

SPECTRUM

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 2
for university
activities.



Coach Frank Beamer, voted Big East Coach of the Year, is carried off the field following a decisive win over Boston College last Friday. The eleventh victory of the season is expected to propel Tech into the national championship match-up with top-ranked Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. The official bowl announcement is scheduled for Sunday. (J. McCormick)

Hokies expected to challenge Seminoles

The Virginia Tech football team appears to be headed for a Sugar Bowl showdown with Florida State to determine the national champion. While the official pairings will not be announced until Sunday, published news reports indicate Tech has an insurmountable lead in the Bowl Championship Series standings over third-place Nebraska.

Friday's 38-14 romp over Boston College in the final regular-season game of the year meant Tech finished undefeated for the first time since 1954, when the team went 8-0-1 and did not get a bowl bid. In 1918, Tech was 7-0.

While bowl tickets are sure to sell out, this marks the first time every home game of the season sold out. A record 23,816 season tickets were sold in 1999. That record is expected to fall next season.

Additional photo coverage of the football game is available on the *Spectrum* web site at <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/Spectrum>.

Indiana researcher will direct IRPA operations

By Catherine Doss

A nationally known institutional researcher from Indiana has joined Virginia Tech as director of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis (IRPA).

Deborah Olsen, who has been with Indiana University Bloomington in various capacities for the past 12 years, starts her new position at Tech on January 4. Her husband, John B. Phillips, a noted researcher in animal sensory behavior, has accepted a position beginning in August as associate professor in the Department of Biology here.

"Deborah is well known and highly respected in the field of institutional research," said Dixon Hanna, associate provost for academic planning, research, and space. "We are fortunate to have someone with her credentials and expertise join the university."

Olsen received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Cornell University in 1986 and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University in 1987. She joined Indiana University in 1987 as a project director of the university's Institute for Social Research. She served most recently as assistant vice chancellor and director of institutional research. She also held an associate professorship in educational leadership and policy studies.

Olsen has 20 publications to her name and dozens of internal reports and external presentations. During her tenure at Indiana University, she served on a number of committees and was a reviewer for several prestigious journals and associations. She also served on the accreditation team for two universities and will serve in that role for a third university this spring.

IRPA conducts research on institutional and educational subjects to inform senior administrative staff members on trends and projections 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.

As IRPA director, Olsen will provide leadership and vision for the collection, analysis, interpretation, use, and dissemination of university data; manage the IRPA office, coordinate and supervise the preparation of reports; work with Administrative Information Systems to achieve compatibility of systems and consistency of data; coordinate the flow or key information among units; initiate and conduct studies to show implications and consequences of existing and proposed policies; and respond to internal and external requests for institutional data.

Olsen succeeds Gerry McLaughlin who left Virginia Tech last spring to take a similar position at DePaul University.

"Gerry ran a top-notch department," Hanna said. "We are confident Deborah will continue that excellence in her new role."

Tech study examines welfare policy

By Stewart MacInnis

Low-skilled female workers in rural areas are likely to lead a return to welfare roles in a future economic downturn, an eventuality for which social-service agencies should prepare, according to a Virginia Tech study.

"We need to closely monitor this group," said Bradford Mills, one of the authors of the study. "They are very vulnerable to changes in the economy. They struggled to get off welfare even when the economy was booming. When the economy turns down—which it will do eventually—they can be expected to be the first affected."

The study, *How Welfare Reform Impacts Non-metropolitan and Metropolitan Counties in Virginia*, was authored by Sarah Bosley, a graduate student, and Mills, an assistant professor, both in Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The study was published by Virginia Tech's Rural Economic Analysis Program.

It compared the factors that affected the ability of single females to enter the workforce in highly urbanized areas in Northern Virginia with those in rural areas of far Southwest Virginia. Though the study looks specifically at welfare-caseload, employment, census and other data specifically for those localities, Mills said the study offers insights that other regions of Virginia and other regions of the South ought to find useful.

The study did not examine the provision of social services; rather, it investigated the economic factors against which the largest and most vulnerable group of welfare recipients has struggled to enter the job market.

