

SPECTRUM



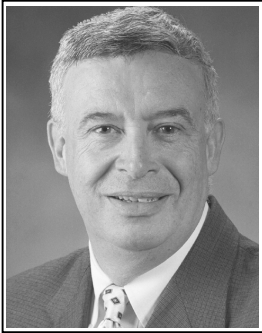
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

<http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/>

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 6 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999

TODAY'S EDITION
Spectrum's URL is now
<http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/>

Barrett named director of Virginia Cooperative Extension



BARRETT

By Stewart MacInnis
The agents and specialists of Virginia Cooperative Extension will continue to find new ways to support the educational needs of Virginians in the rapidly changing, fast-paced world of the 21st Century, said J. David Barrett, newly appointed director of the agency.

"This organization has developed an ability and a flexibility to meet society's needs as it adapted itself to the evolving trends of Virginia during the past decade," Barrett said. "This flexibility and positive outlook will be important assets as we focus on the changing needs of our citizens, communities and industries."

Barrett has served as interim director of the state-wide agency since January, when a nation-wide search for a permanent director was launched. He succeeds C. Clark Jones,

who became Virginia Tech's vice provost for outreach. Jones is credited with inaugurating a restructuring of Extension following several years of state budget cuts.

"Dave has certainly impressed the entire system that he can handle the job" since taking the position on an interim basis, said Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Obviously, he is well-acquainted with the system, having served Extension for many years in a variety of positions. We all look forward to a period of programmatic growth and administrative stability under Dave's leadership for many years to come."

Peggy Meszaros, provost and senior vice president, also praised him. "Dr. Barrett brings the qualities necessary to preserve and enhance the relevance of Extension in Virginia today and in the future," she said. "His experience in

Extension, his leadership ability, and his knowledge of the issues and personalities important to Extension will allow him to build on the successes of the organization in recent years."

Barrett, a 26-year veteran of the agency, began his Extension career as a 4-H agent in Russell County in 1973. He has served as a 4-H program leader in a multi-county district, as director of a multi-county district, as a 4-H Extension specialist, as Extension's assistant director for 4-H, as an assistant to the director of Extension, and as the agency's associate director of field operations.

Barrett earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from Virginia Tech. He earned a doctorate in cooperative extension education and administration from Ohio State University.

AOE, physics, and psychology named exemplary departments

By Catherine Doss

The departments of aerospace and ocean engineering, physics, and psychology have been named 1999 Exemplary Departments for their excellence in effectively linking research with teaching, with particular emphasis on innovative undergraduate programs.

"These three departments have demonstrated superior efforts in incorporating research into undergraduate teaching," said Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy S. Meszaros. "We want to publicly honor them for sustaining a truly excellent academic environment."

The Exemplary Department Awards were initiated by the Office of the Provost in 1994 as a means of encouraging and rewarding departmental excellence in various areas such as academic advising, collaboration, and effective management of faculty resources. The awards of \$10,000 (two awards) and \$20,000 are given annually.

A ceremony recognizing the award recipients will be held Wednesday, October 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the German Club.

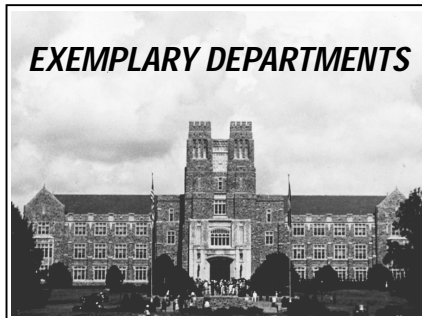
Aerospace and Ocean Engineering

The Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (AOE) has a tradition of making undergraduates the beneficiaries of research. All AOE faculty members conduct research as well as teach and advise undergraduates, a practice that has led to the creation of courses and projects that involve students in top-level research.

"AOE faculty members have proven repeatedly that their research activity translates directly into improved classroom instruction and curriculum relevance," said AOE's Assistant Department Head Jim Marchman. Three elective undergraduate courses—Engineering Design Optimization, Aircraft Configuration Design, and Aero-

space Manufacturing—evolved from research conducted in AOE's Multidisciplinary Analysis and Design Center for Advanced Vehicles. Other AOE faculty research has resulted in courses in Computer Aided Control System Design, Applied Computational Aerodynamics, Special Topics in Vehicle Performance, and several other special study classes.

