

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION  
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coverage.

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 37 FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2000

## Veterinary College establishes endowed professorship in veterinary informatics

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The first endowed professorship ever established on the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Blacksburg campus will support a professor who is exploring and defining the new field of veterinary medical informatics.

Jeff R. Wilcke, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology who has been working in the emerging field for the past 15 years, has been named to the Metcalf Endowed Professorship in Veterinary Medical Informatics.

"I'm extremely honored by this appointment," said Wilcke, a veterinary pharmacologist. "Personally and professionally, this is a very gratifying

opportunity," he continued. "But in a larger sense, this move goes a long way toward underscoring the legitimacy of this new discipline on a national scale."

Veterinary informatics is a scientific discipline that involves the application of modern information technology to manage vast amounts of medical data.

The professorship has been made possible as a result of a \$2-million gift from philanthropist Dorothy A. Metcalf of the Eastern Shore of Maryland through her private foundation. Half of Metcalf's gift will be used to support the professorship, and another half will support other new initiatives under development in the college.

"We're extremely grateful for both the

spirit of philanthropy and the foresight which is demonstrated by Mrs. Metcalf's gift," said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre. "It seems especially appropriate that our first Blacksburg-based endowed professorship be placed in such an exciting and innovative area of inquiry."

Wilcke has led the college's Drug Information Laboratory for most of the past decade. The lab manages the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine's electronic Animal Drug Database and several similar initiatives. Following passage of the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act in 1988, the laboratory began publishing the FDA "Greenbook" in 1989 and has published it annually ever since. The reference guide includes information

concerning animal drugs' trade and generic names, label indications, patent information, and other related facts. The laboratory soon thereafter developed and began maintaining the expanded electronic version known as the FDA Approved Animal Drug Products Database System.

Wilcke serves as director of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Secretariat to SNOMED International. That international system of medical nomenclature, which was established by the American College of Pathology, serves as a unifying standard for electronic medical record systems in human and veterinary medicine.

Looking ahead, Wilcke describes the  
(See VETERINARY on 2)

## Crittenden receives national engineering award

By Liz Crumbley

Barry Crittenden, associate professor of engineering fundamentals, received the Distinguished Service Award of the Engineering Design Graphics Division (EDGD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) during the society's annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in June.

The award is the highest honor that can be presented to a member of EDGD. Crittenden is only the second Virginia Tech faculty member to receive the award since its inception in 1950. Recipients must demonstrate success in improving their teaching methods and tools through a variety of professional activities. The award also recognizes other significant honors, scholarly contributions, and service to EDGD.

(See CRITTENDEN on 2)



MOVING DAY? Prospective students sort through their gear in Cassell Coliseum during orientation activities. Recent campus weather conditions have called for more umbrellas than the numerous fans pictured. (J. McCormick)

## Hokies, NASCAR team up for scholarship fund

Virginia Tech has entered into an innovative marketing relationship with NASCAR officials that will generate tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship support for deserving students.

The university has teamed up with Wood Brothers Racing, an Emporia-based organization, to create a special-edition race car bearing the Virginia Tech logo on the hood and a scowling Hokie Bird on each rear panel. The car will compete in a September 9 race in Richmond.

While the deal cost the university \$5,000 up front, Virginia Tech will receive 8 percent of all revenues from the sale of hats, T-shirts, die-cast model cars and other merchandise bearing the Virginia Tech logo. Tech officials expect to generate \$75,000 to \$100,000 from these sales and other licensing agreements. The university uses its licensing revenue to support the general scholarship fund.

During the past year, the university's licensing revenue increased from \$340,000 to \$540,000.



Tech officials expect university identification on the car to bring in scholarship money. (J. McCormick)

## Peters named to governor's commission

Governor James Gilmore has announced the formation of a blue-ribbon commission, the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission (VRTAC) to advise him on research and technology strategy issues.

Virginia Tech's Leonard K. Peters, vice provost for research and dean of the graduate school, has been named to the commission, which is composed primarily of senior research managers from Virginia's research universities, the federal laboratories located in Virginia and the state's technology-intensive industries.

In addition to Peters, Kent Murphy, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and president of Luna Innovations, and CropTech Corp. CEO Brandon J. Price have been named to the commission.

VRTAC will be co-chaired by Anita Jones, Quarles professor of engineering at the University of Virginia and Marc Pelaez, vice president of business and technology development for Newport News Shipbuilding. Jones is former director of defense research and engineering at the Pentagon and Pelaez is the former chief of naval research, retired from the U.S. Navy.

"A vibrant research base and strong programs to commercialize new technologies as they emerge from the labs is central to the continued strong growth of our economy," Gilmore said. "I am very pleased to have this distinguished group of scientists and technologists developing recommendations for further capitalizing on Virginia's strong technology base."

Operating at the intersection of government, academic and industrial research and technology activities, VRTAC will provide advice on how to best leverage the funds in the new Commonwealth Technology Research Fund proposed by Gilmore and funded by the General Assembly. It will conduct or comment on a number of studies under way

(See PETERS on 2)

# ACTIVITIES

## *EVENTS*

**Friday, 21**

**Summer Arts Festival Program**, 6 p.m., Henderson Hall lawn.

**Sunday, 23**

**YMCA Hike**, 1:30 p.m., Lancaster House parking lot.

**Monday, 24**

**Last Day to Resign.**

**Faculty Development Workshop**, Newman New Media Center: Call 8029 for information.

**Tuesday, 25**

**Faculty Development Workshop**, Newman classroom B: Call 8029 for information

**Faculty Development Workshop**, 202 Hancock: Call 8029 for information.

**Family/Work/Life Resources Program**, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC, conference room G.

**Wednesday, 26**

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

**Friday, 28**

**Summer Arts Festival Program**, 6 p.m., Henderson Hall lawn.

**Saturday, 29**

**YMCA Hike**, 9 a.m., Lancaster House parking lot.

**August**
**Tuesday, 1**

**Salary and Wage Paydate.**

**Wednesday, 2**

**Family/Work/Life Resources Program**, noon-1 p.m., DBHCC, conference room G.

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

**Friday, 4**

**Summer Arts Festival Program**, Main Street: Call 951-0454 for information.

## *BULLETINS*

**Museum offers Saturday Science**

The Saturday Science program "The Great Paper Caper: Where Does It Come from and Where Does It Go?" will be offered at the Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History on Saturday, July 22 at 11 a.m. Children in kindergarten through third grade can participate. Pre-register at 1-3001.

**Blacksburg local calling extended to Dublin**

Beginning August 1, telephone calls placed to Dublin (616, 643, and 674 exchanges) from Blacksburg will change from long distance to local. The Dublin local calling area will also be expanded to include Blacksburg. Dialing the 540 area code will

no longer be necessary from either location. Telephone calls to Dublin from the Virginia Tech main campus or the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center will be placed by dialing "9" and the seven-digit telephone number. For more information, contact Communications Network Services at 1-6460.

## Veterinary College to present second in symposium series

*By Jeffrey S. Douglas*

The many virtues of the "human-animal bond" are readily apparent. But close relationships between people and companion animals can present some hazards too, chiefly in the form of parasitic and infectious diseases that can be spread by animals to people.

These diseases, termed zoonotic, and the risks they present, will be explored by a series of experts during a symposium entitled "Educating Physicians and Veterinarians on the Risks of Animal Interactions to Human Health and Well-being" hosted by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine on Friday, Sept. 22, from 8-5 p.m. The event will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

The event is the second in a series of three annual symposiums hosted by the Veterinary College designed to explore the linkages between human and veterinary medicine. Entitled "The Bridge between Veterinary Medicine and Human Health," the series was created to generate increased professional and public awareness of the therapeutic aspects of human-animal interaction, human threats posed by human-

animal interaction, and public-health and food-safety issues related to human-animal interaction.

The series is sponsored by the VMRCVM, the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University (MCV-VCU) and the Virginia and the Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations (VVMA and MVMA). Corporate sponsorship is being provided by Hill's Pet Products and Merial, Inc.

"Physicians and veterinarians recognize the benefits of animal companionship and both are concerned with zoonotic disease threats, food-safety issues, biomedical research and the complex inter-dependencies between people and animals," said VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre. "Through these symposia, we hope to create a forum in which these areas of mutual interest can be examined from a more integrated perspective."

Speakers from around the country will make presentations on different aspects of the symposium topic.

The first symposium in the series, which featured a presentation by Michael Blackwell, assistant surgeon general of the United States,

was held in fall 1999 and focused on "Beneficial Effects of Animal Companionship on Human Health and Well-Being."

The three-year series concludes in September, 2001, with a seminar entitled "Educating Physicians about their Joint Responsibilities in Public Health and Food Safety." Topics scheduled for examination during that event include microbiological and chemical safety of foods of animal origin, anti-microbial drug resistance and others.

Over the centuries, human and veterinary medicine have become more specialized and evolved independently. But today, the compelling inter-relationships which bind them together are significant enough to warrant academic exploration, Eyre said. Each promotes the public health and works to contain the threats of infectious disease. Each is involved with the human-health implications of an animal-protein-based food supply, and each is concerned with the physical and psycho-social benefits of the human-animal bond.

Registration is \$60. For more information, contact Marie Suthers-McCabe at 1-7133.

**VETERINARY**

*Continued from 1*

next 10 years as a "building-block" period for the field of veterinary informatics as medical information networks and information standards are established and adopted.

"Ultimately, veterinarians are going to have access to vastly greater amounts of information as they diagnose and treat animals in their practices, and that is going to lead to better patient care," he said.

The VMRCVM has operated nationally recognized programs in veterinary medical informatics throughout the past decade. The late founding Dean Richard Talbot established the first graduate programs in the field and key relationships with the FDA during a time when the Internet and web-based communications were emerging as the defining communications technology of an era.

Wilcke, who joined the VMRCVM in 1982, was one of the first faculty members in the college to begin using computer technology to enhance student instruction in the mid-80s. He earned his DVM from Iowa State University and his M.S. in clinical pharmacology from the

University of Illinois.

Three professorships have been endowed at the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia, which functions as the college's northern Virginia campus. However, the Metcalf Professorship is the first to be endowed on the Blacksburg campus.

**CRITTENDEN**

*Continued from 1*

Crittenden has been a member of EDGD since 1975 and has held numerous positions with the division, including that of chair in 1994. He received the Oppenheimer Award for Best Paper presented at the EDGD/ASEE conference in 1995.

Crittenden, who received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in aerospace engineering from Virginia Tech, joined the university's faculty in 1974. He has received two Certificates of Teaching Excellence from the College of Engineering and spent three summers at the NASA-Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, in the NASA/ASEE Summer Faculty Fellowship Program.

**PETERS**

*Continued from 1*

within the Executive Branch. Two topics likely to be considered by the commission are recommendations for a broad research and technology strategy for the state and for enhancements to policies supporting the licensing of intellectual property developed by Virginia's universities.

"We are very fortunate to have strong public-research universities here in Virginia as well two outstanding federal research-and-development centers and numerous successful research-intensive companies in the aerospace, biotechnology, information technology and material sectors, among others," Secretary of Technology Donald W. Upson said. "The VRTAC will build closer relationships between these groups as well as building better relationships with other industry and federal research program managers. This is all part of building the optimum environment for all aspects of the new economy here in Virginia."

VRTAC will hold its first meeting on July 11 in Richmond. More information is available [www.cit.org/vrtac](http://www.cit.org/vrtac).

## Wood-sciences' traveling classroom almost ready

*By Lynn Davis*

The Department of Wood Sciences and Forest Products plans to launch its traveling classroom this fall. Putting its Wood Magic Show on wheels is in response to the overwhelming interest by schools. The program teaches children about the value and science of wood.

Wood Magic Show coordinator and associate professor of wood science Audrey Zink-Sharp said, "We were having to turn away schools from our campus event, so we needed to come up with a way to serve more students in a cost and time effective manner. Buying a trailer and taking the show on the road seems to be the answer."

The department is currently raising funds to complete the purchase of the pickup truck that will haul the trailer.

What have some of the past participants said about the show? "I didn't know wood was stronger if turned on its side." "We didn't go to any event we did not like." "It was neat to see the termites under the electronic microscope because we do not have that equipment in our classroom." "Seeing the colors of leaves with the chromatograph complemented our teaching unit on plants."

Following on the heels of the annual on-campus Wood Magic Show, the department of wood science and forest products took its well-received wood educational show on the road for the first time last fall to test the response to a traveling classroom.

"Children really learn," noted Zink-Sharp. "It was very obvious that those young minds were captivated by the wood-science demonstrations and the hands-on experiments." Students were amazed to discover that just like trees are different on the outside, different species were also different on the inside. It was hard for them to believe that they each used three pounds of wood and forest products every day.

