

# SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 15 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1999

**Have a safe and happy holiday. Spectrum will resume publication on January 14.**



Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer talks about his team during the BCS selection show Sunday. Beamer and Florida State's Bobby Bowden were guests, interviewed via satellite from their respective campuses. While Beamer has not beaten Florida State as a coach, he was involved in a great win for the Virginia Tech program as a player. (See story far right and photo, page 4). (D. Knachel)

## IT'S OFFICIAL

### Tech to play for national championship

By Christian Moody

Concerns about the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) were put to rest Sunday when Virginia Tech's football team was invited to the Sugar Bowl to play for the national championship January 4 in New Orleans' Superdome.

Tech finished second in the BCS standings, ending several anxious weeks spent following the vagaries of the computer-based ranking system.

Coach Frank Beamer received the invitation during a nationally televised selection program Sunday. Beamer and his team gathered in the Jamerson Athletic Center to watch and participate in the program. Team members all wore matching shirts bearing the number 12, signifying the drive to win the twelfth game this season.

Beamer characterized the extraordinary season after the final game against Boston College, saying "The great thing is that we were all in it together—the students, the fans. It's a great feeling because we've done it as a group. We've got it rolling and it's not the last time we plan on doing this."

During the season the team's goal was to get the next win, regardless of the opponent. As each goal was achieved, the team found its way into uncharted territory. No team in Tech history had won 11 games. Only twice did the team finish without a loss, going 7-0 in 1918 and 8-0-1 in 1954.

And not since the Big East began as a football conference in 1991 has one team swept all post-season awards. This year was a first, as Beamer was named Coach of the Year, Corey Moore earned honors as Defensive Player of the Year for the second straight year, and Michael Vick was named Offensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the year. Shayne Graham earned the Special Teams Player of the Year. Moore also won the Mike Fox-Bronco Nagurski Award as the nation's top defensive player.

Vick was surprised Sunday evening to learn he has been invited to the Heisman Trophy Award presentation Saturday. He is the first freshman to ever be invited to the presentation. Vick was also runner-up to Wisconsin's Ron Dayne as the Associated Press College Football

(See BCS on 4)

### Tech-FSU Rivalry Has Long History

By John Ashby

While some pigskin pundits have suggested that Virginia Tech does not belong on the same field with Florida State, Coach Frank Beamer has been on the same field with the Seminoles. The last such encounter was in 1968.

Beamer was a senior captain playing in the defensive backfield on November 2. Tech went to Tallahassee as an underdog to 18th-ranked Florida State. But, in what was described at the time as one of "the greatest performances ever by a Tech team," Beamer and his colleagues stifled the Seminoles offense while scoring 40 points of their own. The team finished at 7-3 in the regular season that year and played Archie Manning and Ole Miss in the Liberty Bowl.

Tech trivia experts may remember other players from that team: quarterback Al Kinkaid, linebacker/fullback Ken Edwards, tailback Terry Smoot, running back George

(See RIVALRY on 4)

### CHRE ranked number one in grad degrees

By Jean Elliott

The Hokies' football team is not the only one garnering top rankings these days. The College of Human Resources and Education (CHRE) at Virginia Tech was recently ranked number one in the nation in the number of theses and dissertations completed in family and consumer sciences in colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Published in the December issue of the *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal*, the article summarized the 734 titles published in 1998. Forty-four colleges and universities representing 29 states reported titles in 1998.

"This positions us as a major graduate institution in the fields included in human resources," said CHRE Dean Janet Johnson. "It also reflects the good work of the faculty in partnership with the graduate students in the pursuit of scholarly discovery."

A total of 75 theses (35) and dissertations (40), were completed by Virginia Tech students, five more than its closest competitor, Cornell. Tech ranked number one in dissertations (again five more than Cornell), and tied for second in the number of theses with Colorado State reporting 36, and Cornell and Utah State also completing 35.

Virginia Tech led the way in the following subject categories: clothing and apparel design, consumer resource management, and family relations.

### Prince says cinema violence escalating

By Sally Harris

Back in 1967, a couple named Bonnie and Clyde died slow-motion, bullet-riddled, body-jerking deaths in a film scene that scandalized society. Today, when Stephen Prince shows that scene to his film-studies classes, many students laugh.