Marchman said AOE uses all of its re-



EXEMPLARY DEPARTMENTS

search facilities for both research and teaching. Undergraduates conduct lab experiments in the Stability Wind Tunnel, a multi-million-dollar facility used by faculty members for research and contract work for NASA and industry, and the Flight Simulation Lab.

Physics

Within the mission statement of the Department of Physics is the assertion that "research in a university physics department plays a direct role in the education of undergraduate students...Indeed, research forms the foundation upon which all higher education in the sciences rests." The department's award recognizes the degree to which it actually implements the conviction laid out in this mission statement.

"We are of course very honored to receive this award," said Lay Nam Chang, physics department chair. "I'm pleased to represent a

group of hard-working people who care very deeply about advancing the science of physics as well as sharing the efforts of their research with our students.

Chang said physics majors benefited from the department's integration of teaching and research in a variety of ways.

First, they are exposed to hands-on experiences of working with experimental apparatus and analytical tools at a relatively early stage. Second, those who start research early have the chance to work in a number of different areas before they graduate, which in turn helps them make a mature, informed decision about their choice of graduate studies or corporate employment.

In addition, working under the auspices of the Research Experience for Undergraduates program, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), students receive funding that helps them meet the costs of education. Finally, the research work they do enables them to create a varied and sophisticated résumé as they apply for graduate studies.

Physics majors praise the department's enriching undergraduate research programs. Chang relates this to the fact that professors bear the burden of teaching an increased number of sections with fewer students in each to get to know the students better.

"I believe the 'scientist-in-training' approach that forms the physics department's philosophy of teaching is the reason we are recognized as a 1999 Exemplary Department," Chang said.

Psychology

The Department of Psychology was the third department recognized. "All faculty members in psychology value the integration of research and teaching," said department Chair Jack W. Finney. "Through our courses and research activities, students are taught the value of the scientific method and its application to the problem solving and critical thinking for a vari-

(See AOE on 3)

CAS names new administrators

By Sally Harris

Robert Bates, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has announced the appointment of several heads or directors of departments and programs.

The newest assistant director of alumni relations, Mara K. Barker, is also the first member of the Alumni Staff to be assigned to the College of Arts and Sciences. Barker will work with the college departments to foster, cultivate, and develop alumni contacts, ties, and loyalties through special events, reunions, and other activities related to specific departments and the college as a whole. Barker will also represent Virginia Tech as the liaison to several alumni chapters in Southwest and Southside Virginia and Texas.

Barker received her B.A. in music education in 1991 and an M.F.A. in arts administration in 1998. Before her return to Virginia Tech, Barker was the sponsorship and program director at Roanoke Festival in the Park.

Associate Dean Ellie Sturgis is serving as acting head of the Department of
(See CAS on 4)

Featured This Week in Electronic Spectrum

GTA training program continues to grow

By Susan Trulove

A total of 366 students—one fewer than last year—attended the ninth annual Graduate School's GTA (graduate-teaching-assistant) Workshop, according to Don McKeon, director of ESL/GTA training.

"We were particularly surprised at the attendance and completion rate because, since we had to move to a smaller area this year, we had asked departments to send

(See FEATURED on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 1

Last Day to Drop Classes.
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Saturday, 2

Football, 6 p.m.: at Virginia.
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Sunday, 3

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Flat Peter Loop.
Student Ensemble, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Early Music Ensemble.
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Monday, 4

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Adobe PageMaker 6.5, Part I.
University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

Tuesday, 5

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon, NMC, Newman Library: Using MacroMedia's Dreamweaver.
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Wednesday, 6

Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DBHCC.
Faculty Development Workshop, noon-1 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Digital Discourse.
CEUT, 3-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest dining room: "Student's Oral Communications."

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Overview of Tools.

Book Reading, Signing, 7 p.m., Volume Two Bookstore: Steve Yarborough.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA
TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Thursday, 7

Faculty Development Workshop, 3-5 p.m., NMC, Newman Library: Distance and Distributed Learning.

Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC conference room C: Barbara Seals, Lewis-Gale.

CEUT, 12:30-2 p.m., Hillcrest dining room: Preparation for Teaching.

CSTS Lunch Discussion Series: 12:30-1:30 p.m., 132 Lane.