The instructional program was developed around the state's Standards of Learning for third and fourth grades, so the event has become very popular with Virginia schools. Teachers are given a kit of supplemental teaching materials.

Because the department recognizes the importance of educating today's young people about the role of wood products and the forest products industries in their everyday lives, the College of Natural Resources has hired a permanent, full-time youth educator.

# 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 website 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

**Accountant**, N/A, Grade 9, Virginia Tech Foundation.

**Administrative Assistant**, 0016T, Grade 7, University Registrar.

**Animal Care Supervisor**, 6998J, Grade 11, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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

**Applications Analyst**, 2145L, Grade 0, Web Application Research/Development.

**Applications Analyst**, 1226L, Grade 0, Web Application Research/Development.

**Banquet Manager (Food Operations Manager Assistant)**, 1118G, Grade 6, DBHCC.

**Boiler Operator**, 050G, Grade 6, Power Plant.

**Boiler Operator Assistant**, 338G, Grade 4, Power Plant.

**Bookkeeper/Technical Typist (Program Support Technician)**, 1896T, Grade 6, Statistics.

**Budget Analyst**, 6927T, Grade 10, Budget/Financial Planning.

**Business Researcher**, 7616D, Grade 11, VTIC.

**Communications Account Assistant (Program Support Tech Sr.)**, 02964A, Grade 7, CNS.

**Computer Network Support Technician Senior**, 3492G, Grade 10, EHS.

**Computer Network Support Technician Senior**, 6510T, Grade 10, Philosophy.

**Computer Systems Engineer**, 0180T, Grade 14, Computer Science.

**Data Warehouse Architect**, 6701L, Grade 0, Information Systems/Computing.

**Desktop Computer Support Technician**, 1899A, Grade 8, CNSA.

**Electrician**, 7565G, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

**Enrollment Services Assistant (Academic Adviser)**, 7618T, Grade 7, Biology.

**Executive Secretary**, 2021J, Grade 6, CVM—Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

**Executive Secretary**, 5127M, Grade 6, CALS /4-H.

**Executive Secretary Senior**, 0098, Grade 7, Industrial/Systems Engineering.

Ten full-time food-operations positions available; five part-time positions.

**Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef**, 0940H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Owens Food Court.

**Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef**, 2820H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Owens Food Court.

**Food Operations Manager B/Executive Chef**, 0266H, Grade 10, Residential/Dining Programs/Shultz Dining Center.

**Food Production Worker A/Food Production Supervisor**, 0549, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Hokie Grill.

**Front Desk Clerk (Office Services Assistant)**, 2569G, Grade 4, DBHCC.

**Grants Specialist (Fiscal Manager)**, 7613T, Grade 9, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 2241H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 7605C, Grade 1, Physical Plant.

**Housekeeping Worker**, 1631G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

**Interpreter for the Deaf**, 7472J, Grade 8, Dean of Students.

**Laboratory Mechanic C**, 7606T, Grade 8, CPES.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 4478M, Grade 8, Animal/Poultry Sciences.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 7624T, Grade 8, Chemical Engineering.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 2605J, Grade 8, Veterinary Medicine (VMES).

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, 7614T, Grade 9, Biology.

**Learning Technology Systems Integrator**, 7426L, Grade 15, Educational Technologies.

**Manufacturing Processes Laboratory Supervisor**, 0999T, Grade 11, Industrial/Systems Engineering.

**Medical Technologist**, 2637J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Office Services Assistant**, LC087F, Grade 4, Hokie Passport.