The reason is that, between the time of productions such as Arthur Penn's *Bonnie and Clyde* and Sam Peckinpah's *The Wild Bunch* and today's movies such as *The Basketball Diaries* and *Natural Born Killers*, a whole different cinema environment has evolved.

At the time that Penn and Peckinpah decided that movies needed to show what death really looked like, it was a legitimate issue, Prince said. Before that, death in movies was so sanitary that no blood oozed, no limbs blew off spewing gore across the camera lens, and no writhing agony made audiences cringe. The death usually came from one shot—bang!—with barely a bullet hole showing, and with a character's dramatic leap backwards to a seemingly painless death in the dust.

Penn and Peckinpah had good intentions in trying to show death realistically, Prince said. They hoped that if films showed the actual results of violence, audiences would be cleansed of any urges in that direction. But the opposite occurred. Audiences grew to like the violence and demand more. Filmmakers struggled to present violence in more graphic and glorious gore.

People became de-sensitized to violence until today we have teen idol Leonardo DiCaprio in his now-infamous long black trench coat surrealistically blowing away classmates in *The Basketball Diaries* and two students in black

trench coats walking into their school and killing 12 fellow students and a teacher before turning the guns on themselves.

But the second example wasn't a movie. It took place at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, this year. Two boys, steeped in graphic fantasy movies, including *The Basketball Diaries*, according to Prince, killed 13 people and then themselves in a seemingly motiveless, senseless few minutes of mayhem.

Is there a connection between the violence in movies and violence in real life? Prince believes there is. Are there solutions to the concerns posed by violent movies? There are some. But Prince is doubtful the most logical remedy will occur.

Prince is a professor of communication studies who has written numerous books about cinema, including two about media violence: *Savage Cinema* and *Screening Violence*. In *Screening Violence*, Prince takes the position that the kind of violence found in films today de-sensitizes people and contributes to the level of fascination with bloodshed. "Social science shows that, for a small number of viewers, these films do help instigate aggressive thoughts, ideas, and behaviors," Prince said.

The question of violence in film has been around since the 30s, Prince said. The difference in today's movie violence is the way the filmmakers use media tools to "pump it up and make it attractive and make violence go on and on, where in older films, it was over in a second."

Society once had rules against including close-ups of guns, for example. In contrast, *The Basketball Diaries* showed the fire coming out

(See VIOLENCE on 4)

### Departments get Cunningham Fellowship funds

By Susan Trulove

For many years, Virginia Tech's most prestigious graduate-student fellowship program has been the Cunningham Fellowship, funded by an endowment from George and Gladys Cunningham to support outstanding Ph.D. students. For the first time this year, instead of a Graduate School committee selecting the Cunningham fellows from department nominations, the fellowship funds are being awarded in advance to select departments to allow them to recruit promising students.

Ten departments were selected to receive funding for 28 fellowships for new Virginia Tech students who will enroll in Ph.D. programs in 2000-01 or thereafter. The winning departments are: biological systems engineering, three fellowships; civil engineering, two; chemistry, four; chemical engineering, two; forestry, two; geology, three; human nutrition, foods, and exercise, two; industrial systems engineering, two; mathematics, four; and mechanical engineering, four fellowships.

"While the method of identifying the Cunningham Scholars is changing, the commitment to fund outstanding scholars and the prestige accorded to the students who receive these awards remain the same," said Len Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

(See CUNNINGHAM on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

**Friday, 10**  
Exams Begin.

**Saturday, 11**  
Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Liberty.

**Sunday, 12**  
Holiday Brunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., DBHCC.

**Tuesday, 14**  
Holiday Buffet, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC.  
Diversity Roundtable, noon, 140 Squires.

**Wednesday, 15**  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "Apocalypse Now?"

**Thursday, 16**  
Salary and Wage Paydate.  
Staff Senate, 5:30 p.m., 1810 Litton-Reaves.

**Friday, 17**  
Graduate Commencement, 2:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.

**Saturday, 18**  
Commencement, 10 a.m., Cassell Coliseum.

**Monday, 20**  
Women's Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At Virginia.

**Tuesday, 21**  
Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Puerto Rico: Illinois St.

**Wednesday, 22**  
Men's Basketball, time TBA, Puerto Rico: Auburn.  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "What a Meal."

