

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION

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activities and events.

Tech joins Swiss to form International Disaster Risk Management Institute

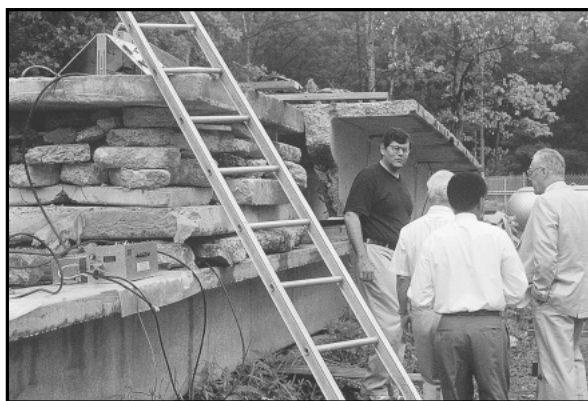
By Larry Hinker

The Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (ETH) and Virginia Tech have formed, in conjunction with the World Bank Disaster Management Facility, the World Institute for Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The institute will be a wide-ranging advisory and analysis group dedicated to helping countries use applied research to mitigate loss of life and property from disasters.

Located near Washington, D.C., at Virginia Tech's Alexandria Research Institute, DRM will draw upon expertise throughout the ETH system, Virginia Tech, and other affiliated universities.

More major natural disasters occurred in 1998 than in any other year on record. Yet the risk is not fully understood or accounted for. Forty of the world's 50 fastest growing cities are in earthquake zones. Half the world's population lives in coastal zones. Ten million people are at constant risk of coastal flooding. Three million people per year are made homeless by flooding.

"Many governments, especially in developing countries, lack an adequate institutional framework for applying cost effective and reliable technologies for early warning disaster prevention and mitigation," said President Charles Steger. DRM will work with governments, international agencies, private enterprises, and non-



Fred Kringold, left, explains the use of a super-sensitive listening device to locate unconscious victims of earthquakes at a rescue training site in Maryland. (P. Lancaster)

government organizations that have an interest in disaster risk reduction for sustainable social and economic development.

"We want to create a network for applied research, implementation and information dissemination in the field of disaster risk management. DRM brings together key institutions of the governmental sector, the

private sector, and the research community," said Stephan Bieri, chief executive officer of the ETH Board of Directors. Bieri said one goal of the institute will be to "move beyond a post-disaster response mentality towards a culture of integral risk management and sustainable risk reduction."

DRM is initially established with seed

monies from ETH, Virginia Tech, and Swiss Re, a major global re-insurance company. On-going operations of the institute will be funded by grants and contracts from public and private sources interested in global disaster risk reduction.

The DRM Institute will work in conjunction with recently formed ProVention Consortium of the World Bank. In an announcement earlier this month, the World Bank said it will aim to equip developing countries with the means to better cope with natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods and reduce the related loss of life and destruction. The bank noted that in 1998, natural disasters claimed more than 50,000 lives and destroyed \$65 billion worth of property and infrastructure.

Alcira Kriemer, a World Bank official leading the ProVention Consortium, said, "The DRM as part of the ProVention Consortium can make a major contribution to the reduction of disaster losses and ending the cycle of poverty in disaster-prone developing countries."

DRM will provide technical, economic, and social analysis and advice for investment and infrastructure improvement that will reduce disaster losses. "We will draw upon and leverage the intellectual resources of some of the world's top universities. By applying science, technology, financial and

(See TECH on 4)

Tech professors selected to receive SCHEV faculty awards

Wayne Purcell

By Stewart MacInnis

From the start, Wayne Purcell's career seems to have been on a trajectory to intersect with the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award.

Purcell says he's gratified with the recognition as one of 11 faculty members across the state to receive the award. Still, he says, the impact he has had in the years of work leading to the award—and the impact he plans to have in years yet to come—are really the reward that is most meaningful.

