

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 25 FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2000

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for the
promotion-and-tenure
listing.

On-line courses get high marks from students

By Cate Mowrey

Over the last three years Virginia Tech has experienced explosive growth in the number of on-line courses it offers. To help determine the impact of these efforts, the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning contracted an outside evaluator to assess the university's on-line courses. Ten spring and 21 summer 1999 courses were assessed to determine the reasons for taking an on-line course, including satisfaction with student services, the technology, the on-line learning environment, and course-design issues. "Virginia Tech is committed to ensuring that its on-line courses maintain high-quality standards and provide engaging learning experiences for our students through the use of cutting-edge instructional technology," Provost Peggy Meszaros said. "We are pleased with the results of this assessment and will use the findings to further improve our efforts."

Distance learners represented in these reports were pleased with their on-line course experience. During the spring, over 78 percent of the students reported they

were more confident they could reach their academic goals because of the availability of web-based courses; 73 percent were better able to understand the courses ideas and concepts, 69 percent put more thought into their comments during the course. In addition, over 92 percent indicated they were satisfied with their course, 91 percent said they would recommend it to a friend and 89 percent would recommend their instructor.

While students in general were very satisfied with the technology involved, some experienced difficulty with access. Access problems are being addressed as on-line courses are being moved off departmental servers to a large university server with 24-hour support and the modem pool is being expanded.

When comparing on-line interaction between instructors and students with that of a traditional course, 52 percent of the summer students felt they were more likely to receive detailed comments from the instructor during on-line courses. A summer-school student said, "Even though the course was on-line, the chat sessions twice a week helped to keep the class interactive...maybe even more interactive than

many classes I have taken on campus." Students said electronic communication was successful and a useful tool in student-instructor interaction.

In ranking access to student services such as the library and bookstore, 86 percent of responding students ranked "about the same" or better to traditional classes in both reports. Students who lived more than 100 miles from campus were less satisfied than those who lived close by or were on campus. As a result of these findings, meetings were held with various student-support areas to review access for distance learners and efforts are under way to establish easier access to library resources, the bookstore, on-line registration and payment.

In concluding the summer assessment report the evaluator stated, "Virginia Tech should certainly consider the on-line summer courses to have been a success....Nevertheless, growth of the program is at a critical juncture, and a number of comments had a consistent theme: students want *more* courses, and a *greater variety* of courses. If Virginia Tech can maintain the current level of quality and conve-

(See ON-LINE on 4)

Tech recognized for economic development

By David Nutter

Virginia Tech has been selected as one of the 16 best universities in the nation in its efforts to help state and local agencies with economic development, according to interim results from a study being conducted by the Southern Growth Policies Board's Southern Technology Council.

"Virginia Tech is pleased to be recognized for its commitment to improve the economic vitality of the commonwealth and the nation through its research and outreach missions," said University President Charles Steger.

The project, which is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is developing comprehensive case descriptions of how national research universities operate in areas such as inclusion of economic development in mission, vision and goals statements; pursuit of industry research partnerships; industry education/training partnerships; industrial extension/technical assistance; and entrepreneurial development. Other major areas include technology transfer; faculty culture and rewards for participation in economic-development activities; formal partnerships with economic development organizations; placement, and industry/university advisory boards and councils.

"Universities now play a critical role in economic development," said Jim Clinton, director of the Southern Technology Council and acting executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board. "They generate new knowledge and new technologies, spin off high-growth businesses and train future workers. By working closely with state and local agencies, universities can become the engines of prosperity."

As a first step in the project, the council polled 40 practitioners, researchers and experts on economic development and university-industry technology transfer to identify which schools were seen as maintaining ex-

(See TECH on 4)

Geological sciences projects concern Blackbeard's gold

By Sally Harris

Two research projects in the Department of Geological Sciences concern gold on the wreck of what is believed to be Blackbeard's flagship and the history and trends of American gold production.

They first study is taking a look at the variety of artifacts composed of precious and base metals at the wreck site. "These objects have survived burial with only minimal alteration and are easily recognized and analyzed," said James R. Craig, professor of geological sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Craig is studying the artifacts with John E. Callahan of Appalachian State University's geology department and J. William Miller of the Environmental Studies Department of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Thus far, the group has found gold grains

with the following characteristics of placer grains: the shape, the typical abraded surfaces, and the presence of high-purity gold-rich rims. A variety of gold sources was known in Africa, South and Central America, and the Caribbean at the beginning of the 18th century, and gold was constantly redistributed, the scientists said.