**Thursday, 23**  
University Closes at Noon.  
Men's Basketball, Puerto Rico: Time and opponent TBA.

**Friday, 24**  
Christmas Holiday for Faculty and Staff.

**Tuesday, 28**  
Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: WVU.

**Wednesday, 29**  
Salary and Wage Paydate.  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "Unaccompanied Minors," with Craig Fields.  
Women's Basketball, 7:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Hampton: Hokie Hardwood Classic.

**Thursday, 30**  
Women's Basketball, Cassell Coliseum: Time and opponent TBA: Hokie Hardwood Classic.

**Friday, 31**  
State Offices Closed.

**Monday, 3**  
New Year's Day Holiday for Faculty and Staff.

**Tuesday, 4**  
Sugar Bowl, 8 p.m., New Orleans: Florida State. Televised on WSET.

**Wednesday, 5**  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA

**Thursday, 6**  
Men's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At Xavier.  
Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Rhode Island.

**Sunday, 9**  
Men's Basketball, 2 p.m.: At Dayton.  
Women's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: George Washington.

**Wednesday, 12**  
Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Duquesne.  
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA

**Friday, 14**  
Salary and Wage Paydate.

## JANUARY

**Sunday, 2**  
Women's Basketball, 2 p.m., at Radford.

## SEMINARS

**Monday, 13**  
CSES, 4 p.m., 232 Smyth: Meriem Elhadj.

**Wednesday, 15**  
Water Science, noon, 108 Seitz: Jim Pease.

## ELI offering classes

The English Language Institute, a unit of the Division of Continuing Education, will offer a full schedule of English language classes beginning January 18, for international students, scholars, and members of the community. Classes will include pronunciation, conversation and culture, composition and grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing, and preparation for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Classes cover all levels of proficiency.

Placement and registration will be held Monday, Jan. 17, beginning at 9 a.m. at 620 N. Main St., Room 205 in Blacksburg. New full-time students should bring their passport, I-20 form, and health-insurance card.

## BULLETINS

Most classes meet weekdays through March 10, with a short break February 19-21. Each class has a tuition fee. Classes with low enrollment will be canceled. Late registrations are accepted with the student paying weekly tuition plus a service charge.

For more information, contact Judith Snoke at 1-6963 or e-mail her at [eslsnake@vt.edu](mailto:eslsnake@vt.edu). Application forms for F-1 student visas can be obtained by contacting Snoke or by visiting the institute's homepage at <http://www.eli.vt.edu>.

## Holiday meals offered at Donaldson Brown

Two special holiday meals will be offered at the

Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center in the coming days. On Sunday, Dec. 12, a brunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. will be offered for \$17.99 or \$16.95 for senior citizens. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 1-5632 or sending an e-mail to [lisae@vt.edu](mailto:lisae@vt.edu).

A holiday buffet will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.. The cost is \$8.25 per person. Reservations are recommended for this meal, as well.

## 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](mailto:gsmith@vt.edu) or 1-7810.

# CAUS, Habitat for Humanity to dedicate new home Sunday

By Sandy Broughton

The College of Architecture and Urban Studies (CAUS) and New River Valley Habitat for Humanity will dedicate their latest completed project Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. at the home site on 1705 Shelor Lane in Blacksburg.

President Paul Torgersen, Terri Fitzwater-Palmore, executive director of the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate, and Paul Knox, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, will be among the dignitaries sharing in the dedication of the new home with its new inhabitants and the volunteers who helped make it possible.

For many low-income Americans, affordable, quality housing is unattainable. Habitat for Humanity's goal to provide affordable housing got a boost from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies when Tech architecture students designed and began building a Habitat house in the fall of 1998. The dedication of the successfully completed house brings to fruition an agreement signed in the spring of 1998 by the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity and the college. The Habitat project was made possible by a gift from alumnus William Dutton during

the Campaign for Virginia Tech. The gift was designated to encourage ethics in the architecture profession. With Dutton's gift to initiate the project, the college raised additional funds for a total of \$35,000 for the materials and construction of a three-bedroom house. Student volunteers provided the design and the labor.

Other colleges and universities provide opportunities for students to participate in Habitat for Humanity construction. But providing more than donated volunteer labor is unique, as is tying the experience to coursework. "For the college to actually fund materials and construction is unusual," says Jack Davis, a Tech Architecture professor who also sits on the Board of Directors for the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate and directs all of the group's projects in the area.