**Office Services Specialist**, 3078T, Grade 5, Statistics.

**Office Services Specialist**, 7201J, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine (VMES).

**Oracle Dba**, 6779D, Grade 0, Information Systems/Computing.

**Personnel Assistant**, 5654T, Grade 7, Personnel Services.

**Program Support Technician**, 7627T, Grade 6, Engineering.

**Program Support Technician**, 1928J, Grade 6, UUSA.

**Program Support Technician**, 2960G, Grade 6, International Programs.

**Program Support Technician**, 7638J, Grade 6, Military Affairs.

**Program Support Technician Sr.**, 0365J, Grade 7, Interdisciplinary Programs.

**Programmer**, 6656F, Grade 10, University Libraries.

**Programmer**, 1864F, Grade 10, University Libraries.

**Programmer Analyst**, 1643T, Grade 12, Budget/Financial Planning.

**Programmer Analyst**, 7365T, Grade 12, Engineering.

**Research Software Developer**, 7637T, Grade 14, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.

**Secretary Senior**, 2029J, Grade 5, CVM.

**Security Guard**, W020470G, Grade 2, Police Department.

**Security Lead Guard**, 1357G, Grade 3, Police Department.

**Switchboard Operator (Office Services Assistant)**, 06648A, Grade 4, CNS.

**Systems Administrator**, 7636T, Grade 16, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.

**Trades Utilities Senior Worker**, 7115G, Grade 6, Physical Plant.

**Turbine Operator**, 2220G, Grade 6, Physical Plant/Power Plant.

**University Records Manager**, 7626G, Grade 11, Records Management Services.

### Part Time

**Animal Care Technician A**, W022155J, Grade 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Laboratory Mechanic C**, W023016, Grade 10, Sensors Loss Services.

**Fiscal Assistant**, W022977M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

**Housekeeping Worker**, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

**Housekeeping Worker**, W020190C, Grade 1, Physical Plant/Housekeeping Services.

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

**Instrument/Equipment Technician**, W023046T, Grade 8, Music Department.

**Laboratory Technician**, W022700T, Grade 4, Chemistry.

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W020117T, Grade 5, EHSS.

**Office Services Assistant**, W022260J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Office Services Specialist**, W023080J, Grade 5, Graduate School Support Office.

**Office Services Specialist**, W022322T, Grade 5, Undergraduate Admissions.

**Pharmacy Assistant A**, W020839J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

**Program Support Technician**, W022617M, Grade 6, Horticulture.

**Secretary Senior**, 4557M, Grade 5, Natural Resources.

**Security Guard**, W023055G, Grade 2, Police Department.

**Switchboard Operator (Office Services Assistant)**, W022101A, Grade 4, CNS.

**Web Content Designer**, W023068T, Grade 10, Computer Science.

### University Only

**Office Services Specialist**, U7639J, Grade 5, Health Center.

### Off Campus

**Announcer**, W020800L, Grade 8, University Relations/WVTF.

**Executive Secretary**, 2092J, Grade 6, Northern Virginia Center.

**Office Services Assistant**, 5950J, Grade 4, HFNE.

**Office Services Assistant**, 6613J, Grade 4, HFNE.

**Office Services Assistant**, 6348J, Grade 4, HFNE.

**Office Services Assistant**, 7631J, Grade 4, HFNE.

**Office Services Specialist**, 7635, Grade 5, VCE—Patrick County.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management**. **Assistant/Associate Professor**. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial Hall (0317). Review begins September 15.

**Department of Chemistry**. **Tenure-track Position**, **Inorganic Chemistry**. Contact: Brian Hanson, 107 Davidson Hall (0212). Review begins November 17.

**Department of Chemistry**. **Tenure-track Position**, **Physical Chemistry**. Contact: Thomas Ward, 107 Davidson Hall (0212). Review begins November 1.

**Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences**. **Assistant Professors (2)**. Contact: Dean Stauffer, 100 Cheatham Hall (0321). Review begins November 1.

**President's Office, Assistant to the President**. Contact: M. Carole Nickerson, 210 Burruss. (0131). Review begins August 7.

**Corps of Cadets**. **Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions**. Contact: Colonel Wesley Fox, 143 Brodie (0213). Review begins August 1.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension, Child Care Research Associate**, #111439, Shenandoah Co. Contact: Karen Lynn Poff, VCE, 600 N. Main St., Woodstock, VA 22664. Review begins July 24.

**Athletics**. **Assistant Track and Field Coach (Throws Coach)**. Contact: Pam Linkous, 359 Jamerson Athletic Center (0502). Review begins July 24.

**Athletics**. **Diving Coach**. Contact: Pam Linkous, 359 Jamerson Athletic Center (0502). Review begins August 7.

**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**. **Research Scientist**. Contact: Richard Claus, 340 Whitemore (0111). Review begins immediately.

