

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 12 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1999

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 2
for game-day
traffic information.

Steger selected to lead university

By Larry Hincker



STEGER

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors on Monday appointed Charles W. Steger as Tech's fifteenth president, effective Jan. 1, 2000. Steger succeeds Paul E. Torgersen, who will retire December 31.

"Charles Steger clearly impressed the board with his credentials and track record of success. He owns a wealth of experience as a teacher, researcher, and administrator. Moreover, he has extensive international experience and a long history of state and federal government engagement," said James E. Turner, rector of the board. "Charles was the unanimous choice of the board. He has the energy, experience, and vision to launch Virginia Tech into the top tier of the nation's finest universities."

Steger said, "It is an honor and a privilege to serve our fine university. I look forward to building on the significant accomplishments of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and particularly the leadership of President Torgersen. Virginia Tech already is well respected around the nation, but we have the potential to be considered among the country's best institutions."

"We are at a critical point in time. Higher education is changing rapidly. We can and must adapt. This institution is positioned for leadership in such areas as information and instructional technology, biotechnology, materials, and many others. We can serve the commonwealth by educating its youth in innovative ways and by effecting new ways of wealth generation throughout society."

This appointment concludes a rigorous seven-month long process headed by BOV member Thomas Rust. "The Search Committee reviewed or interviewed a multitude of qualified candidates, including several sitting university presidents," Rust said. "It was a strong pool, and I am satisfied that we forwarded to the board the names of three top-notch individuals. Charles Steger is highly respected among various university constituencies and was strongly supported by alumni. He simply stood tall among all the candidates." Rust was particularly complimentary of the Search Committee noting that it "worked diligently and professionally throughout the entire process."

"Mr. Rust and I and all the board look forward to working with Dr. Steger as we collectively continue to enhance the quality and reputation of Virginia Tech," Turner said.

Steger, 52, has served as vice president for Development and

(See STEGER on 4)

Additional Biographical Information

A Richmond native, Charles Steger's ties to Virginia Tech span four decades beginning with his undergraduate studies in the 1960s. He received his bachelor's and master's of architecture in 1970 and 1971, respectively, and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences and engineering in 1978, all from Virginia Tech. He was a project engineer and department head with Wiley and Wilson of Lynchburg from 1971 to 1974. He has served as a consultant to the Organization of American States, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S./Saudi Joint Committee on Economic Development, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For his contributions to the field of architectural education and research, he was inducted into the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows in 1990 and received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Virginia Society of AIA in 1996.

Within the university, Steger chaired the president's ad hoc Committee on Mission and Purpose in 1986, which wrote the Statement of Mission and Purpose still in use today. He chaired the Committee on Strategic Planning and was a member of

(See BIOGRAPHICAL on 4)

Institute established to coordinate distance and distributed learning

By Catherine Doss

Virginia Tech has established an Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (IDDL) to provide leadership, coordination, and support for the university's growing number of distance-learning activities.

"The goal of the institute is to provide an organizational structure and network to connect learners with a system of distributed-learning resources at Virginia Tech regardless of time and place," said Tom Wilkinson, director of the institute. "We want to take a holistic approach to distance learning where all aspects of an individual's educational experience are considered, including intellectual, social, emotional, and physical needs. We need to support the development of this evolving learning community." Wilkinson said registration, financial aid, advising, counseling, technical support, and library services were key components to this holistic approach.

"With our on-line courses and degree programs, we are developing new capabilities in the IDDL that are tied to today's emerging e-commerce practices on the Internet," said Timothy Luke, executive director of the institute.

The institute will work collaboratively with the university community to electronically extend Virginia Tech's campus to communities throughout Virginia; provide an open campus environment that allows individuals to engage in learning anytime, anywhere; support economic development in the state through network-assisted instruction; increase Virginia Tech's access to the world and the world's access to Virginia Tech; and research new teaching, and learning environments through the application of technology.

"We want to provide one-stop-shopping, bringing pieces of the distance-and-distributed-learning process together into a coherent whole," said Peggy S. Meszaros, senior vice president and provost, whose office assisted with formation of the institute. "Two important components of the IDDL are technical support for faculty members and charting the university's direction in distance and distributed learning."