Virginia has traditionally had a relatively low welfare caseload, due to the large

number of military bases in the state and to its proximity to Washington, D.C., with its high demand for labor. Many rural parts of the state, however, suffer from chronic high unemployment.

Between 1993 and 1996, welfare roles in the state dropped from 3 percent of the population to 1.4 percent. Mills said a portion of that drop can be attributed to welfare reform, but part of it is due to the strengthening of the economy during the same period.

States and the federal government began implementing welfare reform in the mid-'90s. The federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children program was replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. In addition to this, Virginia's reform program, Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Wel-

fare, enacts some of the strictest work-eligibility requirements in the nation. It requires most welfare recipients to begin work within 90 days of receiving benefits or lose program eligibility. They are also limited to 24 months of benefits in any five-year period, and a 60-month lifetime eligibility.

"Many single female-headed households with children, the primary recipient group of public cash-assistance payments, stand to be significantly impacted by these new eligibility requirements," the study notes.

Single female heads of households face more barriers to entering the workforce than other groups. The study also found that transportation and the presence of children in the household of a single female create greater barriers to enter-
(See *TECH STUDY* on 2)

Squibb speaker to commemorate donation of mass spectrometer

By Sally Harris

A research seminar December 3 will mark the gift of a used JEOL-HX110 mass spectrometer to Virginia Tech's Department of Chemistry from Bristol-Myers Squibb.

A mass spectrometer determines the molecular weight of molecules, according to David Kingston, professor of chemistry. It is important for determining the structure of any molecule and will be used to enhance the capabilities for biomedical research, veterinary medicine, chemistry, biology, and biochemistry, he said.

The JEOL-HX110 mass spectrometer is a high-resolution instrument that can tell the elemental composition as well as the mass of the molecule so researchers can determine the different compositions of molecules of the same weight, Kingston said. The instrument is a wide-mass-range instrument combining a high-

resolution high-sensitivity mass spectrometer developed on the basis of a double-focusing optical system devised by H. Matsuda at Osaka University and a UNIX-based 32-bit engineering work-station. New, the instrument would cost \$622,000.

Since the instrument features superb ion-focusing capability and high ion transmittance, its ion optical system is most suited to accepting wide-angle ion beams from fast-atom bombardment. Therefore, organic high-mass compounds can be measured at high sensitivity and high resolution using fast-atom bombardment and cesium-ion sources.

A plaque commemorating the gift will be unveiled at 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 3, in 3 Davidson. After the unveiling, scientist Dinesh Vyas of Bristol-Myers Squibb will talk on the chemistry of Taxol™. The event is open to the public.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 3

Organization of Women Faculty Coffee Hour: 8-9 a.m., The Easy Chair.

International Gift Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Cranwell International Center.

Communication Studies Lecture, 3:30-5 p.m., DBHCC: William K. Rawlins, Purdue.

Women's/Minority Artists/Scholars Lecture, 4 p.m., 129 McBryde; Judith de Luce, Miami (OH).

VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: *Here's Love*.

Saturday, 4

International Gift Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cranwell International Center.

Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: UNCC.

Sunday, 5

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Alta Mons.

Women's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Duquesne.

Monday, 6

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

Men's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At VMI.

Tuesday, 7

Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC conference room C: Cathy Jacobs.

Wednesday 8,

Classes End.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Duke.

Thursday, 9

Reading Day.

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

Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Radford.

Friday, 10

Exams Begin.

Friday, 3

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: J.J.K. Wright, Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute.

MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Peter Setlow, Connecticut.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Graeme Lockaby, Auburn.

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 4 p.m., 457 Whittemore: J. Donahue.

STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane Hall: Phil Merikle, Waterloo.

Monday, 6

CIS-FA, noon, 132 Lane: Linda Plaut.

Biomedical Engineering, 3-4 p.m., 114 Holden: Richard Brand, Iowa.

Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Brenda Winkel Shirley.

CSES, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: Monika Schneider

Horticulture, 4-5 p.m., 409 Saunders: Doug Pfeiffer.

Wednesday 8,

PPWS, 4 p.m., 102 Fralin: Steve King.