The 1,100-square-foot, three-bedroom, split-level home will be occupied by a single mother and her three children. "I can't thank the students, the college, and Habitat enough," said the new owner. "All I can do is work out here with them, showing my appreciation."

The partnership with Habitat for Humanity embodies the three guiding principles Knox

emphasizes as essential to the CAUS program of study for all students: creativity in design and problem solving, environmental sensitivity, and social responsibility within a civil society.

The project also serves the community outreach functions inherent in the land-grant university. "This shows a real commitment by the university to the surrounding community," Fitzwater-Palmore said.

The Virginia Tech chapter of Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1987, and Tech students have been involved in many of the projects.

"Students learn the process of going from design ideas to actual construction, and the processes of construction management on a small residential scale. Perhaps most importantly, they learn about the obligations, values, and methods of professional outreach in service to society," Davis said.

This is the first time that a Habitat house has been built as part of a curriculum. The Habitat project was undertaken in conjunction with two courses, taught by Davis and fellow Architecture Professor Mike O'Brien. "Topics in Design Methods," taught during the 1998 fall

semester, focused on the design and documentation of a single-family home that meets the criteria of the New River Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Five student teams produced a comprehensive set of construction documents, three-dimensional models, computer-aided design models, project-management profile for construction administration, and comprehensive cost estimates.

The spring semester course, "Design and Construction of a Habitat for Humanity Home," involved design implementation, construction administration, and hands-on construction. Don Flick, a graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Architecture, supervised the construction and managed the volunteers. With a background in professional residential construction, Flick was both manager and teacher for the on-site work on the home. Faculty advisor for the group is Architecture Professor Marie Paget.

The college's house is not the only Habitat project involving Tech students. The student chapter is also building two other Habitat homes locally.

# 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

**Applications Analyst**, 1372D, Distributed Information Systems.

**Applications Analyst**, 6739D, Distributed Information Systems.

**Boiler Operator**, 840P, Grade 6, Power Plant.

**Chemical Safety Trainer (Health Ed. Sr)**, 7491T, Grade 10, Environmental Health & Safety Services.

**Computer Operations Technician Senior**, 1054D, Grade 8, Test Scoring.

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

**Director Of Accounting Systems**, Grade 14, Virginia Tech Foundation.

**Electrical Supervisor (B&G Supervisor A)**, 340F, Grade 9, Physical Plant.

**Electronic Technician Senior**, 7526P, Grade 10, Physical Plant.

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

**Field Technician Assistant**, 7539D, Grade 6, CNS.

**Fiscal Assistant**, 7418J, Grade 5, Center for Transportation Research.

**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.

**Housekeeping Lead Worker/Carpet Crew**, 0732S, Grade 2, Physical Plant.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 1220C, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

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

**Housekeeping Worker**, 6870S, Grade 1,

Physical Plant/Housekeeping.

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

**Housekeeping Worker Senior**, 2745C, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Human Resource Generalist**, 1073T, Grade 12, Personnel Services.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 799T, Grade 8, Biology.

**Laboratory Technician**, 7519T, Grade 4, Chemistry.

**Office Services Specialist**, 2461P, Grade 5, Purchasing.

**Office Services Specialist**, 1459C, Grade 5, Personnel Services.

**Office Services Specialist**, 3508J, Grade 5, Chemical Engineering.

**Operating Systems Analyst**, 6824, Distributed Information Systems.

**Program Support Technician**, 3247M, Grade 6, Biological Systems Engineering.

**Program Support Technician**, 1534J, Grade 6, Graduate School.

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

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

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

**Research Specialist Senior**, 7535M, Grade 9, Horticulture.

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

**Student Activities Building Manager**, 1187G, Grade 7, University Unions/Student Activities.

### Part Time

**Animal Care Tech B**, W022914M, Grade 5, CVM.

**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.

**Library Assistant**, W022944S, Grade 8, University Library.

**Office Services Assistant**, W022260M, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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

**Office Services Specialist**, W022946S, Grade 5, Technical Services/University Library.

**Office Services Specialist**, W022943M, Grade 5, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

**Office Services Specialist**, 802C, Grade 5, CNS.

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

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

**Web Designer**, W022280D, Grade 8, CNS.

### University Only

**Executive Secretary**, 6764D, Grade 6, University Relations.

**Program Support Technician**, UW022942C, Grade 6, Residential/Dining Programs.

### Off Campus

**Evening Announcer**, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

**Office Services Assistant**, 6606J, Grade 4, HNF.

**Program Support Technician**, 5037M, Grade 6, Virginia Cooperative Extension-

Mecklenburg County.