## PERSONNEL INFORMATION

### Long-term Classified Staff Members to Receive Additional Leave

Governor James Gilmore has announced increases to annual leave benefits for long-term state employees. The changes in state worker policy coincide with recommendations made by the legislature's Joint Commission on Management of the Commonwealth's Workforce.

"I am pleased to announce the expansion of annual leave benefits for the commonwealth's long-serving state employees," Gilmore said. "The expansion of these benefits brings Virginia in line with other states. This is good news for the workers of the commonwealth and helps further our goal of maintaining an effective and viable state workforce."

The new benefits, which result in an additional hour accrued per pay period, mean an additional three days of annual leave may

be accrued each year for employees with 15 years of service and an additional six days when an employee reaches 25 years of service. Carryover limits will increase by an

The increased annual-leave accrual rates, maximum carry-over limits and maximum payment limits become effective with the pay period beginning July 10, 2000. The new accrual rates will be credited to employees at the completion of that pay period and available for use on July 25, 2000. The changes are expected to have minimal fiscal impact on the commonwealth.

"In conjunction with recommendations made by a bi-partisan legislative commission studying these issues, we have carefully crafted policies that are good for state workers and good for the commonwealth," Secretary of Administration G. Bryan Slater said.

additional six days at 15 years and an extra 12 days at 25 years of service

## Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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## IN OTHER NEWS

## Tech-led programs assist military with quality-of-life initiatives

By Jean Elliott

Sandi Stith, director of the Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) graduate program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center, oversees one of the premiere master's and post-master's certificate programs in the country.

A domestic violence researcher and former Peace Corps volunteer, Stith has, over the last six years, developed a strong partnership with the US military, cultivating more than \$4.5 million in research and training grants. Her professional activities include coordinating national conventions and consulting on wide-ranging quality-of-life initiatives affecting military families.

"The military takes what goes on with the family seriously," Stith said, "because it affects mission readiness. There are very specific stressors that are specifically military-related. And now, we are experiencing the highest deployment rate in a non-war-time situation."

It used to be that military wives held the

home life on the bases together—but new issues cloud the scene. Now, 70 percent of military families have dual careers. There are an ever-increasing number of single military mothers. In some cases, both parents are in active-duty roles and must develop formal plans for taking care of their children in the event both are deployed at the same time. Teenagers struggle with how to reintegrate a parent into their lives after a period of absence. Instant media coverage streams images into the living room—children can actually see that daddy's ship or mommy's unit is in the midst of a difficult situation. Naturally, this is distressing for families.

One of the military projects in which Stith and her colleagues are engaged is developing new healthy parenting processes and materials that are uniquely suited to the needs of military families. The Department of Defense initiative, which is directed by Karen Rosen, will focus on a range of military-unique family issues such as intermittent single parenting, frequent deployments, separation from extended-family support systems, and frequent relocation of family

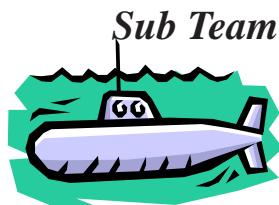
members. A central goal is to develop a variety of materials to complement traditional methods for delivering family support and reaching those families least likely to ask for help.

In another undertaking begun in 1999, the Youth Collaboration Project (YCP) partners the Air Force with Cooperative Extension to create and implement strong, sustainable youth-development programs on bases across the nation. Designed to target at-risk youth, a three-year trial is being implemented on nine bases. Ron Drum, a research faculty member, is coordinating the development and execution of the project. Youth-serving agencies both on the base and in the surrounding community are combining their unique capabilities and resources, with cohorts from each base developing the overall vision with goals, plans and strategies. At the end of three years, the YCP model will be made available to all Air Force installations for possible inclusion in their family support efforts.

Stith's most recent project is working with a group of Air Force and Army social workers to develop an assessment tool for domestic violence

that can help evaluate the risk of a recurrence. Social workers in both the Army and Air Force are regularly required to make predictions about the likelihood of future violence by alleged offenders. This tool could help provide better protection for victims, as well as more appropriate treatment for offenders.

As coordinator for USDA-sponsored Air Force Family Advocacy Research, Stith oversees all of the aforementioned projects. With each of these projects, Virginia Tech partners with other land-grant universities under a USDA-CSREES (U.S. Department of Agriculture-Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service) cooperative agreement. Faculty colleagues Eric McCollum, Angela Huebner, and Rosen, as well as Blacksburg-based Jay Mancini and Lydia Marek, regularly contribute to these projects. Bill Giles, a retired Coast Guard officer, helps with the management of resources. Stith also regularly involves her grad students.