Best Practices Dialogue, 3:45-5 p.m., Montgomery County Library: Fred Morton, Montgomery County Schools.

Hispanic Heritage Program, 7 p.m., Squires Multicultural Center: Joseph Scarpaci.

VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: *Anything Goes.*

TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

Friday, 8

TA-UT Production, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre:
American Gothic.

SEMINARS

Friday, 1

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Kenneth G. Caulton, Indiana.

MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Xiang-Jin Meng.

Biology, 3:30 p.m., 1076 Derring: Louis Guillette, Florida.

Communication Studies, 3:30 p.m., 1810 Litton Reaves: Nancy Craig Simmons.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whittemore: P. Johnson.

Monday, 4

Biomedical Engineering, 3-4 p.m., 114 Holden: Martin Lenhardt, VCU.

Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Frank Loewus, Washington State.

CSES, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: Alexandria Graves.

Horticulture, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: Tim Mack.

Wednesday, 6

PPWS, 4 p.m., 102 Fralin: Peter Sforza.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 5:15 p.m., 300 Whittemore: S. Busquets-Monge.

Thursday, 7

Entomology, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Henry Bauer.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 654 Whittemore: L. Ferrari.

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Patricia Kelley, UNCW.

Friday, 8

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Martin E. Newcomb, Wayne State.

Materials Science/Engineering, 3 p.m., 114 Holden: Speaker TBA.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Joseph Scott and Sharon Broadwater, William and Mary.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 1 p.m., 261 NEB: TBA.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whittemore: Y. Rachlin.

Best practices dialogue scheduled

Fred Morton, superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools, will lead a discussion of the critical issues to be considered when matching college students with children and youth in tutoring and mentoring relationships. The event will be Thursday, Oct. 7, from 3:45-5 p.m., in the StoryTime Room at Blacksburg Public Library. For more information or to register, contact Michele James-Deramo at 1-6947.

Graduate Fair Tuesday in Squires

The Virginia Tech Graduate Student Assembly is sponsoring Graduate and Professional School Day 1999 for undergraduate and graduate students on Tuesday, Oct. 12, in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Approximately 75 universities and Virginia Tech departments will be represented and will provide students with information regarding graduate programs in areas such as medicine/health, business, and engineering. A few of the universities already registered include Wake Forest University, the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, University of

BULLETINS

Virginia, University of Maryland, Pennsylvania State University, and Dickinson School of Law.

There is no admission charge. For more information, call the Graduate Student Assembly at 1-7919 or e-mail gspaula@vt.edu

Teleast looks at food world wide

World Food Day Telecast "Tomorrow's Farmers: An Uncertain Future" will be featured from noon to 1 p.m., Friday Oct. 15, at the Cranwell International Center. The public is welcome to attend.

CEUT workshop focuses on communication

Marlene Preston will present "Students' Oral Communication: Building Life-Long Skills," on Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 3-4:30 p.m. in Hillcrest dining room.

This session will address several issues related to the incorporation of oral communication into teaching a course. To

register, go to <http://www.ceut.vt.edu>, or e-mail ceut@vt.edu, or call 1-4254.

Italian professor to speak

Aurelio Galfetti, professor and director of *Accademia di Architettura, Università della Svizzera Italiana*, will present a lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. in Hancock Hall. Both a practicing architect and an academic, Galfetti will speak on his work, with a special emphasis on his most recent projects. The public is invited to attend.

Majors Fair announced

A majors fair for undergraduates will be held Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. The event is an opportunity for undergraduates to talk with faculty members and students in different colleges and departments to learn more about various majors offered at Virginia Tech.

The fair is sponsored by the Biological Sciences Initiative advising office and the University Academic Advising Center. For more information, call 1-3890.

University continues 'Focus on Greater China'

By Catherine Doss

The Focus on Greater China series that began last spring continues this fall with a variety of events, including conversations in Chinese, a monthly film festival, a Chinese New Year celebration, and relevant lectures and exhibits.

"It's all part of our effort to internationalize the university experience as stated in the Academic Agenda," said Dave Britt, associate director for international education in the University Office of International Programs (UOIP).

Greater China has been UOIP's first focal area, and after establishing this new program area, the university will focus on a different country each year. "China was selected as the first region of focus because the majority of our international students are Chinese," Britt said.

Events planned for this fall include the following:

"Let's Talk Chinese," a weekly conversation hour held Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cranwell Center.

Chinese Film Series runs monthly in Haymarket Theater. Live discussions follow the films, and web forums are available to continue the discussion.

Lecture: Professors, Pu Mou, assistant professor of forestry, and Robert Youngs, professor emeritus of wood science and forest products, will share their perspectives on Taiwan and China. The forum will be held Thursday, October 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the DBHCC.

Forum: Robert Chiang, professor emeritus of architecture and Jim Littlefield, professor of marketing, will lead an open forum on "China

after the Return of Hong Kong" on Thursday, November 18. Time and place TBA.

Exhibits: A special exhibit of Chinese folk art and artifacts will be displayed in Special Collections in Newman Library starting Friday, Oct. 1. "A Glimpse of Greater China" will appear in the display case at Squires Student Center October 13-26.

Essay Contest: Faculty members in all colleges are encouraged to invite students to submit term papers discussing the international dimension of a particular course, specifically the Chinese connection. The most outstanding papers will be published in a proceeding by UOIP. Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19.

For more information, contact I-Mo Fu at 1-9594, or by e-mail at imo@vt.edu, or <http://fbox.vt.edu:10021/international>.

Tech to host VIDA institute

By Catherine Doss

More than 40 economic-development professionals representing 13 counties, cities, and towns across the state will attend the fifth annual Virginia Industrial Development Authority Institute October 11-12 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The event is hosted by Virginia Tech's Economic Development Assistance Center (EDAC) in cooperation with the Division of Continuing Education.

The program will feature presentations by leading professionals in the areas of engineering, planning, architecture, law, business assistance, and economic and international development.

"The institute provides a unique
(See TECH on 3)

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 "V" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline.

Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

Full Time

Animal Care Technician B, 2974J, Grade 5, Veterinarian/ Animal Resources.

Benefits Analyst (Personnel Practices Analyst Senior), 2168T, Grade 12, Personnel Services.

Building/Grounds Supervisor B, 0867H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities/ Services.

Database/Web Designer, 7510D, Grade, CNS.

Fire Safety Engineer, 7488T, Grade 12, Environmental Health/Safety Services.

Fiscal Assistant, 2224H, Grade 5, Residential/Dining Programs/Business Services.

Ten full-time food-operations positions available; five part-time.

Graphic Designer, 2076D, Grade 9, Publications/University Relations.

Housekeeping Worker, 630S, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 1630G, Grade 1,

DBHCC.

Human Resources Manager (Personnel Practices Manager), 2502T, Grade 15, Personnel Services.

Laboratory Specialist, 7245M, Grade 8, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist, 4478M, Grade 8, Animal/Poultry Sciences.

Laboratory Specialist, 3428M, Grade 8, Veterinary Medicine.

Mechanical Engineer Senior, 7503P, Grade 13, Physical Plant-Utilities.

Office Services Assistant, 2527C, Grade 4, Controller's Office.

Office Services Specialist, 1028T, Grade 5, English.

Office Services Specialist, 1987C, Grade 5, CNS.

Office Services Supervisor, 692C, Grade 6, CNS.

Parking Services Manager (Business Manager B), 7079T, Grade 12, Parking Services.

Pharmacy Supervisor, 6516M, Grade 15, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Photocopy Technician, 2199M, Grade 4, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Police Officer, P02003T, Grade, Police Department.

Program Support Technician, 1284M, Grade 6, Entomology.

Programmer/Analyst, 2917D, Grade 12, Computing Center.

Programmer/Analyst, 7426D, Grade 12, Educational Technologies.

Public Relations Specialist, 7504G, Grade 10, Institute for Distance/Distributed Learning.

Research Specialist, 7506M, Grade 8, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

Television/Video Producer/Director Senior, 2324D, Grade 12, University Relations.

Television/Video Producer/Director, 5362D, Grade 10, University Relations.

Part Time

Fiscal Assistant, W022460M, Grade 5, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Fiscal Technician Senior, 1880H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Business Services.

Housekeeping Lead Worker (Trades Helper), W022081H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs/Culinary Services Maintenance Crew.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, Donaldson Brown Hotel/ Conference.

Laboratory Mechanic A, W022889T, Grade 4, University Registrar.

Laboratory Specialist, W022894M, Grade 8, College of Veterinary Medicine-Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology.