That impact has ranged from what one former student termed an individual life-changing experience in a classroom to a sea change in the way a major sector of the U.S. agriculture industry operates.

Purcell is an alumni distinguished professor of agricultural and applied economics in the College of Agriculture and



PURCELL

Life Sciences. He is also director of the Research Institute on Livestock Pricing and coordinator of the Rural Economic Analysis Program, both housed at the university.

The state-council recognition is awarded based on contributions a faculty member makes in the classroom, through research, and beyond the campus through public-service activities.

Purcell's classroom ability has been recognized through many awards through the years. During the 12 years he was on the faculty at Oklahoma State University, he won every teaching award available. Since he joined Virginia Tech's faculty in 1978, he has earned every major teaching award the university has to offer. In addition, he has won teaching awards from American Agricultural Economics Association, the Southern Agricultural

Economics Association, and from professional and industry groups.

Stephen R. Koontz, associate professor of (See PURCELL on 3)

Y.A. Liu

By Liz Crumbley

"I chose university teaching in 1974 because I enjoy the challenge of motivating and inspiring young people, and years of teaching have only deepened my enjoyment," said Y.A. Liu, a recipient of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award for 2000.

Liu, the Frank C. Vilbrandt professor of chemical engineering (ChE), is one of 11 faculty members from colleges and universities throughout Virginia selected to receive the award, which is the highest honor accorded faculty members by the state. The awards, presented March 2 during a ceremony in Richmond, recognize "the finest among Virginia's college faculty members for their demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and public service."

Since coming to Virginia Tech in 1982 from the faculty of Auburn University, Liu has received several honors in recognition of both his teaching and research efforts, including the 1984 Western Electric



Fund Award from the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) for excellence in instruction of engineering students; the 1986 National Catalyst Award for excellence in chemical education from the Chemical Manufacturer's Association; the 1990 George Westinghouse Award, the highest

honor presented by the ASEE to educators under the age of 45 for outstanding achievements in teaching and scholarship; and the 1993 Fred Merryfield Design Award from the ASEE for creativity and excellence in teaching and research of engineering design. In addition, Liu has been honored as a teacher by the faculty and students of Virginia Tech. In 1996 he

received the College of Engineering Sporn Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction, the highest honor awarded by the college's 5,000 students. In 1997, the faculty (See LIU on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 3

OWF Coffee Hour, 8-9 a.m., The Easy Chair.
Advising Committee Program, 3:30 p.m., Squires Yorktown Room: Sarah Wheeler.
Philosophy Conference, 8 p.m., 225 Major Williams.
Women's Basketball, Time TBA: At Philadelphia, A-10 Tournament.

Saturday, 4

Philosophy Conference, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., 113 McBryde.
Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Dayton.

Sunday, 5

Philosophy Conference, 9 a.m., 229 Major Williams.
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., 403 Washington St.: Warm Hearth and Huckleberry Trail.
Theatre Event, 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre.
Rhinoceros.
Opera Workshop, 3 p.m., Lyric Theatre: *Dido and Aeneas*.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Nikki Cayey.

Monday, 6

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Theatre Workshop, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Sylvia*.

Tuesday, 7

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.
EEOA Program, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 341-345 Squires.
VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: *Camelot*.
Theatre Workshop, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Sylvia*.

Wednesday, 8

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.
Mardi Gras Buffet, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DBHCC.
Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G: Sgt. Jerry Bowyer, Blacksburg Police.
CEUT Workshop, 3-5:30 p.m., Hillcrest: Margaret Hable.
Men's Basketball, Time TBA: Atlantic-10 Tournament, Philadelphia.
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA
Theatre Workshop, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Sylvia*.

Thursday, 9

Bloodmobile, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Squires Student Center.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: David Notter.
Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Michael Robb.

SEMINARS

Friday, 3

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Bruce Moyer, Oak Ridge.
MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Christopher Hogue, SLARI.