Among other services, the IDDL will provide instructional design and development expertise; evaluation, assessment, and marketing support; course development grants, and assistance to educational technologists in each college as they work with faculty members on course development. The institute will also serve as the central information point for the

university's distance-and-distributed-learning efforts.

"A major shift is occurring in the way knowledge is represented, generated, stored, used, and circulated," Luke said. Consequently, the IDDL is also supporting the Center for Digital Discourse and Culture (www.cddc.vt.edu) to promote the electronic publication of scholarly research, teaching materials, and professional communications.

"An increasing use of digital communications technology is changing instruction and scholarly communication practices," Luke said. "With these facts in mind, Virginia Tech must be a major player in the distance-and-distributed-learning arena."

The number of departments delivering distance-and-distributed-learning credit courses grew to 46 last year, a 60-percent increase over the previous year, and credit-course offerings delivered in a distance-learning environment increased 48 percent to a total of 135. In addition, the university's distance-and-distributed-learning courses had an estimated enrollment of 5,140 last year, with 95 faculty members teaching those courses. The university currently offers eleven degrees and one certificate through distance learning technologies.

(See INSTITUTE on 4)

Helms named to coordinate athletic advising

By Catherine Doss

Christopher Helms, former assistant director of student athletes support services at Michigan State University, has joined Virginia Tech as coordinator of the Student Athlete Office of Academic Enrichment Programs (SAOAEPP).

Helms will oversee SAOAEPP in building collaborations between academic affairs, athletics, and advising. Helms will supervise an associate coordinator, three assistant coordinators, and more than 50 tutors. He will also serve as the liaison to the Registrar's Office on issues related to academic and NCAA eligibility.

"We could not have found a more capable and dynamic person to lead this office," said Delores Scott, associate provost for retention and academic support. "Chris brings a wealth of experience and exceptional credentials in assisting student athletes achieve academic success."

Among other duties at Michigan State, Helms supervised a freshman football

(See HELMS on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 12

YMCA Crafts Fair, noon-8 p.m., Squires Student Center.
CPAP, 3 p.m., Thomas Conner House: Mary Hamilton, American Society for Public Administration.
CATH, 3:30, 216 Newman Library: Len Hatfield, Dan Mosser, and Ernie Sullivan.
Native American Heritage Program, 5:30-7 p.m., Cranwell International Center.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Stephanie Watts.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.

Saturday, 13

YMCA Crafts Fair, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Squires Student Center.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.
University Chamber Music Series, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Lisanna Lyons and guests.

Sunday, 14

YMCA Crafts Fair, noon-5 p.m., Squires Student Center.
TA-UT, 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Veeresh Popat.

Monday, 15

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Theatre Arts Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Whirligig/Tongues*.

Tuesday, 16

Salary and Wage Paydate.
Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.

Diversity Roundtable, noon, 140 Squires.
Multicultural Program, 4 p.m., 140 Squires: Hayward Farrar.
International Travel Information Meeting, 5-6 p.m., 110 Burruss.
Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.
Music Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: Symphonic Wind Ensemble.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.
Theatre Arts Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Whirligig/Tongues*.

Wednesday, 17

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.
Organization of Women Faculty Luncheon, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC.
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "Poetry: The Beat Goes On."
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.
Theatre Arts Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Whirligig/Tongues*.

Thursday, 18

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center.
CSTS Lunch Discussion Series: 12:30-1:30 p.m., 132 Lane.
Multicultural Program, 4 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center: Herman Warren.
Staff Senate, 5:30 p.m., 1810 Litton-Reaves.
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.
Theatre Arts Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Whirligig/Tongues*.

Friday, 19

TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *The Trojan Women*.

SEMINARS

Friday, 12

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Peter Mackenzie, Eastman Chemical.
MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Sydney Kustu, Cal-Berkeley.
Communications, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Wat Hopkins.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Glen Stevens.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whittemore: TBA.

Monday, 15

Biomedical Engineering, 3-4 p.m., 114 Holden: T.C. Poon.
Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Stephen Mayo, Cal Tech.
CSBB, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: John Freeborn, Joshua Whittaker.
Horticulture, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: Ihab Ismail.

Wednesday, 17

Water Science, noon, 108 Seitz: David Chalmers.
PPWS, 4 p.m., 102 Fralin: Myoung-Hui Yun.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 5:15 p.m., 300 Whittemore: B.M. Song.

