

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION

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additional news
coverage.

NSF awards university \$2.55 million for Internet program

By Liz Crumley

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded \$2.55 million to Virginia Tech to establish a novel education-and-research program aimed at making the Internet a more accessible global-communications infrastructure.

The university will provide matching funds for the Integrated Research and Education in Advanced Networking (IREN) program, which will sponsor fellowships for engineering, computer science, economics, and business graduate students on the Blacksburg campus and at the university's Alexandria Research Institute (ARI).

The program also will create a novel educational process that will enable graduates to fully contribute to the revolution in networking.

Working with technology developers and users from industry and government, the IREN fellows will conduct multi-

disciplinary research on several advanced networking topics, including broadband wireless access, mobile access to Internet resources, Internet appliances, network security, quality of service, and management of large-scale networks.

"These topics represent key barriers to making the Internet the common, ubiquitous, and global communications infrastructure of the future. The goal of the advanced networking program is to help make the Internet accessible in almost any location for almost any application," said Scott Midkiff, Virginia Tech professor of electrical and computer engineering (ECpE) and director of the new program.

"The problems of Internet access that the program will tackle are important to both industry and government," Midkiff said. "These also are areas in which Virginia Tech has research expertise as well as strong faculty and student interest."

As many as 19 students will participate in the IREN program and five or six Ph.D.

graduates are expected per year. About one-third of the IREN fellows will conduct research and take courses at the ARI, Midkiff noted. The ARI also will provide connections to industry and international partners for the program.

In addition to research, students will learn to work in multi-disciplinary, distributed teams. "They also will gain an understanding of business and global issues and improve their ability to communicate effectively," Midkiff said.

IREN fellows at ARI and in Blacksburg will be encouraged to complete at least one internship with an industry or government partner. Current industry partners include 3Com, IBM, Litton Network Access Systems, RF Micro Devices, and United Technologies Research Center. Industry and government partners also will serve as advisers, provide seminars and workshops, sponsor students and research, and collaborate on research.

Virginia Tech is matching the NSF funding primarily through faculty support, graduate

(See NSF AWARDS on 3)

Southside, Tech partnership announced

By David Nutter

Virginia Tech officials unveiled plans on Wednesday to help economically challenged areas of Southern Virginia through the establishment of a high-bandwidth communications network and an institute for advanced learning and research.

At the end of 1999, local business leaders from Danville and Pittsylvania County came to campus to meet with top university officials to explore ways in which Virginia Tech could partner with them to improve the economic viability of the region.

Recognizing Virginia Tech's outstanding academic programs and internationally recognized leadership in information technology, business leaders from the area known as the Dan River Region

(See SOUTHSIDE on 2)

Einstein's Dreams author Lightman to visit campus September 6

(Editor's note: The following article contains updated information regarding Lightman's activities)

By Sally Harris

Alan Lightman, noted physicist and author of *Einstein's Dreams*, the book being used in Virginia Tech's Common Book Experience, will visit the university Wednesday, Sept. 6.

Lightman, a novelist, essayist, physicist, and educator at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), will engage in a book signing of *Einstein's Dreams* at 2 p.m. in Squires Williamsburg Room just off the second-floor lobby. He will also give a presentation on "The Physicist as Novelist" at 7 p.m. in Burruss auditorium. The events are free and open to the university community and general public.

This fall, Virginia Tech's 4,679 first-

year students found a complementary copy of *Einstein's Dreams* in their dorm rooms when they arrived. *Einstein's Dreams* is not about Einstein or physics. It is a series of short fictional vignettes representing dreams that Einstein might have had. They describe what life in a small village might be like if time were configured differently—as a circle repeating itself every 24 hours, for example—or if people lived only one day. What would people's lives be like? What would they value? The novel takes place over a 10-week period of time in 1905 during which Einstein wrote his special Theory of Relativity, for which he is perhaps best known.

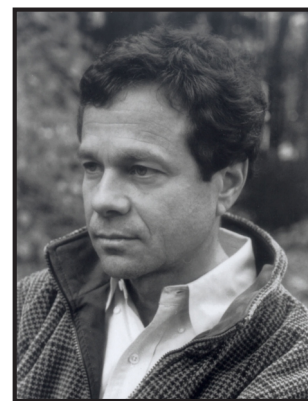
Students will read the book and some professors will incorporate ideas from it in various courses in different disciplines. The purposes of the project are to help students understand how seemingly different courses

and disciplines can be interconnected and to create communities in which students have the common bond of reading and discussing the book both in and outside of classes.

The project has been piloted with a select number of students for the past two years, and students said it fostered discussions outside class, made them appreciate how other people think, and encouraged them to think in ways they had never thought before. As part of the expansion of the project, all first-year students received the book this year and faculty members teaching first-year courses have an opportunity to incorporate the book and its concepts into their courses. Workshops for interested faculty members were held in August to assist them in weaving elements of the book into the structure and content of their courses.

Lightman taught at the Harvard-

(See EINSTEIN on 3)



LIGHTMAN

Shires named to BSI coordinator's position

By Catherine Doss

Peter Shires, professor of small-animal clinical sciences in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named coordinator of the university's Biological Sciences Initiative (BSI).

"We're pleased and excited to have Peter coordinate the BSI, particularly because he brings a keen interest in innovative teaching and learning pedagogies for the life sciences," said Ron Daniel, associate provost for undergraduate programs. "Peter has a well developed history of collaborations with the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Faculty Development Institute."

Shires takes over the position formerly held by Muriel Lederman for the past four

years. Lederman is returning full-time to teaching, research, and service in biology and women's studies.

"Muriel has done an outstanding job developing the BSI from its infancy," Daniel said. "She has taken a major lead on support for transitional advising and has persevered in developing collaborations among colleges and departments with the intent of promoting excellence in undergraduate life-sciences teaching."

In his two-year, half-time commitment, Shires will be responsible for supervising the BSI's instructional designers and overseeing instructional-design programs to facilitate life-sciences teaching and learning. He will also facilitate transitional advising efforts currently under way in the BSI, assume a leadership role in seeking partnerships and possible external-funding opportunities to support BSI activities,

and coordinate undergraduate research opportunities in the life sciences.

"My research and scholarly activities in the past 10 years have been heavily committed to pedagogical issues in veterinary medicine, particularly from an educational-technology standpoint," Shires said. "What has become increasingly evident is that most of the derived applications that work in veterinary medicine will also work in any of the applied biological-science fields. My goal for the BSI is to assist both early- and later-adopters in developing and testing alternatives to lecture-based learning."

The BSI, supported by the Office of the Provost, is a cross-college, cross-departmental collaboration that promotes excellence in undergraduate life-science instruction. Departments from the Colleges of Natural Resources, Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and

(See SHIRES on 4)

Fall Convocation Invitation

Members of the university community are invited to attend a Fall Convocation on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m. in Burruss auditorium.

Outstanding faculty and staff award winners will be honored at the convocation, and President Charles Steger will speak.

For more information, call Debbie Rhea at 1-5397, or e-mail at rheada@vt.edu.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 1

Salary and Wage Paydate.
YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., YMCA Office.

Saturday, 2

Football, noon, Lane Stadium: Akron.

Monday, 4

Labor Day, Staff holiday. Classes meet.

Tuesday, 5

Bloodmobile, time, location TBA: Call (540) 985-3563.

CEUT Program, 12:30-2 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room: Call 1-6995 for information.

CEUT Program, 3-5 p.m., Owens Banquet Hall: Call 1-6995 for information.

Wednesday, 6

CEUT/Common Book Experience Program, Hillcrest dining hall: Alan Lightman. Call 1-6995 for time.

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

Book Signing, 2 p.m., Squires Williamsburg Room: Alan Lightman.

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

Common Book Experience Program, 7 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Alan Lightman.

Thursday, 7

Gallery Opening, Armory Gallery: Vicki Katen (Through 9-29).

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

CEUT, 3-5:30 p.m., DBHCC: Call 1-6995 for information.

School of the Arts Exhibit Opens: Vikki Katen (Through 9-29). Call 1-5200 for information.

Football, 8 p.m.: At East Carolina.

SEMINARS

Friday, 1

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: Dennis Dean.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: David Allis, UVA.

Thursday, 7

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Allan Ludman, Queens College, CUNY.

Friday, 8

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: William A. Ducker.

Geological Sciences, 1 p.m., 4052 Derring: Allan Ludman, Queens College, CUNY.

BULLETINS

Facilities for nursing mothers established

Facilities have been established in Newman Library, the Women's Center, and various locations in the Corporate Research Center for nursing mothers who need to express milk or nurse their babies. The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages women to nurse their babies for at least the first 12 months.

Many people and offices provided support for these facilities, including the dean and the associate dean of libraries, the Women's Center, the Corporate Research Center President, Family and Work/Life Resources, the Organization of Women Faculty, the provost, and the associate provost for academic administration. An initiative continues this year to investigate the feasibility of establishing other rooms on campus.

Women who have questions or need access to the on-campus facilities should contact Jessie Meltner at the Women's Center at jmelts@vt.edu or 1-7806. Women at the

Corporate Research Center should contact Marti Graham at grahamja@vt.edu or 1-2287.

IP offers Alpine Focus seminar

The Alpine Focus Project seminar "The Alps: a Botanical Treasure," will be offered on Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in Squires Colonial Hall.

The program visually explores the botanical and geological riches of the European Alps. Co-presenters Khidir Hilu, biology department, and Thomas Borsch, University of Bonn, Germany, co-taught a botany course in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland this summer.

The professors and students who attended the course will also discuss the cross-cultural aspects of this experience.

Leave donations requested

Virginia Tech employees in Communications Network

Services, Residential and Dining Programs, and Cooperative Extension have requested leave donations.

Salaried classified employees or 12-month regular faculty members may participate by donating annual leave in increments of eight hours.

There is no maximum donation limit per year, nor is there a minimum balance that must be maintained. Donation forms can be downloaded from the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/ps/forms/forms.html>.

Leave donations received after the employee's eligibility status changes (due to return to work, disability retirement, retirement, etc.) will be returned to the donor in accordance with established Personnel procedures.

However, leave must be donated to either a specific individual or area. Return completed forms to Toni Pimintel, Personnel Services, (0318).

World trade conference highlights technology

By Clara B. Cox

The Virginia Conference on World Trade, scheduled for September 13-15 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, will focus on the increasing importance of e-commerce and technology in international trade, as well as the profitable emerging markets for Virginia products and services. The theme of the conference, a flagship program of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, will be "Doing Business in Today's E-merging Markets."

President Charles W. Steger will open the event on September 14 with a presentation on "The University in International Trade." Another highlight of the first day will be the keynote luncheon speech by Todd Buchholz, an internationally known commentator on the world economy, financial markets, politics, and technology.

On September 15, Ray Pethel, vice chairman of the Virginia Technology Alliance

and university transportation fellow at Virginia Tech, will talk about the Smart Road and other projects at a seminar entitled "Technology's Impact on Transportation and International Business."

Additional program highlights include appearances by both U.S. Senator Charles Robb and former Governor George Allen, candidates for the U.S. Senate. They will offer their respective views on trade and other topics in separate presentations during the conference.

Other key program topics include the outlook for trade conditions in major markets such as Asia, Brazil, and the European Union; e-business and how traditional companies have adapted their strategies to new business models that are emerging; updates on export regulations; a look at how technology is changing transportation; and one-on-one trade counseling workshops.

The conference schedule also includes a

three-day trade show with over 40 exhibitors representing every facet of Virginia's international trade community.

"The Virginia Conference on World Trade, with its content-rich program and all the resources it brings together, is a portal to the international marketplace for Virginia companies," said T. Carter Waddell, conference chair. "We are delighted to once again bring this event to the Roanoke region, which is staking out its own niche in fiber optics, electronics, smart transportation, and biotechnology, to name a few fields."

For more information, call the Virginia Chamber of Commerce at 804/644-1607 or visit the chamber's web site at www.vachamber.com and register on line.

Virginia Tech's Public Service Programs, a unit in University Outreach, is assisting with the conference.

University officials will also partner with the private sector to deploy a broad-bandwidth communications network in the region, known as MSAP or Multimedia Service Access Point. "It is our view that this technology will be both a magnet for businesses to move into the area, as well as a generator of entrepreneurial ideas and activity," said Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach.

Tech officials will also work with local school systems in the region to upgrade their network infrastructure and train teachers on how best to incorporate web-based learning in the classroom.

Affrilachia author to read, speak

By Sally Harris

In both the popular imagination and in academic scholarship, the term "Appalachian" generally denotes white, rural Americans of northern European ancestry who live in the southern mountains of the American East. The ethnically and racially diverse composition of this region existed underground, ignored, or erased from public view, according to Anita Puckett, associate professor and coordinator of the Appalachian Studies Program at Virginia Tech.

Frank X. Walker, nationally recognized poet, author of *Affrilachia*, co-founder of Affrilachian Poets, and director of the Kentucky Governor's School of the Arts, has changed that perspective through the power of his poetry and the strength of his vision. Walker will come to Virginia Tech to read from his work and discuss black "Affrilachia" on September 6, at 7:30 p.m., in 1070 Litton-Reeves. Admission is free and open to the public.

This event is sponsored by the Appalachian Studies Program, Black Studies, Department of English, Humanities Programs, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, all in the College of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Tech.

For more information, contact Puckett at 1-9526 or apuckett@vt.edu.

SOUTHSIDE

Continued from 1

sought the university's help in developing advanced-degree and continuing-education programs and to position the area to take advantage of the new economy.

"Over the years, members of the General Assembly from these areas have been very supportive of Virginia Tech and its programs," said President Charles Steger. "As the state's largest university with recognized expertise in advanced communication technologies, Virginia Tech is pleased to be a partner with the private sector and local government to improve the economic and educational vitality of the region."

Tech officials said that business leaders in the region have made a substantial financial commitment to help fund the project. The Town of Danville has also voted to use all of its proceeds from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Board, which will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the project.

Virginia Tech will also be working with Averett College and Danville Community College to assist them in upgrading their technology infrastructure. Virginia Tech will also help Averett College implement its own Faculty Development Institute, based upon Virginia Tech widely praised program model.

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

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

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

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

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

Assistant to Director of Annual Giving, 2226L, Grade 6, University Development.

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

Boiler Operator, 7312G, Grade 6, Power Plant.

Boiler Operator Assistant, 332G, Grade 4, Power Plant.

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

Business Researcher, 7616D, Grade 11, VTIC.

Campus Center Director (Event Planning Manager), 1954J, Grade 9, UUSA.

Computer Network Support Technician Senior, 3492G, Grade 10, EHSS.

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

Data Warehouse Architect, 6701L, Grade 0, ISC.

Development Assistant, 1964L, Grade 6, University Development/Corporate/Foundation Relations.

Electrician, 7565G, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

Electronic Information Coordinator, 5502D, Grade 12, Publications/University Relations.

Electronics Technician, 7656J, Grade 9,

VTIC.

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

Executive Secretary, 7473T, Grade 6, Provost.

Executive Secretary Senior, 2407M, Grade 7, Biological Systems Engineering.

Fiscal Technician, 6676G, Grade 6, Continuing Education.

Fiscal Technician, 7659F, Grade 6, University Controller.

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

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 0395H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Owens Food Court.

Food Operations Manager A/Sous Chef, 0940H, Grade 8, Residential/Dining Programs/Southgate Bake Shop.

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

Housekeeping Lead Worker/Recycle Coordinator, 6724H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Lead Worker/Special Projects Crew, 0216H, Grade 2, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Supervisor, 0824H, Grade 4, Residential/Dining Programs.

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

Housekeeping Worker, 1631G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, 0278H, