

SPECTRUM

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Tech

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TODAY'S EDITION
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Student Success Grant
information.

Cross-cutting initiatives' needs assessed, strategies to be implemented

By Catherine Doss

After nearly three years since their conception, Virginia Tech's seven cross-cutting initiatives (CCI's) have seen a number of successes, everything from a slick, high-visibility television advertising campaign, to a unique multi-million-dollar biotechnology partnership with Carilion Health System and the University of Virginia.

"One of our greatest successes has been the way various disciplines have come together, developed joint initiatives, and have given us something to build upon in the future," said Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy S. Meszaros. "I know of no other university that has taken this approach to identifying its niches and capitalizing on

them. Virginia Tech will continue to make a name for itself, especially in these seven areas."

The seven CCI's are biosciences and biotechnology; computing, information, and communications technology; environmental sciences and energy systems; food, nutrition, and health; learning communities; materials science; and transportation. These areas were identified as established or emerging strengths of the university and were selected because they address critical state and national needs and have the potential for significant external resources and partnerships.

The CCI committees, all faculty-led, developed a case statement, gap analysis, needs assessment, and recommendations for each initiative.

Meszaros recently allocated funding based on recommendations from each committee:

Biosciences and Biotechnology

- Resource allocation for improved infrastructure and additional faculty members;
- Launching of the Carilion Biomedical Institute;
- Proposal for a major bioinformatics initiative (still under consideration in the General Assembly);
- Hiring of an outreach and distance-education coordinator.

Computing, Information Systems, and Communications Technology

- Addition of new faculty members as part of state base appropriations;
- Creation of masters degree in information

technology;

- Creation of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning;
- Establishment of the Information Technology Advisory Council.

Environmental Sciences and Energy Systems

- Support for establishment of an Energy and Environmental Council;
- Allocation of resources for the development of communications and marketing materials.

Food, Nutrition, and Health

- Development of a new institute to focus on the synergistic character of the joint

(See CROSS-CUTTING on 4)

Engineering offering dual degrees

By Liz Crumbley

The College of Engineering is working with three other Virginia schools—Longwood College, Radford University, and Sweet Briar College—to offer dual undergraduate degrees.

These dual-degree programs allow students to begin their studies at one of the liberal arts schools and finish at Virginia Tech, earning two degrees in five years. Students from Longwood and Sweet Briar will earn a B.S. or B.A. in physics from those colleges and a B.S. in engineering from Tech. Undergraduates who begin at Radford will receive a B.S. in chemistry there and a B.S. in chemical engineering at Tech.

The College of Engineering has had a similar program with Roanoke College for several years, said Bev Watford, associate dean for academic affairs for engineering. "Programs like these are common practice and are done in the spirit of cooperation," Watford said.

Colleges without engineering programs usually initiate the exchanges, and Virginia Tech benefits by attracting transfer students with excellent grades and encouraging goodwill and diversity. Watford expects the programs to draw one or two students annually from each of the three schools.

"Sweet Briar initiated the program with Virginia Tech to help attract students who want the opportunity to study engineering as well as liberal arts," said Scott Hyman, associate professor of physics at Sweet Briar. The dual degrees make graduates more attractive to employers, he said.

Students who enroll in the program will be ready for engineering studies at Virginia Tech after only two years at Sweet Briar, Hyman said. The participants will

(See ENGINEERING on 2)



RETRO TECH Carol Crawford Smith, center, former director of the Black Cultural Center, portrayed legendary dancer Josephine Baker at the Harlem Renaissance Costume Ball that kicked off Black History Month at the university. Participants dressed as someone who would have been alive between 1919 and 1929. (J. McCormick)

Tech aerospace engineers top publishers

By Liz Crumbley

Virginia Tech researchers are ranked number one among the top 100 federally funded U.S. universities for publishing scientific papers in the field of aerospace engineering.

More importantly, said Malcolm McPherson, associate dean for research and graduate studies for the College of Engineering, papers by Tech aerospace researchers have been cited more often in scientific journals than have papers authored by faculty members at other schools.