Thursday, 18

Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Robin Stuart, Rutgers.

Friday, 19

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Terrence Collins, Carnegie Mellon.
MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Myra Kurtz, Merck Research Labs.
Electrical/Computer Engineering, 1 p.m., 261 NEB: L. Guido.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Catherine Gatenby.

OMA to hold forums

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is sponsoring a staff forum on the Diversity Strategic Plan on Tuesday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in Squires Brush Mountain B. A faculty forum will be held on the same topics on Friday, Dec. 3. Faculty and staff members will work in groups to develop tasks related to the five goals that have been developed. Those interested in attending may contact Alicia Cohen, acohen@vt.edu or 1-1820 no later than November 18.

CEUT offers help with questions

Peter Doolittle of the Department of Teaching and Learning will present a workshop on "Writing Better Multiple Choice Questions" for the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching on Monday, Nov 15, from 3-5:30 p.m. in Hillcrest Dining Room.

BULLETINS

BT will observe break schedule

Blacksburg Transit will be operating on break schedule during the period of November 20 through November 27. The break schedule will run Saturday through Wednesday. On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, there will be no transit service. On Friday, Nov. 26, the schedule is 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. with additional buses in service two hours before and two hours after the home football game. Oak Lane service will operate on that Friday, as well as Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 27 and 28.

Minnesota dean to speak at Tech

Thomas Fisher, professor and dean of the College of

Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota, will present a lecture Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Hancock auditorium. An expert in communication and architectural criticism, Fisher will speak on "The Author as Architect: Writing as a Form of Design." The presentation is open to the public.

Fisher has served as the historical architect for Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office, as a designer and project manager for architectural firms in Ohio and Connecticut, and as the editorial director of *Progressive Architecture* and *Building Renovation* magazines. Fisher has written and lectured widely about theories of design, practice, and technology and has given numerous seminars on architectural criticism.

PSP offers community marketing program

By Catherine Doss

Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs (PSP), a unit of the university's Outreach Division, along with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), American Electric Power, and the Virginia Economic Development Association, will offer a new one-day program designed to help economic developers gain a comprehensive perspective of marketing techniques available for community development. The program is Tuesday, Nov. 16 at the VEDP presentation center in Richmond.

"This program will develop knowledge of how to combine various marketing strategies to accomplish specific business-development objectives," said Ellen Agee, economic-development specialist with PSP. "Participants will gain an understanding of how local, regional, and state marketing programs can

work together for enhanced impact."

Program topics will include organizing and implementing a comprehensive marketing plan, research tools, direct-mail marketing, advertising and promotion, web-site management, and electronic marketing. The course will showcase some of Virginia's best practices in marketing campaigns and present multi-media promotional packages. Both urban and rural community marketing campaigns will be highlighted.

The American Economic Development Council has certified the program for re-certification credits for licensed economic developers.

For more information, call 1-6638, or e-mail eaagee@vt.edu.

Game to change traffic patterns

Parking and traffic changes will be in effect again this weekend for the home football game.

On Friday, parking will be prohibited after 5 p.m. in the following lots: Litton Reaves/Wallace Lots (located off Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive), Coliseum Lot (located off Washington Street and Spring Road), the gravel lot located behind the Jamerson Center, and the Stadium, Track/Soccer, and Maintenance Lot (located off Spring Road and Southgate Drive). Parking will also be prohibited on Spring Road and Washington Street (from the Coliseum to the tennis courts). Vehicles will be removed from these lots and streets after 10 p.m.

On Friday morning, the President's Lot (the 100-space parking lot behind Wallace Hall and closest to the Grove) will be reserved for William Preston Society parking only. To accommodate lost F/S parking, the first two rows of commuter parking in C-Lot will be reserved

for F/S parking. C-lot is the large parking lot behind Litton-Reaves Hall.

The ESPN GameDay crew will be in Lane Stadium Saturday before the 7:30 p.m. game. Stadium gates 1-3 at the south end will open at 9 a.m. The live broadcast is from 11 a.m. to noon. Additional parking for this event will be provided in a field on the west side of Tech Center Drive, near the airport. Bus transportation will be provided between the field and the stadium from 9 to 1 p.m.

At noon Saturday traffic on Washington Street, Tech Center Drive, Southgate Drive, Spring Road will become one way toward the football stadium. Traffic on Duck Pond Drive will become one way toward B-Lot. After the game the streets directions will reverse until the traffic flow returns to normal.