**Research Specialist**, 7534M, Grade 8, CALS—Alison H. Smith Jr., AREC.

**Secretary Senior**, 5481J, Grade 5, Educational Leadership/Policy Studies.

**Wildlife Worker**, 6644T, Grade 4, Biology.

**Wildlife Worker**, 6638T, Grade 4, Biology.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange. Ecologist (Database Manager).**

Contact: Jeff Waldon, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences (0534). Review begins immediately.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Associate Director, 4-H.** Contact: Judith Jones, VCE, 105B Hutcheson Hall (0437). Review begins January 17.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Commercial Horticulture.**

#FA676. Contact: Steve Umberger, VCE, 122 Hutcheson Hall (0437). Review begins January 4.

**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Research Associate.**

Contact: Richard Claus, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 0356. Review begins immediately.

**Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. Instructor.** Contact: Instructor Search Committee, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, 100 Cheatham Hall (0321). Review begins February 18.

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

## PAY DATE CHANGE INFORMATION

To reassure employees that their final pay in 1999 will be available before

the 2000 date change, the pay date scheduled for December 31 has been changed to Dec. 29, 1999.

## TO THE EDITOR

The Registrar's Office has seen fit to mandate new rules for class scheduling. Without any consideration whatsoever to the competitive implications, we are now forced to teach more Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes and Monday-Wednesday classes before 2:30 p.m. cannot be scheduled.

This new rule will have serious implications for our department and probably others. Our peer universities follow a two-day-a-week policy. Thus, the first effect is that we will be unable to recruit assistant professors. This is always a major point of concern when we recruit and we have always been able to give them assurances of a two-day schedule. The second effect is that faculty members will leave. (This always means that good faculty members leave since they are the ones with opportunities.) The third effect is that we will assign more doctoral students to teach courses. The fourth effect is that we will use more teaching assistants to cover Friday classes or at least one of three days for us. The fifth effect is that we will teach more night classes. The overall effect is a lower quality of education.

Three-day-a-week classes also make testing more difficult. I would find it virtually impossible to give an exam that could be completed in 50 minutes. Two-day-a-week classes are far more efficient for the faculty and students. Less prep time and less start-up time in class. If the entire university would go to two-day-a-week classes, including such combinations as M-Th, W-F, etc., things would greatly improve overall.

Is this a way to address the problem of Thursday night drinking? In the meantime, I am dusting off my resume.

Don M. Chance, finance

(Editor's note: According to Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs,

(See LETTER on 4)

## Tech researchers highlighted on WVTF

(Editor's note: The list of faculty researchers to be highlighted through January 30 was published October 29. In addition to the list of researchers to be recognized through May 28, Spectrum is re-printing some of the background information to re-familiarize its readers with the program.)

### By Susan Trulove

Fifty Virginia Tech researchers are being highlighted on WVTF radio in a series of announcements which began November 1. This is the third year of a public-recognition program sponsored by Research and Graduate Studies.

Each faculty member receives week-long recognition for his or her outstanding research. There are 14 20-word announcements. Individuals are nominated by their department heads. The list is then voted on by university and alumni distinguished professors and Len Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the Graduate School.

Scholarship as well as applied research will be recognized. "Listeners should be able to relate that the scholarship has made a difference in our world," Peters said. "We also want to recognize researchers who have made a significant contribution to their field of study."

The spots begin with the words: "Support is provided by Research and Graduate Studies at Virginia Tech recognizing..." The researchers to be recognized and their broadcast dates are:

February 6: Physics Professor Beate Schmittmann for her studies in identifying common structures in complex systems, from living cells to weather to traffic patterns.

February 13: Engineering Professor David

Dillard for developing techniques to quantify, predict, and interpret failures in adhesive bonds used in the transportation and manufacturing industries.

February 20: History Professor Young-tsu Wong for his work in the field of modern Chinese history.

February 27: University Distinguished Professor Ali Nayfeh who is developing dynamic control of loading and unloading operations between naval ships not tied up at dock.