Office Services Assistant, W022103T, Grade 4, Motor Pool.

Office Services Specialist, W020106M, Grade 5, Entomology.

Office Services Specialist (Night Auditor), W022904G, Grade 5, DBHCC.

Program Support Technician, 7344T, Grade 6, Mathematics.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238G, Grade 9, Schiffrt Health Center.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, Grade 7, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Security Guard (Dorm Watch), W020470T, Grade 2, Police.

Tv/Video Production Specialist, W022907J, Grade 9, Athletics.

University Only

Laboratory Specialist, UW022908M, Grade 8, Dairy Science.

Office Services Specialist, U1438G, Grade 5, Schiffrt Health Center.

Police Investigator, U7514T, Grade 9, Police Department.

Off Campus

Distance Learning Specialist, 7410D, Grade 12, Office of Distance Education.

Research Specialist, 7512M, Grade 8, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

Research Specialist, 7513M, Grade 8, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Family and Consumer Sciences. Contact: John Dooley, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson Hall (0437). Review begins November 1, and continues until position filled.

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Position Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson Hall (0437). Review begins November 1, and continues until position filled.

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development. Contact: John Dooley, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson Hall (0437). Review begins November 1, and continues until position filled.

Complete information regarding faculty positions is available at <http://www.vt.edu:10021/admin/eoaa/index.html>.

Training programs set for supervisors

Personnel Services is offering training programs for supervisors to assist in writing new performance plans for next year and to manage the performance of their employees throughout the upcoming cycle.

Planning and Managing Employee Performance, October 14. Strategies for planning and managing employee performance will be discussed. Participants will share their experiences in managing employee performance, be introduced to the revised Position and Performance Activity Form p112, learn to develop written descriptions of work tasks and performance expectations, learn to use tools for moni-

toring, observing and documenting performance, and be introduced to effective methods for providing feedback to employees.

Coaching for Improved Performance, November 18. This workshop is designed to help managers and supervisors effectively handle employee performance issues that occur throughout the year. Several coaching and counseling techniques will be identified and discussed and participants will have an opportunity to practice and improve their coaching skills. The workshop will emphasize the importance of coaching and counseling to improve on-the-job performance and boost morale.

Participants at this workshop will clarify the integral role of coaching as part of a manager's

(See TRAINING on 4)

Nominations sought for award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2000 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 grade 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 questions about eligibility call Personnel Services at 1-7784.

Award recipients will receive a certifi-

cate and a \$2,000 award. The award will be publicized internally and externally.

Nominations can be made by any employee; self-nominations are not acceptable. All nominations must be submitted on an Award for Excellence nomination form which is available from deans, directors, or department heads, or may be downloaded from the Virginia Tech Intranet web page. Evaluation criteria and nomination guidelines are included with the nomination form.

Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, Nov. 12, to the President's Award for Excellence Committee, c/o Personnel Services, Southgate Center.

TECH

Continued from 2

opportunity for Virginia Industrial Development Authority members, government officials, and economic and community-development professionals to take part in an intensive program that provides application-based training," said Doug McAlister, executive director of Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs.

Participants will learn about the legal role and power of an Industrial Development Authority (IDA) in economic development, how to identify and market an industrial site, and how to measure economic impacts. Additional topics will include assistance programs, small-business incubators as economic-development tools, and financing structures for IDA projects.

Featured speakers include Tina Neal, senior vice president in the Richmond office of Ferris, Baker, and Watts, Inc.; John Sternlicht, director of community-relations policy and legislation for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership; David Hudgins, director of economic development for the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative; Chad Miller, economic-development specialist with Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs (PSP); and Rick Moorefield, economic-development specialist for community preparedness with PSP.

For more information, contact Moorefield at 1-6721 or by e-mail at richardm@vt.edu.

Virginia Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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AOE

Continued from 1

ety of careers. We are honored to be recognized for linking research with teaching."

One of the exemplary accomplishments of faculty members in psychology, Finney said in the letter to the awards committee, is "excellence in teaching guided by the scientist-practitioner model of scientific inquiry." Faculty members have won such awards as the Sporn, Wine, Research and Advising Excellence awards, and many Certificates of Teaching Excellence.