Friday, 10

CAUS, 3 p.m., Hotel Roanoke: John S. Brown, Xerox.

BULLETINS

Xerox scientist to speak

John Seely Brown, chief scientist of the Xerox Corp. and director of its Palo Alto Research Center, will be the keynote speaker for the second Ferrari Symposium, hosted by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, December 9 and 10. Brown, a pioneer in the field of digital culture and the anthropology of the technological workplace, will make his presentation at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, at the Hotel Roanoke.

The second Ferrari Symposium is titled "Convergence: A Question of Disciplines." Alumni of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies will make presentations during the two-day event.

This year's symposium is intended to be an expansion of the 1996 gathering titled, "Ferrari Symposium: Architecture + Industrial Design."

Lecture examines women in folklore

Judith de Luce of Miami University in Ohio will give an open lecture on "Helpful Women and Ungrateful Heroes in Greek and Roman Folklore" Friday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m., in 129 McBryde. Her lecture is sponsored by the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lectures Series, Classical Studies, Humanities, and CIS.

OWF meets Friday

The Organization of Women Faculty, a group of women in academic and administrative faculty positions at Virginia Tech, will meet Friday, Dec. 3, from 8-9 a.m. at the Easy Chair in university Mall. The monthly first Friday coffee hour is a time to

network informally and get to know each other. All women faculty members are welcome. For more information, contact Tamara Kennelly, 1-9214.

CVC deadline extended

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign deadline has been extended to December 15. To receive a new pledge card or have a question answered, contact Gloria Smith at gsmith@vt.edu or 1-7810.

International gifts festival announced

The annual YMCA International Gift Festival will take place on Friday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cranwell International Center. Holiday gift items will be for sale to benefit a world service project of the YMCA at Virginia Tech.

Staff members assist in developing new software specification standard

By Catherine Doss

Betsy Blythe, systems development manager in Administrative Information Systems, and Bill Plymale, instructional technologies systems manager in Educational Technologies, represented Virginia Tech on an international team that recently released a new specification standard for software that underpins enterprise systems like the SCT/Banner system used by Virginia Tech.

IMS, a global consortium of more than 200 educational institutions, commercial entities, and government agencies, released version 1 of the IMS Enterprise Specification, which enables interoperability between learning-management systems and administrative systems. The IMS consortium develops technical specifications to support distributed learning. This non-profit consortium grew out of an Educom-sponsored initiative called the IMS (Instructional Management System) Project.

"The IMS Enterprise Specification is very significant," said Wayne Veres, director of systems development at California State University-San Marcos, who led the team that produced the product. "We will now be able to reliably achieve interoperability between our student-information system and our Internet-based learning management systems. Our business processes for maintaining administrative data in these systems will be greatly simplified."

According to Pedro Hernandez-Ramos, director of market development for IMS, everyone involved in the development and

delivery of Internet-based education and training stands to benefit from the IMS Enterprise specification. These include learners and teachers, as well as information-technology organizations and providers of learning services and products to schools, colleges, and universities, and corporate and government training departments. Oracle, for example, is already building support for the IMS Enterprise Specification into its newest Internet learning products.

IMS has members in countries around the world. Therefore, its specification meets the needs of individuals and organizations across broad geographic and cultural areas. Virginia Tech is one of 36 investment partners in the IMS consortium, dedicated to developing and promoting standards that define an open architecture for the networked learning systems that will support education and training world wide.

The IMS Enterprise Specification package, which incorporates three technical documents, is available at the IMS web site at <http://www.imsproject.org/enterprise/>.

TECH STUDY

Continued from 1

ing the workforce in rural than metropolitan areas.

"Some of these factors can be overcome by women in Northern Virginia, but in the rural areas they become binding constraints," Mills said. The study suggests this is due to lack of

New area code will affect university

By Jeff Kidd, CNS

The Virginia Tech community has a new area code to learn. Area code 571 will "overlay" the geographic area currently served by area code 703 in Northern Virginia.