March 5: Engineering Professor Kenneth L. Reifsnider for creating a new approach to designing safe and reliable devices used by many state and national high-technology industries.

March 12 or March 19: Philosophy Professor Joseph C. Pitt for his work in the history and philosophy of science and technology.

March 26: Biology Professor Asim Esen, who is studying enzymes that enable plants to defend themselves against insects and other pests.

April 2: Plant pathology Professor Erik Stromberg for developing disease-resistant corn lines, facilitating corn production in Virginia and the mid-Atlantic United States.

April 9: Center for Gerontology director Professor Karen Roberto's research on osteoporosis is helping older women cope with this chronic disease.

April 16: Physics Professor Leo Piilonen for his work in explaining matter

(See WVTF on 4)

**Virginia Tech**  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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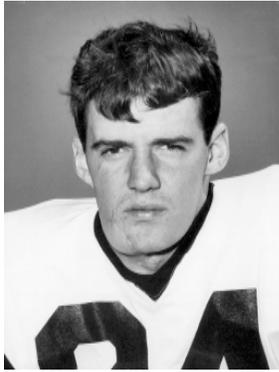
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Electronic Spectrum: <http://www.vt.edu:10021/admin/eoaa/index.html>

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Frank Beamer in 1968

RIVALRY

Continued from 1

Constantinides, and linebacker Mike Widger.

So the Tech-FSU tradition is a long and honorable one, beginning before '68 and continuing after. In fact, there have been 29 meetings between the two teams—Tech has been an FSU opponent more times than any other team with the exception of Seminole rivals Florida and Miami.

The tradition will continue in New Orleans on January 4. Tech will again be in the role of underdog, but perhaps some of the spirit of accomplishment from the Hokies of 1968 will be in evidence in the Superdome that night.

BCS

Continued from 1

Player of the Year.

The allotment of tickets given to Virginia Tech has been purchased and no more tickets are available through the university ticket office. Tickets for the game may be available through

VIOLENCE

Continued from 1

of the ends of the guns. "There have been real changes in the way violence is shown today that accounts for why we might see a different effect than we did in the early decades," Prince said. "The bar about what's permissible keeps getting higher."

Steven Spielberg, in *Saving Private Ryan*, pushed the limits of what a film could show, Prince said. "Spielberg showed violence in a way it had not been shown before. 'Now, I think that's the new threshold that films in a few years will go beyond.'"

One problem, Prince said, is that nearly all filmmakers are concentrating on the visual, physical aspects of the violence and not "on the emotional or spiritual dimensions of it." It is possible for a filmmaker to deal with violence without being visually graphic, he said, "but that's not where movie makers' emphasis has been. It's been on the visual phenomenon."

A second problem with using film to "show what death is like" is that "the visual rhetoric of the films is working in the opposite direction," Prince said. Film makers claim they want to show what death is like, but "the visual effects such as slow motion make it mesmerizing and create a fascination with violence that very few films get beyond. For those in the audience who have trouble distinguishing between fantasy and reality and who harbor those aggressive thoughts, this level of media violence can stoke those kinds of fantasies."

Another problem with violent films is that most of them do not show a time of

IN OTHER NEWS

University takes contingency measures for Y2K

The year 2000 is nearly here. Virginia Tech has devoted a tremendous amount of effort to make the university's mission-critical centralized systems Y2K-compliant.

The university's facilities, telecommunications and supply-chain partners are also compliant. Due to the effort of numerous individuals campus wide, it is felt the 2000 date change will be uneventful compared to the early predictions for Y2K-related problems that have been widely publicized.

Despite the optimism, the date change requires that Virginia Tech take contingency precautions on Dec. 31, 1999 through Jan. 1, 2000. Centralized information systems will be

monitored and tested to ensure they have not been affected by the rollover. The Virginia Tech Physical Plant will have individuals ready to respond to any emergencies that may arise. Additionally a university coordination center will be established at the Virginia Tech Police headquarters to coordinate the university's Y2K efforts if required. The contingency operations will terminate early on Jan. 1, 2000, when it is determined that they are no longer needed.

Despite the university's efforts, it is possible there will be minor inconveniences associated with the Year 2000. Due to the decentralized nature of the university's com-

puting resources, the possibility does exist that an individual's personal computer or a college/department's internal computer program may be affected. Personal computers and internal programs should be checked shortly after returning to work to ensure they are operating correctly. If system difficulties are identified, contact your local system administrator or University Computer Support via the 4-Help services, which will be taking calls Monday, Jan. 3. Additional information can be found on the VA Tech Y2K web page <http://www.ais.vt.edu/ais/Y2K/Yr2000.html>.

