, stationery, and opscan forms. Newspaper includes news pages, glossy inserts, and comic pages. Glossy magazines and catalogues includes all magazines and catalogues with glossy pages.

Deskside paper recycling boxes, "stackable" bins for office areas, and slim-jim receptacles for bottles and cans are available upon request. For more information, or comments, contact the VTR office, at 1-9915 or e-mail [lbechtel@vt.edu](mailto:lbechtel@vt.edu).

## GRANTS

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the regular lecture classes, and the percent of students receiving grades of A, B, or C was 78 percent and 77 percent compared with 63 percent in the normal lecture class. Similar results were reported for Chem1036.

"A unique aspect of this project is the use of undergraduates as facilitators for the problem-solving sessions," Amateis said. "In fact, a bonus has been the opportunity to train the facilitators in teaching." She said many of them had expressed an interest in public-school education.

"When the university implemented the new academic eligibility policy, it didn't just raise the bar for students," Ford said. "It provided the means to help them clear it, and that is exactly what they are doing. It was a very proactive approach."

The deadline for submission for the next round of Student Success grant proposals is April 15. Recipients will be announced by May 15. For more information, or to receive a copy of a previous project proposal, contact Elaine Humphrey at [elaine@vt.edu](mailto:elaine@vt.edu).

## OBITUARY

## Dana J. Johnson, 49

By Sookhan Ho

Dana J. Johnson, 49, former professor of finance, died February 19 at her home in Newark, Del., after a brief illness.

Johnson earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Kent State University. She was a faculty member at Virginia Tech from 1976 to 1992, when she left to become the business dean at Wake Forest University. She later moved to head the University of Delaware's business school.

At Pamplin, Johnson directed the MBA program in 1982-84, and started the MBA Alumni Association. In addition to being a productive researcher, Johnson served on numerous college and university committees, taught continuing-education workshops and seminars, and advised finance and MBA student groups. A popular teacher, Johnson received several college and university awards for teaching excellence.

## Zimbabwe poet visiting campus this semester

By Sally Harris

Musaemura Zimunya, a poet and academic from the University of Zimbabwe, is visiting Virginia Tech for the Spring 1999 semester.

Zimunya is teaching in black studies and in English. He will also give readings, which will be announced later, work with public schools in Blacksburg and Giles County, and serve as a curricular consultant for black studies.

Zimunya has published five books of poetry and one volume of short fiction. He has been included as one of the new voices in African poetry in a recent article in *Research in African Literatures*, one of the most prominent U.S. journals. Zimunya is the subject of "The Poetry of Musaemura Zimunya" included in Heinemann's *New Writing from Southern Africa*. A 1992 collection, *Talking with African Writers*, contains a long interview with him.

He has been teaching at the University of Zimbabwe since 1981. He was chairman of the Department of English for three years and now serves as chair of theatre arts. He has been a visiting professor in the U.S. at the University of Washington, Macalaster College, and Lawrence University.

Fred Carlisle, interim director of black studies, said: "Zimunya brings to Virginia Tech an important perspective on African arts, culture, and politics. Africa has long had cultural and artistic importance for the West. It has played an important part in 20th-century history as one party in the dynamic between the West and colonized peoples. Its current political significance for the U.S. has been increasing. Its arts, literatures, and cinema are steadily gaining international presence and prestige. Zimunya will be a valuable teacher and resource for the students, and the faculty and staff members of the university."

Zimunya's visit is hosted by the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, the Department of English, and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

## IN OTHER NEWS

## Molecular modeling expands chemistry students' experiences

By Susan Trulove

How do university chemistry departments teach today's students more without adding a class or diluting current offerings? Virginia Tech graduate student Elizabeth Bullock and her major professor Karen J. Brewer, along with postdoctoral associate Michael Jordan, are seeking an answer to that challenge using computers to help students understand the properties of molecules—"but not just as an isolated computer experiences," Brewer said.

The students are introduced to specific molecules and explore their characteristics on the computer, then make the actual compounds in the laboratory and compare the results with the computer model. "We use the web and hyperlinked tutorials in the lab as well as the classroom," Brewer said. "The computer is important but the lessons mean more if they are not isolated computer exercises."

Bullock and Brewer began to use molecular modeling two years ago with senior chemistry majors in inorganic chemistry,

"Then Professors James Tanko and Harry Gibson expressed interest in our assistance to expand to larger sections of organic chemistry for sophomores," Brewer said.

Bullock took a graduate course in educational research and designed an evaluation tool for the instructional technique.