The overlay method for Northern Virginia means the same geographic area will have two area codes. All existing phone numbers will keep the 703 area code. Upon exhaustion of available 703 numbers, new requests for telephone numbers will be assigned the new area code. The introduction of this new code will essentially double the quantity of telephone numbers available in the Northern Virginia area, which is a rapidly growing telecom-

munications market.

Bell Atlantic expects to begin assigning numbers in the 571 area code to customers ordering new telephone service in Northern Virginia on or about April 1, 2000. This change will primarily affect Virginia Tech sites in the Northern Virginia area currently served by area code 703. There is no change to dialing patterns for calls placed from Blacksburg. Additional information is available at URL <http://www.cns.vt.edu/>. Faculty and staff information is available at 1-6460, from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; students may call 1-3000.

Chinese biologist studies mussels here

By Lynn Davis

As part of an exchange program, Hua Dan, a freshwater-mussel biologist working at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Institute in Wuxi, China, is at the College of Natural Resources to learn about mussel propagation.

Hua is taking a graduate class in Endan-

gered Species Management in FTW and assisting with mussel research at the Aquaculture Center on campus. She and fisheries Professor Dick Neves are also collaborating to translate a manual on the freshwater mussels of China into English. She will return to China in early January.

extensive public transportation and the more diffuse provision of public services in rural areas.

In neither region did the average wage paid to women rise to a "minimum living wage," the amount of money calculated as necessary to maintain a household. That wage was calculated at \$9.85, higher than the federal minimum

wage.

The Northern Virginia localities included in the study are Falls Church, Fairfax City, and Fairfax County. The localities in Southwest Virginia included are the cities of Galax, Bristol, and Norton, and the counties of Bland, Grayson, Smyth, Wythe, Carroll, Washington, Dickenson, Lee, Scott and Wise.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Fiscal Assistant, 6239C, Grade 5, Controller's Office.

Fiscal Technician, 244C, Grade 6, CNS.

Nine full-time food-operations positions available; two part-time positions.

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

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

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

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

Web site available

The Engineering Faculty Organization (EFO) Executive Committee has developed an EFO web site at URL <http://jbox.vt.edu:10021/eng/EFO>. The web site is oriented toward the College of Engineering (COE) faculty, but may contain information of interest to other faculty members.

Issues addressed on the site include faculty concerns regarding the presidential search process, and legal issues affecting faculty members.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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Institutional Traffic And Parking Supervisor, 1111T, Grade 9, Parking Services.

Laboratory Specialist, 7525M, Grade 8, CSES.
Laboratory Technician Senior, W022934M, Grade 5, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

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

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

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

Office Services Specialist, 6714J, Grade 5, Alumni Relations.

Office Services Specialist, 6829S, Grade 5, University Library.

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

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

Programmer, 7329M, Grade 10, Agricultural/ Applied Economics.

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

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

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

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

Part Time

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

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 Assistant (Switchboard Operator), W022101C, Grade 4, CNS.

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

Office Services Specialist, W020106M, Grade 5, Entomology.

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

Postal Aide, W022549M, Grade 2, CVM.

Program Support Technician, W022188B, Grade 6, AIS/HRIS Team.

Radiologic Technologist, W022388G, Grade 9, Health Center.

Research Specialist, W022936M, Grade 8, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

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

University Only

Program Support Technician, U2235P, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

Off Campus

Evening Announcer, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

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

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

Secretary Senior, 7397M, Grade 5, VCES.

Wildlife Worker, 6638T, Grade 4, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension

Graduate Honor System reports '98-99 actions

By Barbara Fraticelli

The Graduate Honor System (GHS) has reported actions taken during the 1998-99 academic year. The primary function of the Honor System is to investigate alleged violations of the Honor Code, conduct Judicial Panel hearings, and render decisions regarding guilt.

Over the past year, the Graduate Honor System investigated a total of 10 cases involving 17 students, leading to five Judicial Panel hearings (see Electronic Spectrum for accompanying table). Five of the cases came from incidents in Fall Semester 1998, and the other five were referred in Spring Semester 1999. Three cases (involving four students) were referred from the Northern Virginia Graduate Center, while the remaining cases involved students at the Blacksburg campus. A breakdown of the cases is given below.