In a new program offering three to five senior seminars each semester, faculty members teach seminars on topics closely related to their research specialties. Through the seminars, students become "experts" in specialty topics such as parent-child relationships, gender issues, pediatric psychology, aggression and violence, clinical psychology, industrial safety, motivation in the workplace, art and creativity, and other topics, Finney said. Thus faculty members can highlight their own research and, at the same time, teach students about important issues in the profession and in society, he said.

Throughout courses in the department, students use research methods such as devising experiments, writing scientific papers, writing a

psycho-biography, and critiquing the methods used in research articles.

Beyond the classroom, undergraduates do actual research with professors as mentors. The research might involve library research, planning studies, collecting data from study participants, creating databases, analyzing data, and writing up the results of the research. Some may be co-authors of scholarly journal articles, published research abstracts, and presentations at professional conferences. Some students conduct honors theses. Those students most involved in the research are recognized with Research Awards at the department's annual commencement ceremony. The department also has a strong research component in its graduate program.

During summer 1999, the department began a summer research internship program for minority undergraduate students in conjunction with the Minority Academic Opportunities Program. "This is an example of the continuing focus on close involvement with undergraduate students and the value we place on the role of research in teaching," Finney said.

(Editor's note: For an expanded version of this article, see this week's edition of *Spectrum* on line at <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum>.)

CVC COACH**DIXON****CVC COACH OF THE WEEK**

This week's CVC coach is Vice President for Multicultural Affairs Ben Dixon. Ben is coaching us against in-state rival U.Va. and he encourages all Tech employees to dig deep to beat U.Va. in CVC contributions. Last year, they more than doubled our effort, raising \$385,587 to our \$191,101. But this year's a whole new ball game, and our goal is to beat them in participation.

FEATURED

Continued from 1
only GTA's and not GRA's," McKeon said.
Internet2 and life as we know it

By Susan Trulove

What is Internet2, how will it be used, who is paying for it, and what is Virginia Tech doing? A half-dozen speakers addressed these issues and more during "Internet2 Day" September 17, sponsored by the Internet Technology Innovation Center (ITIC). The day was part of ITIC's first week-long conference designed to enable internet enterprise in Virginia.

Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center Dedicated to Memory of Paul Mellon

By Netta Benton

Virginia Tech hosted a fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) in Middleburg last week.

Tech President Paul Torgersen unveiled a plaque as he dedicated the farm to the memory of its donor and patron, the late Paul Mellon. With Torgersen for the unveiling was Virginia Warner, Mellon's granddaughter.

To read the full version of these articles, refer to the on-line edition of *Spectrum* at <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/>.

TRAINING

Continued from 3

responsibilities, develop guidelines to prepare and conduct a coaching session, identify a coaching model, develop competencies in coaching employees, and share tools that aid in the coaching process.

Two sessions are offered for each program: 8:30 a.m.-noon, or 1-4:30 p.m. Interested supervisors should complete an open-enrollment form available on the Personnel Services web page at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/PS/forms/forms.html> or contact PERSERV@vt.edu or call 1-9331 to register. Administrators from off-campus sites may contact the human-resources consultant serving the specific college or vice-presidential area to arrange a special training session.

IN OTHER NEWS**Davis' research yields hope for breast-cancer treatment**

By Jean Elliott

October is breast cancer awareness month. To some, it's an annual ritual to be observed and supported. But there are also those like Virginia Tech's Barbara Davis, whose year-round vigilance and research is making strides in the quest for a better treatment.

Davis works in the molecular nutrition laboratory in Wallace Hall, a lab that she equipped with the aid of an ASPIRES grant two years ago. An assistant professor in human nutrition, foods and exercise, Davis' current research on breast-cancer cell growth is funded by a two-year Future Leaders Award from the International Life Sciences Institute.

Her study entails treating two types of breast-cancer cells with B6 in the presence or absence of estrogen. A steroid hormone produced by the ovaries, estrogen stimulates the growth of some breast cancers.

Preliminary research with B6 was conducted in 1980, and it was found to interfere with estrogen-sensitive growth. But there has been little follow-up in the area since then. Davis anticipated that B6 could be effective in treating estrogen-dependent cancer growth. After just a summer of research, however, she has established that B6 decreases cancer-cell growth in both the presence and absence of estrogen.