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Raj Singh and Howard Hogan.

Monday, 6

Biomedical Engineering, 3 p.m., 114 Holden: Michael Furey.
Horticulture, 4 p.m., 101 Saunders: Lisa Calfee.

Wednesday, 8

Water Science, noon, 108 Seitz: Wade Biddix, USDA.
ESM, 4 p.m., 110 Randolph: Jiahao Lin, Dalian, China.

Thursday, 9

Biology/Botany, 3:30 p.m., 102 Fralin: Donald Brown, Carnegie Institute.
Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: TBA.
CSES, 4 p.m., 24 Smyth: Meriem Elhadj.
Entomology, 4 p.m., 220 Price: Krishna Vangala.
Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Wulf Mueller, Quebec.
Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 102 Saunders: Gary Cote, Radford.

Friday, 10

ISE, 9:30 a.m., 260 NEB: Peter Sandbom.
Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Matthew Tuchler, W&L.
Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Debbie Wiley, M. Schaeffer, J. Cawley.

Travel money available

Because there is still money available in the travel fund project, the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is re-opening the application process for travel-fund money for this cycle.

Graduate students who are presenting at conferences before July 1 are eligible to apply for funding assistance. In addition, those students whose applications were incomplete for the first application process are welcome to re-apply.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 10 at 5 p.m. to the GSA office, 309 Squires. Slide the application under the door if the office is unattended. Put completed applications in an envelope and mark "GSA" on the outside of it.

The application form, and additional information on the program is located on the GSA web page (<http://www.gsa.usa.vt.edu>).

Philosophy conference Friday through Sunday

The Philosophy Department's annual conference, "Kuhn Reconsidered," will be held March 3-5. The speakers will be Peter Achinstein, Roger Ariew, Peter Barker, Richard Burian, Peter Dear, Dan Garber, Deborah Mayo, and Joseph Pitt. The conference starts Friday at 8 p.m. in 225 Major Williams. The first Saturday session begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. The second Saturday session runs from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Both will be held in 113 McBryde. The last session will begin Sunday at 9 a.m. in 229 Major Williams. For more information, contact Andrew Garnar at agarnar@vt.edu or visit <http://www.phil.vt.edu/Kuhn/Kuhn.html>.

BULLETINS

Open discussion planned

A discussion on "Advising Diverse Student Populations" will be held Friday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. in Squires Yorktown Room. Sarah Wheeler, enrollment coordinator for the College of Engineering, will moderate the discussion. All interested faculty and staff members, and students are welcome to attend.

The discussion is part of the on-going Afternoon Chat series on undergraduate advising sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Advising Steering Committee Planning Group.

For more information, call Cheryl Adkins at 1-6122.

Wilson essay contest opened

The Mu Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is seeking essays from current undergraduate students for the John D. Wilson Essay Contest.

The contest was established in 1984 to recognize excellence in undergraduate writing. The selection committee will award a prize of \$500 for the best essay and honor the winner at the annual Phi Beta Kappa initiation ceremony in May.

Contest rules and entry forms are available on line at <http://www.cs.vt.edu/~pbk/>. Additionally, paper copies are available at the English Department Undergraduate Programs Office, 126 Williams (8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday); the University Honors Program Office, first floor, Hillcrest (8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday); and Newman Library Special Collections Department (Monday, noon-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, at the Newman Library Special Collections Department.

Questions may be sent to Larkin Dudley by mail at Center for Public Administration and Policy or by e-mail at dudley@vt.edu.

Housing packet available

The Off Campus Housing Office in Squires Student Center is offering free professional housing packets to faculty and staff members.

The packet contains information to aid in a search for professional or family housing within the New River Valley. Call the office at 1-3466 or e-mail vtoch@vt.edu for a free packet.