The Institute for Scientific Information

reports that between 1994 and 1998, Virginia Tech researchers published 159 aerospace-engineering papers, and 166 journal citations of those papers were made. The other top schools publishing in the field are Purdue University, with 121 papers; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 120 papers; Georgia Tech and University of Maryland, 116 papers; and Penn State, 109 papers.

In fact, Virginia Tech researchers have the highest number of publications and citations recorded in the aerospace-engineering

(See TECH on 2)

Team formed to implement graduate review

By Catherine Doss

A 10-member implementation team, chaired by Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, will conduct a thorough review of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech. The group was formed in response to recommendations made by last year's Graduate Education Review Task Force, chaired by Joe Pitt. The implementation team will carry out the review as its first task during the 2000 calendar year.

"This is the first step in implementation of the recommendations in last year's report," said Peggy S. Meszaros, senior vice president and provost. "It is a critical task if we are to enhance our status as a major research university and center for graduate education as stated in the Academic Agenda."

In its report, submitted last November, the Graduate Education Review Task Force cited several major changes that are affecting graduate education nationally. These included more intense competition for graduate students, a changing graduate-student profile, changes in the structure of graduate education as well as the structure and character of academic research, changing career opportunities for new Ph.D. students, and changing availability of resources. The task force recommended ways to address these changes in relation to recruitment, retention, placement, and resources within the graduate program at Virginia Tech.

Members of the implementation task force are Robert Bush, wood science and forest products; Claire Vaught, educational leadership and policy studies; Walter O'Brien, mechanical engineering; Elizabeth Grabau, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science; James Brown, marketing; Joe Scarpaci, urban affairs and planning; Bob Rogers, mathematics; Julia Beamish, near

(See TEAM on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 11

Black History Month Program, noon, Squires Haymarket Theatre: Sonya Baker, JMU.

Saturday, 12

Men's Basketball, 2 p.m.: At Rhode Island.

Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Peter Schatz.

Black History Month Program, 7 p.m., Black Cultural Center: Hayward Farrar.

Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Carey Garard.

YMCA Sweetheart Dance, 8-11 p.m., German Club.

Sunday, 13

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Angel's Rest.

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

Student Recital, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Valerie Byrnside.

Monday, 14

Valentine Buffet, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC Dining Room.

CEUT Workshop, noon-1:30 p.m., Hillcrest: "Making Connections: The Caring Dimension of Teaching."

Black History Month Program, 7 p.m., Black Cultural Center.

TAUT Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *The Lizard of Tarsus*.

Tuesday, 15

Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC room G: Bevlee Watford.

Black History Month Program, 6 p.m., Black Cultural Center: NAACP discussion.

Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

TAUT Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *The Lizard of Tarsus*.

Wednesday, 16

Salary and Wage Paydate.

OWF Lunch, noon, DBHCC Dining Room.

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "It's A Chemical Reaction: The Science of Love."

TAUT Workshop Production, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *The Lizard of Tarsus*.

Thursday, 17

CEUT Workshop, noon-1:30 p.m., Hillcrest: "What is the Nature of Thinking?"

Staff Senate, noon 1810 Litton-Reaves.

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Jack Davis.

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

Men's Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At GWU.

Friday, 18

Black History Month Program, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Women's Center: Irene Lamb.

SEMINARS

Friday, 11

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Charles Han, NIST.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: David W. Smith.

ESM, 4 p.m., 136 Norris: Graham Wilks, Keele.

Monday, 14

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Tim Hartz, California.

Tuesday, 15

ECPE, 3:30-4:30 p.m., 300 Whittemore: William Velander.

Wednesday, 16

Water Science, noon, 108 Seitz: Waldon Kerns.

STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane: Maria Papadakis, JMU.

Thursday, 17

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Oliver Schabenberger.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 102 Saunders: Fabricio Medina-Bolivar.

Friday, 18

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Dorothea J. Jeffrey, DuPont.

Communication Studies, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest conference room: Stephen Prince.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Mary Ann Hanson.