Advisories are available on 1260 AM. For more information, call Parking Services at 1-3200 or, after regular business hours, the University Police Department at 1-6411.

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. 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
Accountant, Grade 9, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Alumni Program Coordinator, LC088D, Grade 10, Alumni Relations.

Boiler Operator Assistant, 330P, Grade 4, Power Plant.

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

Chemical Safety Trainer (Health Ed. Sr.), 7491T, Grade 10, EHSS.

Coordinator of Conference/Guest Services (Pr Specialist), 2943G, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs.

Development Associate for Student Calling Program, 1450C, Grade 8, University Development/Annual Giving for Phonathon.

Electronic Technician Sr., 7516J, Grade 10, Center for Transportation Research.

Enrollment Services Specialist, 0009T, Grade 8, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Executive Secretary, 6533C, Grade 6, Capital Design/Construction.

Eight full-time food-operations positions available: two part-time positions.

Food Operations Director A/Unit Manager, 1251H, Grade 12, Residential/Dining Programs/Owens Food Court.

Food Operations Manager Assistant (Dining Room Manager), 1118G, Grade 6, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, 6452S, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 7261G, Grade 1, Recreational Sports.

Housekeeping Worker, 1023H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Information Technology Research Engineer, 7528D, Grade 0, CNS.

Institutional Traffic/Parking Supervisor, 1111T, Grade 9, Parking Services.

Laboratory Specialist, 3428M, Grade 8, CVM.

Laboratory Specialist, 7525M, Grade 8, CSES.

Laboratory Specialist, 7524M, Grade 8, CVM.

Laboratory Technician, 7519T, Grade 4, Chemistry.

Office Services Specialist, 7080M, Grade 5, CVM.

Office Services Specialist, 6693S, Grade 5, University Library/LL.

Office Services Specialist, 2039C, Grade 5, University Bursar.

Program Support Technician, 7459J, Grade 6, Human Development.

Program Support Technician, 7527T, Grade 6, Office of Executive Vice President.

Program Support Technician, 6699S, Grade 6, University Library.

Program Support Technician (Asst. Mgr. for Guest Services), 6685G, Grade 6, DBHCC.

Program Support Technician Sr., 7020C, Grade 7, CNS.

Programmer Analyst, 570S, Grade 12, University Library.

Programmer/Analyst (Instructional Technologist), 7500M, Grade 12, CALS/229 Distance Education.

Public Relations Specialist, 2085T, Grade 10, Undergraduate Admissions.

Senior Development Associate Of Annual Giving, 6695D, Grade 10, University Development.

Senior Programmer/Analyst (Instructional Designer), 7499M, Grade 14, CALS/229 Distance Education.

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

Web Developer, 7532D, Grade 0, AIS.

Part Time
Animal Care Technician A, W022675M, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician A, W022155M, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Fiscal Assistant, W022514M, Grade 5, CVM.

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

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Laboratory Technician, W022569T, Grade 4, Chemistry.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W022926M, Grade 5, CSES.

Office Services Asst., W022459C, Grade 4, Personnel Services.

Office Services Specialist, W022929J, Grade 5, Graduate School.

Office Services Specialist, W020877C, Grade 5, AIS—User Services.

Photocopy Technician, W020961C, Grade 4, Printing Services.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238G, Grade 9, Health Center.

Sem Analyst, W022917D, Grade 12, AIS.

Wash Bay Attendant, W020774T, Grade 2, Motor Pool.

University Only
Office Services Specialist, U139S, Grade 5, University Libraries.

Program Support Technician, U7533T, Grade 6, Personnel Services.

Off Campus
Assistant Facility Manager/Grounds Lead Worker, U2997M, Grade 6, CVM—Equine Medical Center.

Evening Announcer, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

Office Services Assistant, 7530J, Grade 4, Henrico.

Office Services Assistant, 7531J, Grade 4, Richmond City.

Office Services Specialist, 7529M, Grade 5, VCES—Pulaski.

Secretary Senior, 7397M, Grade 5, VCES.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Statistics, Full Professor, Contact: Marion Reynolds, Department of Statistics, Hutcheson (0439). Review begins February 15.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Extension Area Coordinator, #FA536, Contact: John Dooley, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins December 6.