The also have found tin-based pewter plates and a pewter medical syringe containing mercury likely derived from a medicine used to treat the crew.

Lead shot of a variety of sizes has been found in great quantities around the wreck site and is evidence of its wide use of pistols and all types of cannon, the scientists said. "The shot has developed protective coatings of lead hydroxycarbonate, which have minimized saltwater corrosion in oxidizing environments,"

(See GEOLOGICAL on 4)



President's Award nominees honored

On March 22, President Charles Steger recognized the 2000 President's Award nominees for their outstanding contributions to the university. This is the first year that such a reception has been held in honor of all nominees.

In addition to the nominees, the individual nominator and immediate supervisor for each nominee were asked to attend in honor of these outstanding staff members. Each nominee was presented a Certificate of Recognition and thanked by Steger.

The President's Office and Personnel Services firmly believe that a nomination warrants special recognition by the entire

university community.

The nominees were as follows: Catherine Atkinson, crop and soil environmental sciences; John Baird, Photographic Services; Bonita Beasley, Sponsored Programs; Lisa Boothe, Career Services; Wendy Brooks, Purchasing; Patricia Bryant, educational leadership and policy study; Renee Chandler, Center for Gerontology; Lovedia Cole, industrial and systems engineering; Shelia Collins, engineering science and mechanics; Eric Day, entomology; Debbie Elkins, near environments; Steve Hypes, Tailor Shop; Lee Johnson, animal and poultry sciences; Linda Jones, Danville City Extension Office; Jesse Judy, Northwest District Extension Office.

(See EXPERTISE on 4)



The College of
Veterinary Medicine celebrates
its annual Open House Saturday
from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
detail's on page 2.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 31

Salary and Wage Paydate.

Theatre Event, 8 p.m., 100 McBryde: "Ph'Edre and Andromache."

APRIL

Saturday, 1

Open House, VMRCVM.

YMCA Hike, 10 a.m., 403 Washington St.: McAfee's Knob.

Bonsai Workshop

, 7 p.m., Greenhouse Classroom.

Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chris Booher.

Theatre Event, 8 p.m., 100 McBryde: "Ph'Edre and Andromache."

Monday, 3

University Council

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

Interdisciplinary Program, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Louretta Wimberly, Southeast Region African American Preservation Alliance.

Ensemble Performance, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: University Percussion/Marimba Ensembles.

Tuesday, 4

CEUT Workshop, 2-4:30 p.m., Hillcrest: Active Learning Strategies.

Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Doris Lederer.

Wednesday, 5

CEUT Workshop, 3-5:30 p.m., Hillcrest: Learning Series. "With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: Topic TBA

VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: The Martha Graham Dance Co.

Ensemble Performance, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: University Symphony Band.

Thursday, 6

Family Support Program, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC, conference room: Barbara Seals.

YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Jay Stipes.

CEUT Workshop, 2-5 p.m., Hillcrest: Videoconference.

Friday, 7

Student Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Andrew Simmons.

SEMINARS

Friday, 31

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Christa Coyer, Wake Forest.

MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Judy Roe, Kansas State.

Economics, 3:30-5 p.m., 3008 Pamplin: William Griffiths, New England.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: David Orcutt.

Monday, 3

Biomedical Engineering, 3 p.m., 114 Holden: Neil Wright, UMBC.

Economics, 3:30-5 p.m., 3008 Pamplin: Glenn Ellison, MIT.

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 101 Saunders: Boonhida Kositsup.
Statistics, 4 p.m., 1760 Litton Reaves: Marianthi Markatou, Columbia.

Tuesday, 4

Electrical/Computer Engineering, 3:30 p.m., 300 Whittemore: Vijay Kumar, Lucent.

Wednesday, 5

Geological Sciences, 9 a.m., 4069 Derring: Matthew Mikulich, Chevron.

Geological Sciences, 10 a.m., 1670 Litton Reaves: Matthew Mikulich, Chevron.

Thursday, 6

Communication Studies, 12:30 p.m., Seitz conference room: Marlene Preston, John Tedesco, Beth Waggenspack.