By Liz Crumbley

The Virginia Tech Human Powered Submarine Team hopes to appear in the

## Sub Team Hopes for New World Record

Guinness Book of World Records by breaking the world speed record during the national Human Powered Submarine Contest in San Diego, California, July 20-23.

The team of engineering undergraduates has designed and built Phantom III, a streamlined, fiberglass, one-man submarine so sleek that the Virginia Tech students have high expectations of both breaking the speed record (6.98 knots, set in 1997 by a team from a Canadian university) and winning the competi-

tion. The team recently tested Phantom III in the Florida Keys, and they have the submarine ready for San Diego. The Virginia Tech team is scheduled to compete against 12 teams in the contest, which is sponsored by the San Diego section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Dave Toomey, an English instructor at the university, is making a video documentary about the team and the creation of Phantom III.

## Police Chief Jones to return to department

By Larry Hincker

Mike Jones, Virginia Tech Police chief since 1989, will return to the Police Department August 1. Jones has been on paid leave since early May when some employees in the Police Department first levied complaints.

A review panel met with approximately 25 employees of the Police Department to discuss the complaints raised and related concerns.

As a result, vice president Ray Smoot noted in a letter to the Police Department that "greater sensitivity to and understanding of issues of gender and sexual harassment is needed within the department."

The review panel found a pattern of inappropriate gender and sexual banter within the department on the part of some employees, both male and female. Personnel Services and the EO/AA Office and members of the department will begin work immediately to develop and implement a training program to address these issues in the department.

By mutual agreement, Lt. John Brotherton will remain as acting police chief while these issues are being addressed.

## Sweet awarded Udall scholarship

By Stewart MacInnis

Brian C. Sweet has been awarded a scholarship by the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in Environmental Policy Foundation.

A senior studying environmental sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Sweet was one of 80 students nation wide to receive the one-year \$5,000 scholarship.

The scholarship was established in 1992 in honor of former Congressman Udall, whose long career in public service was marked by concern for the environment. It is designed to provide opportunities for outstanding students with excellent academic records and demonstrated interest in careers in the fields of environmental public policy, health care, and

tribal public policy.

Sweet, who grew up in a community on the Chesapeake Bay, is preparing for a career in environmental policy with a non-governmental organization that works to preserve the bay. He intends to attend graduate school after he graduates next year.

"Brian and I have had lengthy discussions about the decline in the health of our environment, and it has become clear to me that he is truly dedicated to improving the health of the environment," said Matthew Eick, assistant professor of environmental soil chemistry. "Because of his background Brian is passionate about influencing public policy and making a positive impact on environmental quality."

## CWT announces new corporate affiliation

By Susan Trulove

Virginia Tech's Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) has announced a new corporate affiliation with Arc Second, Inc. of Dulles.

CWT faculty and staff members and students conduct research on radio-frequency (RF) systems and components, antennas, satellite communication, wireless networks, and business and regulatory issues affecting wireless telecommunications.

Arc Second is a venture-capital-backed high-technology company that specializes in the design and development of 3-D measurement and tracking technology called 3D-IntelliGence (3D-I).

"Products incorporating 3D-I technology are revolutionizing the way in which people collect, process, and apply 3D position and tracking information," said Charles Postian, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of CWT.

A Technology Development Center of Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology, CWT combines the resources of leading financial and engineering experts in all facets of the wireless-telecommunications industry. The university center draws upon resources from national research groups and Virginia's many satellite communications, telecommunications, and electronics companies.

Arc Second is currently developing a range of 3D-based products that will be released under a number of well-known brand names. These products will be marketed and manufactured through licenses, strategic partnerships, and alliances, and will be aimed at consumer, professional, and industrial applications.

CWT offers cost-effective university teams and existing laboratories to help companies leverage their resources and achieve stronger results. The center has been involved in projects ranging from space telecommunications to television marketing. CWT researchers have provided results that range from financial assessments, to antenna design and prototyping, to modem development, to the research and development necessary to take an idea through the development stages to a viable product. More information about the center is available at [www.cwt.vt.edu](http://www.cwt.vt.edu).