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

Choices and Challenges honored by humanities group

By Sally Harris

Doris Zallen saw that, while scientific discoveries were being used to promote human health, security, and comfort, they also were creating ethical and societal concerns. She started the Choices and Challenges public-forum project at Virginia Tech to "explore the humanistic components of science and technology."

Zallen, a professor in the science and technology studies program in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, has directed 19 Choices and Challenges forums since 1985. The series has been chosen to receive one of six awards from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

(VFH). The awards were scheduled to be presented at VFH's November 4 anniversary awards dinner in Richmond. The VFH awards celebrate 25 years of cultivating the humanities in Virginia by honoring individuals and organizations that promote the humanities in the state.

Choices and Challenges forums have covered a wide spectrum of topics, from scientific studies that probe the nature of microscopic cells to space technologies that can probe the expanses of the solar system. They have included discussions of medical investigations that will have significant personal impact and engineering research capable of producing striking global consequences. Topics have ranged from "New Reproductive Options" to "Limits to Care of the Terminally Ill" to "Nuclear Power and Space Science" to "Designer Children."

The Choices and Challenges programs have become so popular that attendance now exceeds 500 each time. Audience comments praise the fact that the programs bring together people of varied backgrounds and perspectives "to investigate a topic of great importance in our society." Audience members also praise the choice of topics, the choice of speakers, the organization of the programs, and the level on which the programs were presented. The forums also are a form of national outreach through a partnership with PBS, which broadcasts the forums to audiences at nearly 700 sites throughout the United States.

"Doris's project is a bridge builder between science and society," said Sheryl Wade, director of development for the VFH anniversary celebration. "We wanted to honor organizations and projects that we have dealt with throughout the years that were either bridge builders or grew as a result of our seed money."

The VFH has worked with the Choices and Challenges forum series throughout the years. "The Choices and Challenges project exemplifies our theme," Wade said. The six winners were chosen from state-wide projects over the 25-year period and are "very significant projects," Wade said.

The VFH has helped fund many of the Choices and Challenges forums over the past 14 or 15 years, according to David Bearinger, associate director of VFH.

The award focuses not only on the forums, but also on Zallen's work in organizing them, Wade said. "The success that Doris has had and the innovative steps she has taken encouraged us to have a teachers' institute here (in Charlottesville)," Bearinger said. "It was a state-wide curriculum institute for teachers of science and humanities in which they considered the issues raised by science and technology and the role of science and technology. Doris was a member of the faculty for this course and an advisor to the project overall."

Zallen's Choices and Challenges series has received two national awards in addition to the VFH award: the 1988 Frandsen Competition of the National University Continuing Education Association for "creative and innovative programs in the humanities" and the designation "Program of Excellence" by that organization.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities is a state-wide non-profit organization headquartered in Charlottesville. It is dedicated to developing, sponsoring, and producing scholarship and educational programs in the public interest and creates opportunities for personal reflection and civic debate.

Health fair '99 gets high marks

By Preston Smith

The annual CommonHealth and Benefits Fair was held October 28 and proved once again to be a great success.

We received great evaluations from both fair participants as well as the exhibitors, and the turnout this year was incredible," said Bridgit Mitchell, CommonHealth regional coordinator.

This year's fair saw an increase in participation from the exhibitors as well as Virginia

RDP recognizes housekeepers

By Lori Greiner

Virginia Tech's Residential and Dining Programs held a reception for its housekeeping staff recently, marking the end of International Housekeepers Week.

Local vendors donated more than 60 items were as door prizes. A highlight of the event was the recognition of housekeeping worker Betty Medley. Medley was recently named the Central Virginia Housekeeping Employee of the Year by the Central Virginia chapter of the International Executive Housekeepers Association.

Approximately 80 housekeepers work for Residential and Dining Programs, responsible for more than 1,000,000 square feet of residence hall space. Virginia Tech is one of the few schools that maintains a seven-day housekeeping operation in their residence halls and dining centers, with a utility crew providing coverage on weekends. Each day, more than 650 bags of trash and recycling are removed from the residence halls.

"Our housekeepers are a true asset to Residential and Dining Programs," said Margie Lawrence, assistant director for housekeeping services. "These individuals have made exemplary efforts during a period of short staffing to maintain a high level of cleanliness in our residence halls. They have a great relationship with our students and that really does make a huge difference."