Exemplary nominations sought

Each year the university recognizes academic departments or programs that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in maintaining an excellent teaching and learning environment for students and faculty members. This year, the departments and programs will be recognized for their work in increasing diversity of faculty and staff members, and students, and/or enhancing multi-cultural perspectives in teaching, research, and outreach programs. Special attention will be given to programs and initiatives that have demonstrated results and outcomes. The recognition includes two \$10,000 awards and a \$20,000 award to the departments or programs selected by a committee drawn from the university community.

Nominations are encouraged from students, faculty members, and from others who have benefited from the work of the department in the area of diversity.

Letters of nominations not to exceed two pages should describe the linking of research with particular concentration on innovative undergraduate programs or departments noting what aspects are exemplary. A nomination may address a broad range of activities or a single activity that has made the department's contribution outstanding. Letters should be addressed to Exemplary Department and Program Awards Committee, c/o Ronald W. Daniel, Office of the Provost, 330 Burruss, 0132. Deadline for receipt of nomination letters is Friday, March 10.

New 571 area code to be enacted in NoVa

Beginning March 1, a new 571 area code will overlay the region currently served by 703 in Northern Virginia, meaning the same geographic area will have two area codes. All local calls in Northern Virginia will require 10-digit dialing, or area

BULLETINS

code plus seven-digit number. These calls will continue to be free within the local area and rates for Extended Area calling will remain the same. Long-distance calls placed from either 703 or 571 to other area codes will require dialing 1 plus the ten digit telephone number.

Virginia Tech departments located in Northern Virginia need to ensure that their modems, fax machines, and speed- or automatic-dialing equipment are reprogrammed before March 1. For additional information, please access the CNS web page at <http://www.cns.vt.edu/notices/newac.html>.

CEUT announces programs

The Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching has announced three programs slated for next week.

"**Making Connections: The Caring Dimension of Teaching**" will be presented February 14 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Hillcrest large conference room. This workshop will focus on ways to foster connections with and among students. Faculty facilitators will address the culture of care and concern in classes—benefits, difficulties, and strategies. CEUT will provide lunch and chocolates.

Eric Pappas and Michelle Stebner will present "Lunchtime Conversation: What is the Nature of Thinking?" with CEUT on Thursday, Feb. 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect and comment on an on-going exchange of ideas and personal experiences related to the nature of thinking. Topics that have emerged in previous conversations include critical thinking, creative process, teaching style, creativity and personal growth, and strategies in the classroom. Participants can bring a brown bag lunch; CEUT will provide cookies and

beverages.

During the workshop "Learning Series: Introduction to the Science of Learning Working Memory," participants will actively investigate and interpret data on working memory, and will learn ways to promote better use of the resources in learning tasks. Peter Doolittle and Terry Wildman will present this workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the Hillcrest large conference room from 3 to 5 p.m.

Registration for any of the workshops can be filed on CEUT's web site, <http://www.ceut.vt.edu>, or by e-mail at ceut@vt.edu.

Fulbeck to perform

Kip Fulbeck will perform his multi-media show "I Hope You Don't Mind Me Asking..." in the Donaldson Brown auditorium Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Fulbeck has performed throughout the world exploring multi-racial identity and ancestry. His show combines monologues, videos, character parodies, poetry and stand-up comedy.

Loewen offers keynote

Best-selling author James Loewen will be speaking about *Bland Optimism, Blind Nationalism, and Plain Misinformation: Everything Your School History Textbooks and Historic Monuments Got Wrong* on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. One of the keynote speakers for Black History Month, Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your History Textbook Got Wrong* was awarded the 1996 American Book Award, the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award for Distinguished Anti-Racist Scholarship and the AESA Critics Choice award as outstanding book of interest to those in educational studies.

ENGINEERING

Continued from 1

study chemistry and physics in addition to liberal arts courses at Sweet Briar, and will take Introduction to Engineering at Tech during summer semester. "We want to be sure that the students are serious about pursuing engineering before they transfer to Tech," Hyman said.

So far, one Sweet Briar student, Krista Schuler, is planning to enter the program and wants to study civil engineering at Virginia Tech. Mary Erina Lollis transferred from

Roanoke College and began mechanical engineering courses during fall semester 1999.

Watford said the College of Engineering is now developing dual-degree programs with additional schools, including Hampton University in Virginia and Elon College in North Carolina.

TECH

Continued from 1

"This statistic is a good indicator of the strength of our programs and of the diligence and hard work of our faculty and graduate students," said Bernd Grossman, head of the Department of Aerospace and Ocean Engineering (AOE). Grossman said researchers in several Virginia Tech departments, including AOE, electrical and computer engineering, engineering science and mechanics, and mechanical engineering, publish papers on the subject of aerospace engi-

neering.

Grossman cited other evidence that Virginia Tech's aerospace program is a national leader. In 1999 the program was ranked tenth in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* survey of engineering school deans. Aerospace students also have a long history of winning the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics team aircraft and spacecraft design competitions.

"We hope to continue our tradition of success through the continued recruitment of the highest quality students and faculty members," Grossman said.

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. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. 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

Animal Care Technician B, 2647M, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician C, 2639M, Grade 7, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Applications Analyst, 7354D, Grade 0, Computing Center.

Budget Analyst, 6935T, Grade 10, Budget/Financial Planning.

Budget Manager, 7567T, Grade 14, Budget/Financial Planning.

Business Development Liason (Public Relations Coordinator), 7568J, Grade 12, MPRRG.

Buyer Specialist, 4498M, Grade 9, Purchasing.

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

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

Development Program Researcher, 7556D, Grade 9, University Development.

Executive Secretary, 1854T, Grade 6, Budget/Financial Planning.

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

Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef, 1781H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Dietrick Dining Hall.

Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef, 0837H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/West End Market.

Housekeeping Lead Worker, 732C, Grade 2, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker, 7261G, Grade

1, Recreational Sports.

Housekeeping Worker, 0171H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 1021H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

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

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7546M, Grade 9, CVM.

Office Services Specialist, 0242H, Grade 5, Residential/Dining Programs/Culinary Services Administration.

Office Services Specialist, 4326J, Grade 5, Center for Wireless Telecommunications.

Office Services Specialist (Motor Pool Dispatcher), 7560T, Grade 5, Motor Pool.

Office Services Specialist/Unit Secretary, 0148, Grade 5, Residential/Dining Programs/Dietrick Dining Center.

Operating Systems Analyst, 1244D, Grade 9, AIS.

Plumber/Steamfitter, 7278H, Grade 7, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities.

Program Support Technician, 6326J, Grade 6, Urban Affairs/Planning.

Program Support Technician Senior, 7548T, Grade 7, Physics.

Program Support Technician Sr, 3507J, Grade 7, Water Resources Research Center.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist, 4492J, Grade 8, Center for Transportation Research.

Public Relations Specialist, 7549J, Grade 10, Center for Transportation Research.

Recreation Center Supervisor (Recreation Sup B), 6956G, Grade 7, University Unions/Student Activities.

Security Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), W020415T, Grade 2, Parking Services.

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

Student Programs Coordinator, LC063D, Grade 12, Alumni Relations.

Trades Utility Worker (Maintenance Engineer), 7569G, Grade 3, DBHCC.

Part Time

Animal Care Technician A, W022970M, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Fiscal Assistant, W022977M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Fiscal Technician, W022853G, Grade 6, Bursar's Office.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

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

Laboratory Mechanic C, W022985J, Grade 8, Center for Power Electronics.

Laboratory Specialist, W022972M, Grade 8, Dairy Science.

Office Services Assistant, W022982G, Grade 4, Physical Plant.

Office Services Assistant, W022356G, Grade 4, DBHCC.

Office Services Specialist, W022560M, Grade 5, CVM.

Office Services Specialist, W022980, Grade 5, University Registrar.

Public Relations Assistant Specialist/Web Designer, W022976H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Marketing/Conference Services.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238G, Grade 7, Health Center.

Secretary Senior, W020618M, Grade 5, CVM.

Trades/Utilities Worker (Trades Helper), W022966H, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities.

Off Campus
Evening Announcer, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

Office Services Assistant, 6616J, Grade 4, HNFE.

Office Services Assistant, 6605, Grade 4, HNFE.

Program Support Technician, 7543J, Grade 6, NVC—Computer Science.

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

University Office of International Programs Director. Virginia Tech Center for European Studies and Architecture, Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. Contact: CESA Director, UOIP, 134 Burruss (0265). Review begins March 1.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES INFORMATION

Electronic Reserve: Centralized On-line Course Materials

By Caryl Gray

"It is wonderful. I am able to read assigned material at any time from anywhere. It beats the old system," said a student who completed the fall 1999 E-Reserve student survey.

E-Reserve provides web access to traditional library reserve materials and makes them available on line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, wherever students and faculty members may be. Beginning spring semester 1995, the Scholarly Communications Project (now Digital Library and Archives) of the University Libraries launched Electronic Reserve (<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ereserve/>). E-Reserve was designed to be a central location for resources used by faculty members to supplement their courses. Each semester more supplementary class materials are available to

students through E-Reserve. During the 1999 fall semester, there were 107,405 hits on the E-Reserve server.

Many faculty members have taken advantage of E-Reserve to make class syllabi, lecture notes and slides, supplemental readings, homework solutions, and other course materials available to their students. Using E-Reserve allows faculty members to use copyrighted materials for one semester without requesting permission from the copyright holder. It is a closed system accessible only by the university community, but students and faculty members can use the system wherever they have Internet and web access.

Documents linked to E-Reserve vary from simple PDF files to sophisticated web sites supporting instruction. Faculty members may also choose

to link from E-Reserve materials stored on departmental or other servers, but these do not enjoy the same copyright protection as do the library's reserve materials. As soon as an instructor adds a file or a URL to their class E-Reserve list, the new materials are immediately available to their students.

Last semester a survey linked to the course listings gathered information about how students use E-Reserve. Most of the responding students access electronic-reserve materials from their personal computers and find E-Reserve very user friendly. A majority of the students indicated that at least one of their classes had electronic-reserve materials, but indicated that many classes have on-line materials to support instruction that are not

(See ELECTRONIC RESERVE on 4)

Industrial and systems engineering celebrates anniversary

By Karen Gilbert,
ISE public-relations coordinator

The Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) Department is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. The ISE Department was established in 1920 as the Department of Commercial Engineering.

Only four programs in industrial engineering were in existence in the United States before this date, with Penn State University being the first. The first undergraduate degree in industrial engineering was awarded at Virginia Tech in 1930, followed by the first master's degree awarded in 1934. The first doctorate came much later, as the Ph.D. program was approved in 1970.

Over the years, many distinguished leaders have played a role in the success of the department, including Paul Torgersen, who served as department head from 1967 until 1970, when he became the dean of the College of Engineering and later became president of

Virginia Tech.

According to John G. Casali, Grado professor and the current ISE department head, "Although there have been many changes to the curriculum over the years, ISE at Virginia Tech still draws upon a combination of knowledge in the mathematical, physical, and social sciences, together with methods of engineering analysis and design to develop, improve, and maintain integrated systems of people, materials, information, energy, and equipment. We firmly adhere to the belief that our engineers should gain a broad perspective that is inclusive of quantitative skills in engineering and business, management and organizational knowledge, a foundation in manufacturing processes and systems and an appreciation for the human aspects of product and manufacturing systems design."

One of the most influential events that occurred in the department's history was the

formation of an Advisory Board in 1972. The board was established to provide guidance and support to the department. The ISE Advisory Board remains active, and currently has 25 members. Members of the Advisory Board represent 25 different companies and academic institutions from around the nation.

One of the Advisory Board's latest projects is to fund a new Student Design Center for ISE students to facilitate team presentations, which will be equipped with all of the latest in communications and group-presentation technology. This equipment will be used extensively by students enrolled in the ISE Senior Design course who work in teams, some having students from other universities in France and Puerto Rico, to solve real-world problems for a variety of industries.

More than 4,600 ISE alumni have gone on to careers in industry, business and government, many in high-ranking positions of leadership.



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Editor
John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor
Christian Moody, 1-8538

Production Manager
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager
1-8819

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

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Students Success Grants to take new renewed-funding approach

By Catherine Doss

For the first time, Virginia Tech's Student Success Grants will be eligible for renewed annual funding. The grants, sponsored by the Office of the Provost, are designed to foster innovative approaches to assisting undergraduate students who are at risk for academic probation. The Student Success initiative, now in its third year, is directly linked to the academic-eligibility policy that requires students to maintain a 2.0 quality credit average (QCA).

Proposals will be accepted starting February 24 for grants for the 2000-01 academic

year. Faculty members who have been awarded current projects may reapply for funding. In addition, non-Student Success grant projects may apply for funding through the program. The grants are divided into two categories: intervention projects and research projects.

Selection criteria for intervention projects include projects that foster collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs; include student participation in the planning process; include undergraduate involvement; demonstrate the ability to implement a strong evaluation plan; increase student interaction with faculty members; and involve students in small-group activities.

Research grants, designed to support evaluation of programs that currently enhance undergraduate student success, must include a process analysis and a detailed plan for analyzing student outcomes.

Intervention proposals are normally funded in the range of \$25,000; however, with appropriate justification, a few proposals may be funded at amounts up to \$50,000. Research proposals are funded up to \$5,000.

"Our intent with the new approach this year is to enable current worthy projects to receive renewed funding," said David R. Ford, vice provost for academic affairs. "It is not an

automatic renewal, though. The proposals must justify renewed funding based on the assessment of their outcomes."

The deadline for submitting proposals is March 25. Submit one original and four copies of the proposal to Ford, vice provost for academic affairs, 330 Burruss (0132). Recipients will be notified by May 1.

For more information, contact Elaine Humphrey at 1-9595 or by e-mail at elaine@vt.edu; or access <http://fbox.vt.edu:10021/admin/provost/success/index.html>.

Serving students better—Halal and Kosher foods now available at Owens food court

By Lori Greiner

Virginia Tech's Culinary Services has introduced several new halal and kosher food entrées to its Owens Food Court menu in an effort to better serve its diverse student population. Muslim and Jewish students now have more on-campus dining options that meet their religious dietary guidelines.

With collaboration from Muslim and Jewish student groups, using advanced technology, and Culinary Services' commitment to meet

all student needs, a cost-effective program was developed that offers halal and kosher foods in only two minutes.

"There are very few universities in the United States that serve both halal and kosher foods," said Rick Johnson, director of Culinary Services. "We take pride in honoring every individual's right to a quality experience, and meeting a student's religiously mandated dietary needs is part of a quality experience."

It was decided after conducting preliminary research about the products, and surveying groups of Muslim and Jewish students, that Culinary Services would find a way to fill this void. Students indicated that they would be interested in purchasing the appropriate convenience-style menu items that are within their religious guidelines.

Halal and kosher foods are requested by Muslim and Jewish students for religious reasons. Muslim students who follow halal guidelines only eat certain types of meat and Jewish students who keep kosher only eat certain types of meats, as well as consume meat and dairy products separately. The word "halal" is used in relation to food or drink in any form that is permitted and fit for consumption by Muslims. For a food or drink to be described as halal, it must conform to the Islamic dietary laws as specified in the *Qur'an*, the *Hadith* (sayings of the Prophet, Muhammad, his Sunnah (tradition), and in the *fiqh* (teachings) of the Islamic Jurists: Hanafi, Shafi'i, Malik, and Hanbali. The Hebrew word "kosher," when applied to food means fit and proper for eating. The dietary laws, the laws of kashruth, are set out of the *Book of Leviticus* in the *Bible*.