In two cases, the chief justice dismissed the case before it was taken to the investigative board. In three cases, the Investigative Board dismissed the charges for lack of substantial evidence. In one case, the Judicial Panel found the accused student not guilty of the alleged violation. In four cases, the Judicial Panel found the accused students guilty of the violation and imposed a penalty.

The Graduate Honor System found five graduate students guilty of Honor Code violations during the 1998-99 academic year, as compared to four during 1997-98. In all cases, the students were placed on Graduate Honor System probation, with some students receiving penalties above the minimum penalty (probation and a zero on the assignment). No one was suspended or dismissed from the university this year. Each case resulting in a guilty verdict is summarized in the accompanying table.

The GHS leadership team continued the tradition of providing orientation sessions to all new students speaking at the orientation for new graduate students, new international students, the GSA, and many departmental sessions.

More information is available at 1-5075 or e-mail gshon@vt.edu.

Swiss student experiences Blacksburg

By Sally Harris

Kätty Di Bella of Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, has reversed a tradition. For several years, Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) in Riva San Vitale has held a Thanksgiving dinner of traditional foods to acquaint about 80 people in that area with the United States' holiday. This year, Di Bella experienced the Thanksgiving tradition in Blacksburg with Lucy Ferrari and the family of Ellen Braaten.

The visitor had turkey and dressing, cranberry jelly, pecan pie, sweet potatoes, salad, and "a whole table full of Thanksgiving foods," Ferrari said. Friday, Di Bella experienced her first football game by watching Virginia Tech beat Boston College, making it possible for Tech to participate in the Sugar Bowl.

For several years now, students from Virginia Tech have traveled to CESA to participate in a variety of study programs; but this year Di Bella has become the first person from that area to attend Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

"This is significant as we build a two-way exchange and relationship between the town (of Riva San Vitale) and the university here," said Robert C. Bates, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who served as interim director for summer programs at CESA this past summer.

Di Bella is studying English as a Second Language (ESL) at Virginia Tech's English Language Institute. Born in Mendrisio, near Riva San Vitale, Di Bella has been employed for seven years at the immigration office in Lugano, which grants visas. In that job, she deals with many English-speaking people, as there are many international businesses there, such as

Specialist, Volunteer Development. Contact: Michael Lambur, Volunteer Development Search Committee, 122 Smyth (437). Review begins December 17.

Department of Horticulture, Professor and Department Head. Contact: L. A. Swiger, (0402). Review begins March 1.

Department of Biology, Assistant Professor. Contact: E. T. Nilsen, Department of Biology (0406). Review begins January 7.

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Assistant/Associate/Full Professor. Contact: Walter O'Brien, Mechanical Engineering (0238). Review begins immediately.

Department of Art and Art History, Assistant Professor. Contact: Art History Search Committee, Department of Art and Art History, 201 Draper Rd. (0103). Application deadline January 10.

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Assistant Professor of Spanish. Contact: Antonio Fernandez-Vasquez, Foreign Languages and Literatures, 331 Major Williams Hall (0225). Review begins December 6.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Research and Graduate Studies, Director of Graduate Student Recruiting. Contact: Eugene Brown, Research and Graduate Studies, 306 Burruss (0244). Review begins January 15.

Department of Biology, Research Associate. Contact: M. Lederman, Department of Biology (0406). Review begins immediately.

Center for Transportation Research, Human Factors Research Associate/Engineer I. Contact: Tracey Schroeder, 1700 Kraft Dr., Suite 2000, Blacksburg. Review begins immediately.

Complete information regarding faculty positions is available at <http://www.vt.edu:10021/admin/ea0aa/index.html>.

insurance companies and banks, that have English-speaking employees. Although she had two years of English in high school (she speaks Italian as her native language and a little French), she wanted to improve her English to enable her to serve English-speaking customers more efficiently.

Lucy Ferrari's husband, Olivio, was director of CESA until his death in 1994, when she took over as director for two years. The Ferraris were friends of Di Bella's family. She arranged for Di Bella to visit the United States for a couple of weeks last spring and stay with the family of Eugene Egger, professor of architecture, to see if she wanted to commit to a year of study here. On her way home, she spent some time in New York.