CEUT offers the "Skillful Presenter"

On Wednesday, March 8, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in Hillcrest, Margaret Hable will present the workshop the "Skillful Presenter." The presentation is information about audience rapport, body language, voice tone and inflection, presentation structure, learning environment, questioning techniques, audiovisual materials, and processing activities.

OWF plans coffee hour

The Organization of Women Faculty will hold its monthly coffee hour from 8-9 a.m. Friday, March 3, in the Easy Chair at University Mall.

The Organization of Women Faculty is a group of women in academic and administrative faculty positions at Virginia Tech. The monthly first Friday coffee hour is a time to network informally and get to know each other. All women faculty are welcome. For more information, contact Tamara Kennelly, 1-9214.

Nationally known advising consultant to speak

By Catherine Doss

Tom Brown, a leading consultant on issues regarding diversity and academic advising, will speak on "Advising for Diversity" on Thursday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m. in 150 Squires.

Brown is well known among the academic advising community and is a frequent faculty member at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Summer Institute where he facilitates sessions on advisor development and multi-cultural issues in academic advising.

Brown has served as an administrator in academic and student affairs for nearly 30 years at Saint Mary's College of California. He has served in a number of elected and appointed roles for NACADA and has also been active in education beyond the continental United States. He served as a consultant with the American Council on Education Leadership Development Program in Puerto Rico and co-authored a recruitment and training manual for the Peace Corps as part of an effort to increase the

participation of minorities among Peace Corps volunteers.

Brown's visit to Virginia Tech is part of an on-going effort to enhance undergraduate advising at the university. His presentation is free and open to the faculty, staff, and students. The program is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, University Studies, and the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

For more information, call Cheryl Adkins at 1-6122.

Volunteers needed

Healthy women who have been post-menopausal for two or more years (50-65 years old) and who are not on hormone-replacement therapy are invited to participate in a four-week soy-supplementation study under the direction of Barbara A. Davis of the human nutrition, foods and exercise department.

The study begins in March 2000. Those interested in participating or who would like further information may contact Nicolín Girmes-Grieco at 951-2173 or ngirmes@vt.edu.

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 C, 2639M, Grade 7, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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

Boiler Operator Assistant, 338C, Grade 4, Power Plant.

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

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

Computer Network Support Technician Senior, 7579G, Grade 10, Hokie Pass-port.

Development Program Researcher, 7566D, Grade 9, University Development.

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

Enrollment Services Coordinator, 2228J, Grade 10, Electrical/Computing Engineering.

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

Food Operations Manager A/Assistant Manager, 1205H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.

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.

Geotechnical Engineering Technician (Lab Instr Supervisor), 7580J, Grade 11, Civil/Environmental Engineering.

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

Housekeeping Worker, 6870C, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping.

Housekeeping Worker, 7572C, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

Installation/Repair Technician, 1899D, Grade 8, CNS.

Laboratory Specialist, 4081M, Grade 8, Biological Systems Engineering.

Mechanical Engineer, 1198G, Grade 12, Physical Plant.

Medical Technologist, 2662M, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Assistant, 464G, Grade 4, Physical Plant.

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

Office Services Specialist, 6844T, Grade 5, Center for Academic Enrichment/Excellence.

Office Services Specialist, 1522T, Grade 5, Political Science.

Office Services Specialist, 0013T, Grade 5, University Registrar.

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.

Painter, 1694C, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

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

Police Captain, 7578T, Grade 11, Police.

Program Support Technician, 6137T, Grade 6, College of Arts/Sciences.

Program Support Technician, 7509J, Grade 6, Center Power Electronics.

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

Programmer, 1162D, Grade 10, Bursar's Office.

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

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

Recruiter, 7570D, Grade 10, Personnel Services.

Part Time

Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W022143G, Grade 2, DBHCC.

Computer Technician (Installation/Repair Tech.), W022991T, Grade 8, Mathematics.

Executive Secretary, W022984T, Grade 6, University Leadership Development.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

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

Laboratory Technician Senior, W022172M, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Service Specialist (Asst. Reservationist), W022647G, Grade 5, DBHCC.