Geological Sciences, 2 p.m., 4052 Derring: Matthew Mikulich, Chevron.

CSSES, 4 p.m., 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Amber Williams.

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 102 Saunders: Indira Genowati.

Friday, 7

Geological Sciences, 9 a.m., 4069 Derring: Matthew Mikulich, Chevron.

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Peter Beak, Illinois.

Geological Sciences, noon, 300 Whittemore: Matthew Mikulich, Chevron.

MCBB, noon, 102 Fralin: Caro-Beth Stewart, SUNY.

Botany, 4 p.m., 1076 Derring: Duncan Porter.

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Wylie Poag, USGS.

Help sought for graduate student

Patcharee (Ann) Hensirisak, a graduate student at Virginia Tech, has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins' lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system). She has undergone all the required treatments at Johns Hopkins Medical Center, but the final diagnosis is that if she is to have a chance to survive, she will need to undergo a bone marrow transplant within the next three-four weeks. For her to be scheduled for the transplant operation, she must pay \$200,000 up front, or the operation cannot be scheduled. All her health insurance options have been exhausted.

Hensirisak's friends have contacted the National Foundation for Transplants and to set up a tax-exempt account. A fund-raising committee of U.S. citizens and permanent residents has already been set up, chaired by Robert Astalos; (rastalos@blacksburg.net), graduate student in physics, and Christa Thomas, graduate program staff person in physics (christa.thomas@vt.edu). Astalos has set up a web site for Patcharee's campaign: <http://quasar.phys.vt.edu/~astalos/Patcharee.htm>

Those interested in donating to help Patcharee receive this transplant should send checks to NFT/Patcharee Hensirik, P.O. Box 10573, Blacksburg, VA 24062, payable to the National Foundation for Transplants, and on the memo line, write Patcharee Hensirisak. Donors may also use a credit card (see website).

Hensirisak received her master's degree in biological systems engineering here in 1997, and after a brief visit to her native Thailand, returned for her doctorate.

BULLETINS

Native American speakers coming to campus

A Native American Program will be held 4-6 p.m. today in 341 Squires.

Monica Nuvamsa (Hopi/Acoma/Havasupai) will be showing a short video and giving a talk titled "Perspectives on the Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute." For some background on this 119-year land dispute, see: <http://indy4.fdl.cc.mn.us/~isk/maps/az/navahopi.html>, or http://www.lapahie.com/Navajo_Hopi_Land_Dispute.html.

The YMCA Native American Program will also present Cornel Pewewardy (Comanche and Kiowa), from the Department of Teaching and Leadership at the University of Kansas, who will give a talk on Friday, April 14 from 4-6 p.m. in 150 Squires titled "Integrating Two Cultures: Challenges That Native Americans Face in Education."

CEUT programs

The Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching will offer three programs in the first week of April.

On Tuesday, April 4, from 2-4:30 p.m. in Hillcrest, Margaret Hable will present *Active Learning Strategies*. This workshop provides ways to keep students more actively engaged during class.

On Wednesday, April 5, from 3-5:30 p.m. Peter Doolittle and Terry Wildman will present the third workshop in the Spring 2000 Learning Series "Learning Series—Social Participation and the Role of Context and Culture in Learning." This workshop will build a picture of human learning that departs from the cognitive tradition.

April 6, from 2-5 p.m. in Donaldson Brown rooms D and E, CEUT will host a videoconference: "How to Customize an On-line Course on Thursday."

Historic Preservationist to speak

Louretta Wimberly, nationally recognized leader in historic preservation, will speak on "Saving Historic Sites in your Community" at 7 p.m. on April 3 in the Donaldson Brown auditorium. She is founder and chair of both the Southeast Region African American Preservation Alliance and the Alabama Historical Commission's Black Heritage Council that has been cited as a model for state historic preservation efforts.

As founding member and chair of the African American Preservation Alliance, Wimberly and her committee lead a campaign to successfully nominate 103 sites on historically black college campuses as in need of preservation and significant to American history. In 1998, 11 of these sites were placed on an "endangered" list as part of the "Save America's Treasures" Presidential initiative. The Alliance partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service to approach the Congressional Black Caucus to allocate \$11.2 million of public parks legislation toward black heritage preservation.

Wimberly's lecture is made possible by a Women and Minority Scholars Lecture grant from Virginia Tech, with partial support from the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

For more information, contact the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, 1-5812 or fariello@vt.edu.