Di Bella returned to Blacksburg October 18 and, as arranged by Ferrari, is living in an apartment in the home of one of Ferrari's friends, Mary Lois Hill.

Di Bella has opened the doors for the return flow of people coming to Virginia Tech to study in addition to the many students from Virginia Tech who study and attend programs at CESA in San Riva Vitale.

While he was at CESA, Bates said, "I saw first hand how true it is that an international study experience is a life-changing opportunity for students." Now he can watch as students from the area of Riva San Vitale gain similar experiences in the United States.

"This interaction provides a unique richness in the experiences by both faculty members and students and creates a learning continuum that goes well beyond what can be accomplished in the traditional classroom setting," Bates said.

Grad students get Drillfield parking

As of November 29 graduate students are allowed to park on the Drillfield with the faculty and staff during the extended hours of 5 to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The change recognizes the additional hours that graduate students need to spend on campus,

and makes better use of Drillfield parking during the extended hours. Assessment of extended parking hours on the Drillfield will continue to ensure the adequacy of the program.

IN OTHER NEWS



PRINT PRESENTATION A rare engraved print of 18th-century graphic artist Giovanni Battista Piranesi is presented to Dot and Paul Torgersen by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies in recognition of their contributions and support during Torgersen's administration. With the Torgersens is CAUS Dean Paul Knox. (J. McCormick)

University uses reverse psychology in student alcohol-awareness campaign

By Catherine Doss

Rather than harping on the negative repercussions of excessive alcohol use, a new awareness campaign launched by Virginia Tech's Office of Student Affairs this fall focuses on positive statistics regarding alcohol use in moderation.

"We find that negative approaches and scare tactics generally don't work," said Steve Clarke, coordinator of alcohol-abuse-prevention programs. "The idea is to reinforce what is the norm. Students generally tend to overestimate alcohol abuse on campus and its related negative behaviors."

The beginnings of the program, called

Centers, inside the Blacksburg Transit buses, and at several football games. Ads appear in the personals section of every issue of the *Collegiate Times*.

Messages like: "Party Girls—One beer feeling cheer, another beer head still clear, three beers a few less tears, four beers like my peers. Thanks for the nice time.—Party Man"

"Our survey research found that the personals were the most widely read section of the student newspaper," Clarke said. "We have a creative force of students and other sponsors who are committed to making this campaign a success."

These sponsors include Students Against

"Contrary to what many believe, we do not have a serious drinking problem at Tech," Clarke said. "Most of our students are already making low-risk drinking choices."

Retiring WPI President Eyman noted for environmental stewardship

By Susan Trulove

Dean Eyman, president of WPI (originally Waste Policy Institute) since October 1989, will retire December 6. "In the decade under his leadership, WPI has become a worldwide resource for environmental stewardship," said Len Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

WPI is a university-affiliated, non-profit corporation that provides assessment, evaluation, planning, and management to solve or prevent pollution. It helps the Departments of Energy (DOE) and Defense, the EPA, and other federal, state, and private clients respond to environmental challenges.

WPI allowed Eyman to meet what he knew to be a critical need in environmental remediation. "It gave me the opportunity to work with federal agencies as a third-party, non-aligned, objective resource."

"I've always felt strongly about the role and responsibility of society for environmental stewardship," Eyman said. He earned degrees in environmental areas and, after receiving his doctorate, went to work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he conducted research on the behavior of fission products and transuranic elements in the environment and food chains. Later, as head of the Earth Sciences Research Section of the Environmental Sciences Division, he managed research on the remediation of waste-disposal areas.

"That first year at WPI, there was myself and a secretary," Eyman said. "But Virginia Tech had a cooperative agreement with DOE and WPI soon had a subcontract to support a company that DOE had contracted to provide technical support to the headquarters program managers."

In 1992, WPI successfully bid to support the DOE's new Office of R&D and Technology Development. "For five years, our primary emphasis was support of that client."