"The students love it," says Brewer. "It is one of the most positive student response I've ever had."

What the students like is the freedom to explore their own interests. "Projects differ from student to student and they work much harder on these experiments. The students get new modeling results and often make compounds no one has ever made before."

Molecular modeling in the undergraduate courses began as a somewhat structured set of exercises, but evolved to a more student-driven learning tool as the students worked at a more advanced level than anticipated.

After the first year, Bullock received a DuPont Fellowship to teach courses in

molecular modeling to students and faculty members at Sweet Briar College, where she saw her students use the modeling not only in the weekly exercises she assigned, but in their biochemistry and biology labs.

Bullock presented a paper on "Incorporation and evaluation of molecular modeling as a component of the undergraduate curriculum," at the 217th American Chemical Society (ACS) national meeting in Anaheim March 24. She described the results of her evaluations at Virginia Tech and Sweet Briar and related how to extend molecular modeling as a lab teaching tool in different areas of chemistry and chemical systems. The paper by Bullock, Jordan, and Brewer was part of the ACS chemical-education-division seminar on molecular modeling in the classroom. The work is funded by the National Science Foundation (DUE-9750680) and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Virginia Tech.

## MARKHAM

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forms of communication. This has serious implications for traditional notions of community, family, and the environment, but it isn't the technology that does it to us. We engage it. We live it. We use it. We choose."

In the book's foreword, William K. Rawlins of Purdue University says the book, subtitled *Researching Real Experience in Virtual Space*, "raises numerous personal, practical, ethical, and philosophical issues concerning being with others...." It is, however, he said, "energetic and funny," "written with a sense of humor and fallibility, a sense of anguish and limitation." "I should warn you," Rawlins said, "that this is not an easy book to put down. It grabs you, involves you, and intellectually engages you.... It lives."

## DENTON

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Reagan (author), *Political Communication in America* (co-author), *Presidential Communication* (co-author), *Ethical Dimensions of Political Communication* (editor), *The Media and the Persian Gulf War* (editor), *The 1992 Presidential Campaign: A Communication Perspective* (editor), *The Emerging Clinton Presidency: A Communication Perspective* (co-editor) and *The 1996 Presidential Campaign: A Communication Perspective* (editor). He is host of "At Issue With Bob Denton" on WBRA, the PBS station in Roanoke.

## Equine acupuncture program introduced

Jeffrey S. Douglas

An equine acupuncture program has been introduced in Virginia-Maryland Regior College of Veterinary Medicine Harry T. Peters, Jr. Large Animal Clinic.

Acupuncture can be a useful diagnostic and therapeutic approach for dealing a variety of equine health disorders, according to Mark Crisman, associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

Crisman, who has completed training and is in the process of obtaining formal certification from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society, says there is growing interest among clients in the use of "alternative" veterinary therapies, just as there is in human medicine.

"I use acupuncture as an additional tool," said Crisman, a board-certified diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. "We're not saying this approach is better than stethoscopes and endoscopes. But we do think there is a time and a place for it."

It makes sense to consider the merits of a therapeutic approach thousands of years in development, Crisman said, particularly in cases that respond poorly to conventional surgical and medical management.

Nationally, acupuncture is commonly used to manage musculo-skeletal problems afflicting



performance horses, he says, though it is also a useful approach for managing a variety of other disorders.

Crisman deals with both orthopedic and soft-tissue problems in the cases he manages with acupuncture. He is using it on about a case a week.

In treating a case, Crisman might use between one and 30 strategically placed needles to redirect energy flows among well-documented energy meridians. Altering those patterns can frequently restore the patient to health, Crisman said.

"The whole theory of acupuncture is based upon an eastern philosophy of energy flow through meridians or channels," Crisman said. "In the 'Eastern' approach to medicine, everything is very circular and connected, as opposed to western medicine which is very linear approach including clinical signs, diagnostics and treatments."

## ENROLLMENT

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in response."

Virginia Tech's innovative Graduate Program in Information Technology, unveiled last fall, enrolled 74 students this spring. The program is the first in the region to be offered in a module format, and is comprised of courses from the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering. The program's six modules are computer engineering, networking, software development, communications, business-information systems, and decision-support systems. Each module will be updated regularly to reflect industry changes.

The program's modules are divided into 1.5-semester unit increments. Upon completion of a module, a student earns a post-baccalaureate certificate. A student wishing to pursue a master's degree would need to complete three of the six modules along with other preparatory and project work for a total of 30 semester hours.

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