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Animal lovers won't want to miss an opportunity to tour one of the nation's 27 veterinary colleges when the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) presents its annual Open House on Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m..

The VMRCVM 's annual celebration of veterinary medicine, which is sponsored by the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, will showcase the profession and the college through dozens of presentations.

At 10 a.m., veterinary students will begin

conducting tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and other college facilities. Tours last approximately 60 minutes and will depart at 30-minute intervals throughout the day.

There are many new activities scheduled for this year's Open House, including a display booth on the United States Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Canine Officers, which are used at airports to ensure that illegal materials are not smuggled into the United States. Also new is a drawing room and art contest for children 12 years old and under. The best drawing pertaining to animals or veterinary medicine will be chosen and used for publicity in next year's Open House. The college's new

alumni society will also be raffling off various prizes for Open House visitors from their informational booth.

Children are invited to bring their stuffed animals to a Teddy Bear Repair Clinic sponsored by the Class of 2001. The Class of 2002 will offer a special presentation on "Parasites and Toxicants," and the Class of 2003 will present an Animal Anatomy Display.

A variety of presentations concerning the academic program, contemporary clinical approaches in veterinary medicine, and related clubs and organizations will be featured throughout the day. Demonstrations on necropsy, bo-

(See VET COLLEGE on 4)

Vet college hosts annual open house

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

Agricultural Program Coordinator, 3953M, Grade 12, Animal/Poultry Sciences.

Applications Analyst, 7328D, Grade 0, AIS.

Budget Manager, 1951T, Grade 14, Budget/Financial Planning.

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

Executive Secretary, 4406T, Grade 6, Mining/Minerals Engineering.

Fire Protection Inspector, 239G, Grade 10, Environmental Health/Safety.

Fiscal Technician Sr., 7586J, Grade 8, Athletics.

One full-time food-operations position available.

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

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

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

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

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

Housekeeping Worker, 0485H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

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

Information Systems Division Manager, 0000, Grade 0, Volume Two Bookstore.

Laboratory Specialist, 4002M, Grade 8,

CVM.

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7362M, Grade 9, CSES.

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

Office Services Specialist, 2434F, Grade 5, Purchasing.

Office Services Specialist, 27J, Grade 5, Health Center.

Office Services Specialist, 2461F, Grade 5, Purchasing.

Office Services Specialist, 7461H, Grade 5, Residential/Dining Programs/Residence Education.

Operating Systems Analyst, 2242D, Grade 0, AIS.

Police Captain, 7578T, Grade 11, Police.

Program Support Technician, 3350M, Grade 6, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

Program Support Technician, 6637G, Grade 6, Institutional Research/Planning Analysis.

Program Support Technician, 5159T, Grade 6, Pamplin College of Business.

Program Support Technician Senior, 1441T, Grade 7, College of Engineering.

Program Support Technician Senior, 7588T, Grade 7, Mechanical Engineering.

Program Support Technician Senior, 1584T, Grade 7, Pamplin College of Business.

Programmer, 2256F, Grade 10, University Libraries.

Programmer/Analyst, 0000, Grade 0, Virginia Tech Services.

Public Relations Coordinator, LC083, Grade 12, University Relations.

Telecommunications Database Manager, 2967A, Grade 8, CNS.

Part Time

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

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

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

Flight Instructor (Pilot, Single Engine), W023001G, Grade 10, Airport.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Laboratory Technician, W023006M, Grade 4, Biochemistry.

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

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117T, Grade 5, EHSS.

Office Services Assistant, W022356G, Grade 4, DBHCC.

Office Services Assistant, W0228835C, Grade 4, University Libraries.

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

Program Support Technician, 7344T, Grade 6, Mathematics.

Program Support Technician, W022995C, Grade 6, Educational Technologies.

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

Radiologic Technologist, W022238G, Grade 7, Health Center.

Research Specialist, W023002M, Grade 8, Fisheries/Wildlife Sciences.

University Only

Public Relations Assistant Specialist,

U7585J, Grade 8, National Institute for Personal Finance.

Off Campus

Evening Announcer, 1962D, Grade 8, WVTF.

Office Services Assistant, 6586J, Grade 4, HNF.

Office Services Assistant, 7496J, Grade 4, HNF.