Tech faculty and staff members and retirees. Approximately 1,200 to 1,400 persons participated in the fair. Compared to the 1997 health and benefits fair, this increase meant 25 percent more exhibitors and approximately 600 more participants.

"The increase in participation was a result of many factors," said Doug Martin, benefits manager, "among these factors were extra time

(See HEALTH on 4)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations; Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; David Nutter, associate director for Public Affairs.

Editor
John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor
Christian Moody, 1-8538

Production Manager
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager
1-8819

Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask Spectrum" should be addressed to the editor, 105 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Electronic Spectrum: <http://www.vt.edu:10021/admin/eoaa/index.html>

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination or accessibility regarding the programs described in this newspaper should contact the Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Office: 540-231-7500 (v), 540-231-9460 (TTY).

CVC COACH



SPENCER

This week's coach is Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Residence and Dining Programs Ed Spencer. He's coaching us against Miami, which is always tough on the football field and extremely generous in charitable giving. Last year they raised \$831,000 with 46.9-percent participation. We raised \$193,500 with just 16.2% participation. Just think what can happen if we increase participation in CVC to our goal of at least 25 percent. (J. McCormick)

Tech Ranked Number Two

Two game-winning field goals on their respective games' final plays have put the Virginia Tech football team on a higher level than it ever reached before: Number two in the nation.

First, Minnesota defeated reigning number two Penn State. Once Penn State fell, all the Hokies had to do was win to attain the ranking. The win, however, was not assured. With 1:15 remaining in the game, West Virginia took the lead, marking the first time in their eight games this season the Hokies had trailed. Led by freshman Michael Vick's passing and running, and culminated by senior Shayne Graham's 44-yard field goal, the Hokies re-took the lead as time ran out, for a 22-20 win.

Sunday, the rankings came out and Tech is number two in the AP poll and the USA Today poll of coaches.

INSTITUTE

Continued from 1

Virginia Tech's distance learning courses and degree offerings were benchmarked against a peer group identified by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) last year, further reinforcing the name the university has established for itself in terms of distance education.

"With our faculty involvement and expertise along with our leadership in the technology realm, Virginia Tech is positioned to be one of the country's leading providers of distance education," Wilkinson said. "Because we are a land-grant university, outreach has always been an integral part of our mission."

VTOonline (www.vto.vt.edu) serves as the university's electronic catalog of network-accessed courses, professional development programs, degree and certificate programs, and extension and outreach activities. Students may also register for on-line courses through this site.

A 17-member advisory council, made up of representatives from each college as well as the Center for Innovation in Learning, Educational Technologies, Instructional Services, University Libraries, Student Affairs, extended campuses, and Extension, meets periodically to form and implement IDDL programs. A policy board for the IDDL meets quarterly and makes decisions based on recommendations from the advisory council. The board is chaired by Meszaros.

For more information, go to www.iddl.vt.edu.

IN OTHER NEWS

International council sets goals for 99-00

By Catherine Doss

The University Council for International Programs has set nine goals for 1999-00 to help raise awareness and support of the university's various international activities.

The goals are to create a database of international sponsored projects; update and increase the number of overseas alumni addresses; address funding issues for international undergraduate recruitment, study-abroad programs, international curriculum

development, and diversity goals; increase the number of 1000- and 2000-level courses meeting Core Area 7 criteria; evaluate the criteria for the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Activities; establish a program for international alumni orientation before they return to their home countries; establish a means of informing graduating students about memoranda of understanding and exchange programs; identify countries for future exchange programs; and evaluate the support services

offered for international students and scholars. "It's an ambitious set of goals," said Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy S. Meszaros, "but they are all ones that the committee feels very strongly about. We are committed to raising the awareness of, participation in, and support of international activities of all kinds at Virginia Tech. Internationalizing the university experience is a key component of the Academic Agenda."

VIED graduates 17th class

By Catherine Doss

Forty-eight economic developers from across the state recently graduated from the 17th Virginia Institute for Economic Development (VIED) coordinated through Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs (PSP), a unit of the university's Outreach Division.

The annual institute provides training in the economic-development process and outlines how this process is used to benefit Virginia's cities, counties, and towns in furthering economic growth.