Office Services Aide, W022669C, Grade 2, University Library.

Office Services Specialist, 1945J, Grade 5, Near Environments.

Program Support Technician, W022188T, Grade 6, AIS/HRIS Team.

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

Radiologic Technologist, W022238G, Grade 7, Health Center.

Switchboard Operator (Off Services Assistant), W020821M, Grade 4, CVM.

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

Off Campus

Evening Announcer, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

Office Services Assistant, 6808J, Grade 4, HNFE.

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

Program Support Technician, 5435M, Grade 6, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Nelson County.

Secretary Senior, 5783M, Grade 5, Virginia Cooperative Extension-Mecklenburg County.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. Research Assistant/Associate Professor. Contact: Gary Minish, 3460 Litton-Reaves (0306). Review begins May 1.

Department of Human Nutrition,

Foods and Exercise. Director, Therapeutic Exercise and Community Health (TECH) Center and Instructor. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial (0317). Review begins May 1.

Department of Computer Science in Northern Virginia Center. Assistant Professor. Contact: Faculty Search, Department of Computer Science, 7054 Haycock Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043. Review begins March 15.

Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. Extension Specialist, Forage. Contact: Daniel Brann, 420 Smyth (0403). Review begins June 1, 2000.

Department of Art and Art History. Instructors (2). Contact: David Crane, 201 Draper Rd. (0103). Review begins April 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

University Development. Director of Annual Giving. Contact: Nevin Kessler, 201 Pack Building (0336). Review begins immediately.

Center for Power Electronics Systems. Research Associate/Lab Manager. Contact: Ann Craig, 674 Whittemore (0111). Review begins immediately.

Schiffert Health Center. Staff Physician. Contact: Tom Ryan, Schiffert Health Center (0140). Review begins April 3.

Optical Science and Engineering Research (OSER) Center. Senior Research Scientist. Contact: W.B. Spillman or R.O. Claus, Center for Optical Science and Engineering (0356). Review begins April 15.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. District Director, Northern District. Position #111938. Contact: Judith Jones, 105B Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 6.

Department of Horticulture. State Master Gardener Coordinator. Contact: Diane Relf, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 1.

Office of the Vice President for Administration and Treasurer. Assistant to the Vice President for Administration and Treasurer. Contact: Mode Johnson, 312 Burruss (0142). Review begins March 7.

Athletics. Head Women's Tennis Coach. Contact: Pamela Linkous, 359 Jamerson Athletic Center (0502). Review begins March 6.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences. #FA755. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 13.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Editor
John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor
Christian Moody, 1-8538

Production Manager
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager
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PURCELL

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agricultural and resource economics at Colorado State University, said Purcell's example and his genuine and personal concern made him choose agricultural economics as a career.

When he attended the first session of Purcell's freshman introductory agricultural economics class, Koontz intended to transfer to the College of Engineering.

"I was motivated to stay in the department by Dr. Purcell through his excellent teaching," Koontz said. "Dr. Purcell continued to motivate me through much of my undergraduate program, and his enthusiasm for his profession and service

to agriculture motivated me to pursue graduate school. I am in the right profession; I cannot imagine doing anything else, and Wayne Purcell is in large measure responsible for my making this choice."

Purcell's applied research, especially in the area of pricing, price discovery, and demand shifts in the livestock economies of the mid-1980s led to Purcell establishing the Research Institute on Livestock Pricing. He obtained nearly \$2 million in outside grants to fund research efforts and to pass findings on to those who could use it—producers, trade groups, and Congress.

"Dr. Purcell is widely respected throughout the U.S. beef industry," said Chuck Lambert,

chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "His persistent efforts to help the beef sector understand the importance of strengthening demand have led to wholesale changes in the direction of beef marketing."