By 1995, annual revenue had grown from \$2 million to \$29 million. Several things happened that year. "We decided to move our headquarters from Gaithersburg, Md., to the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center. Meanwhile, the DOE delegated authority for

execution of the environmental remediation programs to their regional operations offices. As a result, WPI opened offices in South Carolina, Idaho, Washington and West Virginia, and also maintained the Gaithersburg office.

The same year, WPI successfully bid to support the agency of the Air Force responsible for cleaning up AF installations, the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and opened an office in San Antonio, Texas.

Not long after, WPI began providing support of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense—Environmental Security in execution of the trilateral agreement between Russia, Norway, and the United States to clean up nuclear contamination of the Arctic.

"Dean Eyman has given visionary leadership over the past 10 years to the formation and expansion of WPI into a respected provider of environmental policy expertise," said Ray Smoot, university vice president for administration and treasurer, and a member of WPI's board.

Virginia Tech President Paul Torgersen agreed. "At the right moment, Dean Eyman and several insightful people at Virginia Tech shared a vision: They saw that the nation was ready to invest in environmental remediation and better planning. Virginia Tech was confident that we could marshal the technical and management knowhow to provide environmental service. Dean provided the leadership that has made WPI a resource for this nation and world wide. His commitment to environmental stewardship is the bedrock upon which WPI will continue."

"Reality Check," were put in place last spring with a random survey of 1,045 Virginia Tech students. Out of these findings came four messages that will be used throughout the campaign to bring students' perceptions of alcohol use closer to reality and eventually to marginalize alcohol abuse and binge drinking.

The survey found that of those VT students who drink, most (55 percent) have four or fewer drinks when they party. Most VT students (72 percent) never perform poorly in school because of their drinking. Of those VT students who drink, most (56 percent) drink six or fewer drinks per week. Most VT students (68 percent) missed two or fewer classes because of their drinking.

"Contrary to what many believe, we do not have a serious drinking problem at Tech," Clarke said. "Most of our students are already making low-risk drinking choices."

Last spring's survey revealed that 80 percent of students were responsible for only 40 percent of the alcohol consumption at Virginia Tech. Another survey, designed by Southern Illinois University and implemented at Virginia Tech in April 1998 and again in April 1999 showed significant increases in student awareness of alcohol policies, student involvement in prevention activities, and the belief that the university is concerned about alcohol abuse and enforcing alcohol policies.

The multi-faceted campaign began in earnest this fall with posters in residence halls and banners in conspicuous student gathering places such as Squires and Johnston Student

Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) and the wellness-promotion team from Schiflett Health Center.

Starting in the spring, a prize patrol will be out and about on campus looking for students who are displaying Reality Check buttons. When stopped by a prize-patrol volunteer, students will be asked to state one of the campaigns' four main messages. Prizes will be awarded to those who are successful. Clarke also hopes to work with local bars to display the campaign posters, each bearing one of the four messages.

"It's an all-out effort to use positive social norms to reduce the myths about student alcohol consumption," Clarke said.

The Reality Check campaign is part of a larger plan of action approved by the University's Board of Visitors in November 1998 to address the issue of student drinking at Virginia Tech. The plan of action was mandated for all schools by a state task force that was formed after six alcohol-related deaths at four Virginia colleges and universities in 1997. Although Tech already had one of the state's most stringent policies on student alcohol consumption, administrators determined that the university had to do more to ensure the safety of its students. In addition to the awareness campaign, the university toughened its alcohol policy and distributed 4,000 copies of "Alcohol 101," an interactive CD-ROM developed by the University of Illinois in cooperation with The Century Council. First-year students were shown a new video during orientation that included alcohol-related issues, and the university provided additional hours of alcohol-free activities for students, especially on Thursday and Friday nights.

Will the tougher policy and additional programs reduce the upward spiral of binge drinking by students? Vice President for Student Affairs Landrum L. Cross, who oversees the effort, believes they will, but the process will not be easy.

"The drinking problem is bigger than our campus," Cross said. "The extent to which it exists in our society makes it difficult for us to make as much progress as we would like to make. But we're being guided by some of the best national literature on what works and what doesn't work. I think we can have an impact."

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