"This year's group of attendees represented a variety of state agencies, localities, and private organizations interested in business recruitment for the commonwealth," said Ellen Agee, economic-development specialist with PSP.

The institute is offered in partnership with Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Virginia Economic Developers Association, American Electric Power, Center for Innovative Technology, Columbia Gas Services, GTE, and Virginia Power.

HEALTH

Continued from 3

off for employees to visit the fair and the high expectation level of a great fair that has been set by previous years. Due to past success, we anticipate continued growth."

The Commonwealth and Benefits Fair provides an array of health-and-benefits-related information and activities. In addition to gathering various pieces of information, participants were able to attend a number of seminars held throughout the day and participate in many health screenings.

Flu shots attract a large number of people to the fair. The New River Health District provided approximately 650 shots throughout the day through appointments and walk-ins.

Both exhibitors and fair participants reported positive things about the overall operation of this year's event.

"It was a great fair. I pretty much checked everything out and there was a good mixture of things to learn about and to participate in," Christina Long said.

Despite great reviews, planners are constantly looking for ways to make the fair better from year to year. "We're considering setting up a Personnel Services Help Desk to help provide awareness of what is offered by the fair and to help direct participants in any way we can," Martin said. "We would also like to expand the shuttle service to more individuals as a result of parking difficulties."

BIOGRAPHICAL

Continued from 1

the committee that developed the first core curriculum for Virginia Tech in 1981. He chaired the Committee on the Impact of Digital Technologies on the Teaching-Learning Environment, which has been described as a seminal work forecasting many instructional and information technology initiatives on college campuses today.

His leadership positions include membership on the Board of Directors of Roanoke's Center in the Square and the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. He is president of the Western Virginia Endowment Foundation for the Arts. He has served on numerous other boards, including Hollins University, Virginia Museum of Natural History, the Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Development, and the Governor's Commission on Population Growth and Development. (Additional biographical information is available on the university home page.)

HELMS

Continued from 1

counselor, academic mentors, and a cadre of tutors; oversaw the advising for football players with regard to satisfactory progress, eligibility, and degree completion; and monitored the academic progress of other student athletes.

"My ultimate goal is to help each student athlete successfully complete his or her degree," Helms said. "I will stress the importance of

ELECTRONIC SPECTRUM

Communication system research sheds light on road rage

By Sally Harris

We hear about road rage almost every day in newspapers, on television, and in movies. Experts say the pressures and stresses of ordinary living cause some drivers to use their automobiles as weapons. These drivers experience a kind of uncontrollable rage that leaves other drivers in fear, in panic, and sometimes in physical pain.

Benefits come from continuing education

By Catherine Doss

Visibility. Funding. Research opportunities for faculty members and graduate students. New graduate students. These are just a few of the benefits that more and more Virginia Tech faculty members are realizing from developing relationships with representatives from corporations, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations through hosting continuing-education programs.

Prince publishes spate of books

By Sally Harris

Someone somewhere probably has published more scholarly books in less than two years than Stephen Prince, but it would be hard to find that someone. From last fall through this coming summer, Prince will have published six books—averaging nearly a book per season.

STEGER

Continued from 1

University Relations since February, 1993. Before being named vice president, he was the dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS). He was the youngest dean of architecture in the nation at the time of his appointment in 1981.

An architect by education and profession, Steger led the university's recently completed successful fund-raising campaign. Concluding the six year effort in 1998, Steger's team of staff and volunteers exceeded the goal of \$250 million by 35 percent, raising \$337.4 million.

While dean of CAUS, he established a European-studies program based in Lugano, Switzerland. He ultimately led the transformation of that program into the university's Center for European Studies and Architecture, the overseas campus for Virginia Tech.

He also established the Washington Alexandria Center, an off-campus, urban study/work experience for upper-division architecture students in Old Town Alexandria. Students and faculty members from universities around the world teach and study at the center.

"The world is shrinking every day. It is vitally important that Virginia Tech students be afforded opportunities to study and experience other cultures, other languages, other people. Economic boundaries are falling all around us," Steger said.

Under his leadership the College of Architecture and Urban Studies research program increased threefold. He led an effort to establish a unique research-and-demonstration facility involving new building construction techniques.

Virginia Tech
 Blacksburg, VA 24061
 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID
 Blacksburg, VA Permit No. 28