His public-service activities have made him a well-known and well-respected personality across the state, throughout the nation, and even in other countries. Among those activities are presentations he makes to industry groups, developing special-issue conferences for producers, and his weekly reports for certain agricultural commodities which reach audiences throughout North America.

Sherali named to National Academy of Engineering

By Liz Crumley

Hanif Sherali, the W. Thomas Rice chair of engineering, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Sherali, a professor of industrial and systems engineering (ISE), was among 78 engineers and eight foreign associates elected from all engineering disciplines to membership in the NAE for 2000.

Sherali was elected for his contributions to engineering system design based on optimization theory and is affiliated with the NAE's Industrial, Manufacturing and Operational Systems Engineering section.

Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded an engineer. Academy membership honors those who

have made "important contributions to engineering theory and practice, including significant contributions to the literature of engineering theory and practice," and those who have demonstrated "unusual accomplishment in the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology."

Sherali, who joined the ISE faculty in 1979, has received numerous research and education awards during his tenure at the university, including the David F. Baker Distinguished Research Award from the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE), the Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Research Excellence, the IIE Fellow Award, the Thomas L. Saaty Prize for Applied Advances in the Mathematical and Management Sciences, the Institute for Operations Re-

search and Management Sciences (INFORMS) Computer Science Technical Section Research Award, the INFORMS Koopman Prize, the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, the IIE Albert G. Holzman Distinguished Educator Award, and the Virginia Tech Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Among Sherali's research accomplishments is the invention, in collaboration with graduate students, of the Reformulation-Linearization Technique. This ground-breaking work has been applied to a variety of complex, real-world problems that arise in production, location, distribution, and engineering design situations.

Visitors to meet March 6

By David Nutter

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will meet on campus Monday, March 6, beginning at 1 p.m. in Squires Brush Mountain Room.

The board will consider, among other business, tuition and fee policy for the 2000-2001 academic year, the merger of the Ph.D. degrees in economics and agricultural and applied economics, and the 2000-2001 Pratt Fund budget.

The Academic Affairs Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in 6020 Newman Library. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet in executive session at 8:30 a.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC) Boardroom. The open session will begin at 9 in conference room A of the CEC.

The Finance and Audit Committee will meet in executive session at 7:30 a.m. in the DBHCC Private Dining Room. The open session will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room.

The Student Affairs Committee will meet at 9 a.m. in DBHCC conference room E.

On Sunday, March 5, the Executive Committee of the board and members of the Student Affairs Committee will meet at 1 p.m. to review candidates for the student representatives' positions to the board.

Later that afternoon, the board will hold its regular information session with campus constituency groups at the DBHCC.

University settles discrimination lawsuit with Brzonkala

By Larry Hüncker

Virginia Tech and Christy Brzonkala, a former Virginia Tech student, have reached an out-of-court settlement concerning her discrimination lawsuit against the university. The university agreed to pay \$75,000 to Brzonkala. She had originally sought \$4.3 million. No legal fees were paid. Brzonkala will drop her lawsuits against the university including a related case filed in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

"We have been exonerated at every court level. The courts would likely find in our favor on the next issue. However, this case has carried on far too long and cost the university untold thousands of dollars. Although we are convinced that we would prevail in court, this

settlement precludes any further investment preparing for discovery and trial," said former university President Paul E. Torgersen, who oversaw the settlement action while president.

The settlement agreements states, "It is further understood that this Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission of the Defendant as to the allegations made by the Plaintiff but it is understood that all of the Plaintiff's allegations are expressly denied and the settlement here made is merely to compromise and settle an existing controversy without further expenditures of time and resources."

Brzonkala sued the university for discrimination under Title IX of the federal code, based on an alleged rape in September 1994 in the dormitory room of former student Antonio

Morrison. The case was dismissed from Roanoke Federal District Court in 1996 even before the facts of the case were heard. The case was sent back to District Court on appeal based on a distantly related legal issue recently resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court.