FACULTY POSITION

INSTRUCTIONAL

Science and Technology Studies. Assistant Professor or early Associate Professor (2). Contact: Gary Downey, 124 Lane (0227). Review begins April 10.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Human Development. Director, Adult Day Services. Contact Dianne Yardley, 101 War Memorial Hall (0317). Review begins April 10.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences. #FA642, Hanover Co. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 17.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development. #FA497, Henrico Co. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 17.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Director, Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center. #FA305, Blacksburg campus. Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins April 3.

Residential and Dining Programs. Coordinator of Fitness Development (re-advised). Contact William Campion, 142B McComas (0358). Review begins April 19.

PROMOTION, TENURE, CONTINUED APPOINTMENT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROMOTION LISTING, 1999-2000

Senior Vice President and Provost Peggy Meszaros, the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the University Promotion and Continued Appointment Committee have recommended the following candidates for promotion, tenure, continued appointment, or administrative appointment. President Charles Steger concurs and will present these recommendations to the Board of Visitors for action at their June meeting.

Promotion with Tenure to Associate Professor, Collegiate Faculty.

Christine M. Anderson-Cook, statistics; Thomas L. Bailey, large animal clinical sciences; Eric P. Beers, horticulture; Megan M. Boler, teaching and learning; Carol J. Burger, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Debra S. Callihan, accounting and information systems; Mary L. Connerley, management; William Jay Crone, music; Christopher D. Hall, aerospace and ocean engineering; Bernice L. Hausman, English; Paul V. Heilker, English; Alex Qin Huang, electrical and computer engineering; Mark T. Jones, electrical and computer engineering; John J. Lesko, engineering science and mechanics; Gail Letzter, mathematics; Nancy G. Love, civil and environmental engineering; Raymond L. Major, management science and information technology; Shelley F. Martin, architecture; Martha McCaughey, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Amy Nelson, history; Jerry R. Roberson, large animal clinical sciences; William R. Saunders, mechanical engineering; Mark W. Stegeman, economics; David P. Tegarden, accounting and information systems; Karen A. Thole, mechanical engineering; Richard A. Walker, biology; Melvin Wilson, teaching and learning.

Tenure, Collegiate Faculty

Alexander O. Aning, engineering fundamentals; Ing-Ray Chen, computer science;

Elizabeth G. Creamer, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Joan B. Hirt, educational leadership and policy studies; Pia Sarpaneva, architecture; Mehdi Setareh, architecture.

Promotion to Associate Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Patricia S. Lavender, theatre arts; James K. Washenberger, mathematics.

Promotion to Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Bonnie L. Appleton, horticulture; Ricardo A. Burdizzo, mechanical engineering; Lawrence W. Carstensen, geography; Salahuddin Choudhury, architecture; David F. Crane, art and art history; Panayiotis Diplas, civil and environmental engineering; J. Daniel Dolan, wood science and forest products; Charles Jack Dudley, sociology; Thomas J. Grizzard, civil and environmental engineering; Dong S. Ha, electrical and computer engineering; Charles S. Johnson, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science; Christine Kiebuszinska, English; Ann G. Kilkelly, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; C. Theodore Koebel, urban affairs and planning; Hervé Marand, materials science and engineering/chemistry; Joan H. McLain-Kark, near environments; Scott F. Midkiff, electrical and computer engineering; Harlan B. Miller, philosophy; W. Edward Monroe, small animal clinical sciences; Michael J. Murray, large animal clinical sciences/Equine Medical Center; Suzanne K. Murrmann, hospitality and tourism management; Jan K. Nespore, teaching and learning; Douglas M. Patterson, finance, insurance, and business law; Douglas G. Pfeiffer, entomology; Kerry J. Redican, teaching and learning; William T. Reynolds, materials science and engineering; Judy S. Riffle, chemistry; Stephen E. Scheckler, biology; Elaine P. Scott,

mechanical engineering; Dilip K. Shome, finance, insurance, and business law; Konstantinos P. Triantis, industrial and systems engineering; Ron R. Wakefield, building construction; Keith S. Yoder, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science.

Promotion to Associate Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Annette Burr, University Libraries; James R. Gardner, Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Promotion to Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Harry M. Kriz, University Libraries; Michael J. Weaver, entomology.