The foods are available in Owens Food Court at Spatula Street on a cooked-to-order basis. Menu items include a variety of entrées including breaded chicken patty sandwiches, chicken nuggets, beef hamburgers, beef cheeseburgers, chicken strips, beef franks, and other halal and kosher items. The foods are cooked in a Turbo Chef oven, which is a combination microwave/convection oven for rapid cooking.

Based on student feedback already received, the new food items have been well-received. "This program is very important to us. We are now able to receive a balance diet. Before having access to these food items, I relied mainly on a vegetarian diet," said Ali Bin Omer, a Virginia Tech freshman. "We appreciate the acknowledgment of the Muslim community through this program. I would think that this is something that Virginia Tech could use as a selling point to bring in new students."

Culinary Services will be periodically evaluating the menu and student comments to measure the success of the program. For more information, contact Jenny Lindsey, 1-8668, or e-mail lindsey@vt.edu.

ELECTRONIC RESERVE

Continued from 3

linked to E-Reserve. The survey has been refined and new data is being gathered during the spring 2000 semester.

The data collected from these surveys assist the University Libraries in its continuing work to support the instruction efforts of the faculty and to improve library services. In addition to the student survey, a faculty survey has been developed to gather data from faculty members about their experiences with E-Reserve. The faculty survey is located on the E-Reserve "Instructions for Instructors" page at <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ereserve/instructions/instructors/>.

E-Reserve is a dynamic service developed by the library to support instruction by making electronic class materials available to students at one central location. With help from Distributed Information Systems, the next step in the University Libraries' plan is to create the Electronic Reading Room. This service will combine the traditional library reserve reading lists with E-Reserve to give students one place to find a listing of supplemental materials for their classes, whether at the Reserve Desk or on line.

Access to E-Reserve materials is available to everyone in the Virginia Tech community

both on and off campus. If faculty members link electronic materials that support instruction to E-Reserve, students will be able to easily locate the materials through a central web site (<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ereserve>) and will not have to remember separate URL's for each class. To link course web pages, Courseware pages, and other relevant electronic resources to E-Reserve, follow the directions found on the "Instructions for Instructors" page.

For additional information concerning E-Reserve contact Caryl Gray, cgray@vt.edu and 1-9229, or Gail McMillan, gailmac@vt.edu and 1-9252.

CROSS-CUTTING

Continued from 1

interaction of food, nutrition, and health;

- Proposal for a multidisciplinary graduate program.

Learning Communities

- Overhaul of the first-year student experience;
- Development of external connections and establishment of a Visiting Scholars program;
- Initiation of a video production and interactive web site;

• Continuation of explorative work in learning communities.

Materials

- Creation of the Carillon Biomedical Institute;
- Allocation of start-up funding for two new faculty lines in chemical engineering and chemistry;
- Creation of a better system for gathering and externally reporting materials statistics.
- Naming of Virginia Tech as one of the leading universities in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory project.

Transportation

- Proposals to hire five new joint faculty members submitted in biennial budget;
- Collaborative work with the Center for Transportation Research.

The CCI's also served as the basis for two television advertising campaigns launched by University Relations and funded by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

"By identifying and focusing on these seven areas of pre-eminence, the university has been granted tremendous opportunities for visibility," Mesaros said. "Plans for 2000-01 include revisiting the case statements to update information and evaluation of the progress in closing the gaps with our competition."

Mesaros said new plans also call for increased visibility. A major-achievement brochure, symposiums, and legislative receptions will be considered. In the coming weeks, the CCI committees will be changing their composition, as most committee members agreed to serve three years. "We have some individuals who want to rotate off their committee and others who want to stay closely involved," Mesaros said. "This is by no means the end of the cross-cutting initiatives. They will continue to guide the university in its strategic planning for years to come."

TEAM

Continued from 1

environments and chair of the Commission on Graduate Studies; and Jeff Sutton, president of the Graduate Student Assembly.

The Graduate Education Review Task Force's report may be viewed on the provost's web site (<http://www.provost.vt.edu/provost.html>) under the category "strategic planning."

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