ACHIEVERS

The following individuals are being recognized as achievers: **John A. Williams, Jean B. Crockett, Lennie Scott-Webber, Jane Abraham, Joan McLain-Kark, Rosemary Blieszner, Mark Sanders, Jon Poole, Kerry Redican, Joann Boles, Greg Brown, Dan Dolan, John S. O'Neil and E. George Stern.**

For full information regarding their achievements, refer to the on-line edition of this week's *Spectrum* at <http://www.univrel.vt.edu/spectrum/>.

other sources such as packages offered by travel agencies.

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Town of Blacksburg, has scheduled a pep rally for the football team Saturday at 5 p.m. on the Henderson lawn.

This is the first time any Tech varsity team

LETTER

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*the new policy for class scheduling was routed through the university governance structure, and approved in April 1997. Daniel said the original effective date of the policy was Fall Semester 1998, but implementation was delayed because of the new Banner system then coming on line. A faculty advisory group worked with the registrar to develop the schedule, according to Daniel.*

has participated in a national championship game, although men's cross country finished fourth in the NCAA meet in 1987, and had a shot at the national title. In 1967, the golf team finished sixth in a tournament where the winner won the national title.

WVTF

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domination over anti-matter soon after the birth of the universe, thereby making possible for life to evolve.

April 23: Weed science Professor Scott Hagood, whose research on johnsongrass control has enabled Virginia corn farmers to avoid losses exceeding \$2.5 million per year.

April 30: Electronic and computer engineering Professor Charles Bostian, for his 30 years of teaching students and developing technology that helped build the wireless industry.

May 7: Plant pathology Professor Sue Tolin, whose research with plant disease-causing viruses has facilitated the breeding of virus-resistant soybean varieties.

May 14: Nutrition Professor Barbara Davis, for her studies of the relationships between nutrition, immune function and cancer.

May 21: Engineering science and mechanics Professor Romesh Batra for software development for the design of rubber-covered rolls, ceramic penetrators, and smart structures.

May 28: English Professor Paul Sorrentino whose study of American literature has led to the establishment of a society and a journal devoted to the life and writings of Stephen Crane.

CUNNINGHAM

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He said the program was redesigned in response to frequent departmental requests to know in advance the number of awards they would have to recruit the best students. The fellowship adds an \$8,000-per-year stipend to a department assistantship, tuition, and fees for three years.

Awards to departments are based on the strength of the recruitment plan and the likelihood of its success, strength of the department's Ph.D. programs, and the plans for use of the Cunningham funds, which must be spent entirely for graduate students.

A second request for proposals will be distributed in the spring for departments wishing to fund students starting in 2001-02, said Martha Johnson, assistant dean of the graduate school, who is program administrator.

reckoning. "The lack of consequences is one of the damaging messages that get sent," Prince said. Even some adults, he said, cannot see the difference in fiction and reality, as the Littleton shootings show.

A fourth problem with such films is that "movie makers cannot control the reactions of their viewers," Prince said. "Screen violence is exciting, and that may produce a volatile reaction in viewers that the movie makers can't control."

In his book *Savage Cinema*, Prince argues that violence is a legitimate subject for filmmakers to handle. "It's as old as art," he said. The question he raises, however, is "What are the grounds for its legitimate use?"

There was a very short window in the 60s and 70s during the Vietnam War, Prince said, after Peckinpah felt the need to change from

sanitized to ugly violence as catharsis of violent feelings, when film makers might have gone on to do other things. But they didn't.

"As Peckinpah realized toward the end of his career, catharsis is not what these films produce," Prince said. "Instead of releasing tension, they work people up into an agitated state." The result is "the problematic climate we inhabit today," including the new type of audience that demands such violent movies.

Prince believes audiences will have to be the ones to say, "Enough is enough." He is not in favor of censorship. "But I do believe in public pressure," he said. "It's an economic thing. Movies became violent in the 60s because they saw it sold. 'What I would like to see the industry do,' Prince said, 'is adopt a kind of voluntary process of self regulation. I don't think they will.'"

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