In fact, Davis' findings indicate a drastic reduction. In the presence of estrogen, high doses of B6 reduced cancer-cell growth by 37 percent while mega-doses of the vitamin-suppressed growth by 85 percent. In the absence of estrogen, the figures were 40 percent and 70 percent, respectively.

Another exciting aspect of her research included a time table—just how fast does cancerous-cell reduction occur? It happens within 24 hours; B6 inhibits growth and it happens quickly.

Though pleased with the results, Davis

warn that these findings in no way advocate massive over-the-counter B6 intake by individuals with cancer.

"The doses that we are working with at this time are not something that can be achieved by diet," said Davis. "The problem with B6 is that it can be toxic at high levels. People have been known to abuse it to treat carpal tunnel

syndrome and PMS, and it results in numbness and tingling in the fingers, indicating that nerves in the extremities are affected."

"I've always been interested in women's health issues," Davis said. "My mother's best friend died of breast cancer and I've always wanted to work and conduct research in this field."

Grant to fund mentoring project

Four members of the Office Managers Development Group (OMDG), Robin Atkins, Shelia Collins, Vickie Carroll and Carolyne Dudding under the direction of Dick Harshberger and Steve Van Aken, submitted an Affirmative Action Incentive Grant in April of 1999, titled: "Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees of Virginia Tech."

This grant was accepted and partially funded. It is co-sponsored by the Office Managers Development Group (OMDG), the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences (Dean and Staff Association), Person-

nel Services and University Leadership Development.

This project will provide a mechanism for newly placed minority classified employees within grades 5-7 to interact and learn from mentors in existing similar positions.

If renewed, a quick-reference handbook, including frequently used URL's, contacts for key departments, OMDG membership information, etc. is being designed.

Those who would like to see a copy of the grant proposal or are interested in learning more about it, may contact one of the above OMDG members.

OBITUARY**Samuel D. Morgan, 68**

Samuel D. Morgan, 68, an associate professor in the College of Human Resources and Education, died September 14.

A faculty member at Virginia Tech from 1972 until his retirement Sept. 1, 1999, Morgan's career began as program leader of the community-college program and became graduate coordinator of educational leadership and policy studies (ELPS).

"Sam was always a friend and mentor to

graduate students," said ELPS Department Head David Alexander, "even those who weren't his students."

Morgan conducted research and wrote articles for professional journals on community college administration and served on accreditation teams. He earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in education from North Carolina State University.

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Communication Studies. Sturgis became associate dean for instruction for the College of Arts and Sciences in 1995 and will continue to carry out responsibilities to the Dean's Office. She has served as associate professor of psychology at Virginia Tech and, before that, as associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Sturgis has earned numerous awards for her teaching and clinical work and is a member of several professional organizations with many publications in professional journals. She has received grants for several studies, including a college-wide early-intervention advising program. Sturgis has served the university in a

number of positions, including coordinator of the Honors Program, member of the University Advising Task Force, and member of the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies. In her position as associate dean, she advises students on their college careers. As acting head of communication studies, she is overseeing the operation of the department until a permanent head is named.

Athman Bouguettaya, director of the computer-science program in Northern Virginia, was director of the Cooperative Information Systems Research Center, based at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia, before coming to Virginia Tech. He worked as a post-doctoral fellow on the ARCADIA project, a U.S.

government, multi-university project on software inter-operability involving several universities. He joined the School of Information Systems at the Queensland University of Technology in April 1993. He was the co-recipient of the 1994 Outstanding Performance Award of the Faculty of Information Technology at QUT.

Connie Talbott, the college's new development director, came to Virginia Tech from Cheyenne, Wyoming. She holds a B.S. in history and education from Virginia Commonwealth University and did graduate studies in European history and Russian language at the University of North Carolina. She is the former executive director of the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville and the former director of the Old West Museum in Cheyenne. Talbott is a certified fund-raising executive (CFRE) and is also certified by the National Planned Giving Institute.

Thomas G. Wilson was named director of the Virginia Tech Upward Bound and Talent Search Programs in April. He had served as interim director during the 1998-1999 academic year. Wilson served as associate director/counselor with Upward Bound from April 1983-August 1998. He started working with the program as a tutor in 1982 while in graduate school at Virginia Tech. Wilson earned a B.S. in education from Concord College in 1979 and an M.A. in educational administration from Virginia Tech in 1982.

He taught in Highland County public schools from 1979-1981.

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