This settlement does not affect the case currently before the Supreme Court testing the constitutionality of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. In the same lawsuit against the university, Brzonkala also sued Morrison and James Crawford, another former Virginia Tech student, for violation of her civil rights. The Roanoke District Court declared the 1994 law unconstitutional, a ruling later upheld by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Virginia Tech is not a party to that aspect of the lawsuit.

TECH

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economic analysis, and social-science research we hope to help client governments, businesses, and non-government organizations in their understanding of risk in various countries," said Fred Krimgold, co-director of DRM.

Krimgold said the toll of disaster loss is growing. The earthquake in Turkey on August 17, 1999 took more than 17,000 lives and cost more than \$16 billion in material losses. The Venezuela floods of December, 1999 cost over 30,000 lives and destroyed 23,200 houses and damaged another 64,700 according to the Venezuelan Civil Defense. "In both cases, the terrific toll of death and misery resulted from the failure of unsafe buildings located in hazardous areas," Krimgold said.

Roberto Meli, director of CENAPRED in Mexico City and member of DRM's advisory board, said the institute will concentrate on prevention and mitigation and not on rescue efforts. "DRM's mission is to enable people to anticipate disasters and take action to protect life, property, and development; and to avert disasters by sharing knowledge, building know-how, and mobilizing resources and forging partnerships with governments, private enterprises, international agencies, and non-government organizations."

"The Swiss government and its Washington Embassy are proud to have played a role in getting the DRM started. The creation of DRM may also pave the way for a new role

for diplomacy in humanitarian aid—a change in paradigm, focusing on investing in prevention in a larger sense rather than on repairing the damage caused by conflicts and disasters," Swiss Ambassador Alfred Defago said.

"The rate of occurrence of extreme natural events has not increased but, the population in hazardous areas and the vulnerability of human settlements has grown dramatically over the past half century. The growth of disaster losses is largely the result of human decisions and human investments. Decisions about investment and development must be informed by the latest and best scientific knowledge on natural and technological hazards and the measures available to reduce disaster losses," Krimgold said.

DRM long-term strategy will focus on the

most critical risk-prone areas around the world. It will evaluate a county's risk in the context of a) vulnerability of critical infrastructures, b) vulnerability of habitat, c) interaction of risks with societal systems, d) vulnerability of ecological systems, e) design of monitoring systems, and f) public risk perception and awareness.

Other leading world universities to be part of DRM include the University of Texas, the London School of Economics, the Max Planck Institute (Germany), and George Washington University, Bogazici University (Turkey), University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), University of Hong Kong, and Yokohama National University.

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presented Liu with its most prestigious teaching recognition, the W.E. Wine Award for Teaching Excellence.

Ley Richardson, a 1999 ChE graduate who won the highly competitive Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for Minorities and is a Ph.D. candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, regards Liu as "the most inspiring professor in the classroom I have ever witnessed."

"He is a rare individual who cares deeply about his students and colleagues and has the innate ability to evoke the best in them," Richardson said, noting that Liu "remains in his office every weeknight until at least 2 a.m., and he always has an open-door policy."

Liu continually brings his research and industry expertise into the classroom. His senior design students, for example, have developed computer models for manufacturing processes to reduce pollution and costs at Alliant Techsystems in southwest Virginia. Liu's graduate students are assisting AlliedSignal Polymers in Richmond with engineering staff training and process improvements projects that have a potential annual economic payback of more than \$35 million.

When Liu was promoted to the Vilbrandt professorship in 1983, he became the youngest Virginia Tech faculty member at that time to hold an endowed professorship. He has achieved international acclaim for his research and publications in magnetochemical engineering, coal cleaning, engineering design, and artificial intelligence. He has published four pioneering textbooks in the field of chemical engineering, as well as more than 100 papers.

Liu received his undergraduate engineering degree from the National Taiwan University, his master's from Tufts University, and his Ph.D. from Princeton.

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