Administrative Promotion, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Nicole Auer, assistant professor, University Libraries; Scott M. Baker, extension agent/ANR, Bedford County/City; Jan L. Blankenship-Baker, extension agent/4-H, Nelson County; Kelley L. Coggsdale, extension agent/4-H, Rockingham County; Margaret S. Hackler, senior extension agent/FCS, Fluvanna County; Fred P. Herndon, senior extension agent/4-H, Dickenson County; Michael W. Lachance, extension agent/ANR, Nelson County; Gary P. Larowe, senior extension agent/ANR, Carroll County; Audrey Oliver Lee, senior extension agent/FCS, Bedford County/City; Jennifer L. Morris, extension agent/ANR, Nottoway County; Linda G. Murphy, extension agent/FCS, Culpeper County; Edward T. Overton, senior extension agent/ANR, James City County; John A. Scott, Jr., extension agent/ANR, Giles County; Stephanie S. Stockton, extension agent/4-H, Culpeper County; Jonathan M. Vest, extension agent/ANR, Roanoke County.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

Editor
John Ashby, 1-8961
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Business Manager
1-8819

Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 105 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.
Electronic *Spectrum*: <http://www.vt.edu/10021/admin/eoaa/index.html>

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Web class wins national award

By Stewart MacInnis

A cyber-based class at Virginia Tech that has proven popular world wide in teaching first-year students about the impacts insects have on humans won a national award from the American Distance Education Consortium.

The consortium's distance-education award for outstanding educational programs recognized *Insects in Human Society*, a class produced by the university's entomology department. The award was presented March 5 in Washington, D.C. The class won one of two awards presented in the category nation wide.

The course reaches out to future journalists, lawyers, legislators, teachers, and others, allowing them to appreciate the impact insects have on human society. The course is presented as two sections: as a traditional on-campus lecture class for undergraduates with more than 500 students, and as an innovative distance-education course.

The distance-education section is a web-based course that is offered to a national and international group of students. Currently the

largest distance-delivered entomology course in the U.S., students have logged on from Canada, Holland, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon and Tennessee, as well as from Virginia.

When the distance-education section was started in the fall of 1997, nine students were enrolled. The class began the spring 2000 semester with 680 students enrolled.

Listed on the award are Timothy Mack, professor and head of the Department of Entomology; Nick Stone, professor of entomology; Belinda S. Carroll, distance-education facilitator; and Rebecca L. Mack, web programmer.

The distance-education consortium, which comprises 58 universities and other organizations, offers degree programs, academic courses, advanced-placement courses for high schools, non-formal education courses and certificates using a variety of technologies. Member institutions offer their program through the consortium, and a number of consortium offerings are multi-institutional, designed and taught by more than one university.

Tech health-research center receives cancer-prevention grant

The National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes for Health, has awarded a four-year, \$3.2-million cancer-prevention grant to Virginia Tech's Center for Research in Health Behavior (CRHB) in the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The CRHB group includes Richard Winett, professor of psychology, Eileen Anderson, and Janet Wojcik. The project will be conducted with many area churches, from Roanoke to Wytheville, and involve nearly 3,000 people. "One of the strongest parts of our proposal was the interest and support shown by area churches and the considerable formative and pilot work we were able to do with members of these churches," Winett said.

The focus of the project is on nutrition and activity and exercise patterns that are closely associated with increased risk for cancers, heart disease, and diabetes. Nutrition and activity and exercise patterns have the highest priority in public-health initiatives such as *Healthy People 2010* because of their association with so many preventable diseases and disabilities and because it appears that Americans are not improving in these health behaviors. There is great interest in helping large segments of the population make healthy changes, and the project's goal is to show that programs in churches are one way to meet public health goals.

The project builds on much of CRHB's earlier work with the National Institutes of Health, the Virginia Health Care Foundation,

and special funds from Virginia Tech's ASPIRES grant program. CRHB will work with churches to design and implement programs that feature tailored individualized programs, as well as parts that focus on social supports that are so central to religious organizations. The tailored individualized programs will primarily be personalized, interactive Internet-based programs that will have special components for each church.

The project, slated to begin in July, is set up in three phases. The first year will involve formative and development work. The second year includes a pilot test of the overall program. The third and fourth years are set aside for a large community trial.

"We believe the project is a perfect match for Virginia Tech's overall mission," Winett said. "The way the project is set up involves a large, controlled community trial of a theoretically based program. The measures used to evaluate the program are truly 'gold-standard' measures. This has to be the case because the first criteria for receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health are scientific merit and health impact. So, the project is very scientifically based, and the results will be important for future public-health policies and programs. At the same time, it has a real outreach part that is also very important. The project really fits Virginia Tech's mission of 'putting knowledge to work.'"

International Week scheduled for April 7-15

The Council of International Student Organizations will present International Week 2000 during the week of April 7-15.

There are 1,600 international students currently enrolled at Virginia Tech, representing 108 countries. Every year during spring semester, CISO, with its member organizations, hosts an international week showcasing the wide variety of cultures represented by the international student population. During the week, there will be an international film festival (end-

ing with a movie on the drillfield), luncheons at the Cranwell Center, a cooking workshop, rice, coffee, and tea-tasting session, and various talks.

The highlight of the week is the International Street Fair, where food, music, and dance bring a carnival atmosphere to the streets of downtown Blacksburg. For more information, please e-mail ciso@vt.edu, or visit web site <http://fbox.vt.edu/org/ciso/>.

GEOLOGICAL

Continued from 1

the scientists said. "Other cemented clusters of lead shot and sand contain galena and small grains of pyrite, evidencing long burial under reducing conditions."

This paper was scheduled to be presented at the Southeastern Section of the Geological

Society of America in Charleston S.C., on March 23.

In a second study to be presented the same day, Craig and J. Donald Rimstidt of the Department of Geological Sciences were scheduled to report that the first documented gold find in the United States was by Thomas Jefferson in Virginia in 1782. The talk by Craig and Rimstidt looked at "American Gold Production—History and Trends."

Whereas the Native Americans of Central and South American possessed gold that stimulated the Spanish conquest, the earliest settlements of what is now the United States found Native Americans with little metal and no gold. Except for a few unsubstantiated reports of gold finds in the 1600s, the first documented gold discovery in Eastern North America was Jefferson's.

Discoveries of gold in North Carolina in the early 1800s spurred gold production throughout the Southern Appalachians and provided the Americans their first source of domestic gold, the researchers said. "North Carolina and Georgia dominated eastern gold production until the discovery of gold in California in 1848 lured away many of the most experienced miners," the scientists said. The West then dominated gold production with great quantities of gold. Alaska, at the end of the 19th century, became the site of the last of the great gold rushes in the U.S.

TECH

Continued from 1

emplary programs. The experts were given a list of 164 research universities (based on research and development expenditures) and asked to nominate the outstanding examples.

The survey results identified 16 universities that the polled experts consider the best in the nation in contributing to state and local economic development, with Georgia Tech topping the list by a comfortable margin of nominations. Other top Southern universities included N.C. State University, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Virginia Tech, Texas A&M, and the University of Texas-Austin. Other exemplary institutions in the list of 16 included Carnegie-Mellon University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, Stanford University, the University of California-San Diego, the University of Utah, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Louis G. Tornatzky and Paul G. Waugaman, senior fellows at the Southern Technology Council, are conducting the study, which is part of a larger program of benchmarking

research on university-industry-community interaction.

"Many people talk about universities as economic engines, but no one has definitively explored the full spectrum of activities in which these research institutions participate," Tornatzky said. "We will learn from the best to point the way for the rest."

As the technology-policy division of the Southern Growth Policies Board, the Southern Technology Council is a regional resource for ideas, information, analysis, solutions and partnerships in technology-driven economic development.

VET COLLEGE

Continued from 2

vine fetal sexing, ultrasound, and electron microscopy will be presented. Guests will also have the opportunity to see an equine-acupuncture demonstration at noon.

The open house will feature a welcome room for the entering class of 2004, where incoming freshman will have the opportunity to ask questions and meet current first-year students. There will also be information on alternative careers in the veterinary profession, presentations on preparing a competitive application for veterinary school, and a demonstration by the St. Francis of Assisi service dogs.

For more information, call Rachel Corrocher at 961-2890.

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ON-LINE

Continued from 1

nience, while offering greater quantity and more variety, it will position itself well...in the rapidly growing and increasingly competitive field of on-line distance and distributed learning."

The spring 1999 and summer 1999 *On-line Course Assessment Reports* are available on the IDDL web site <http://www.iddl.vt.edu/facserv/assessment.html>.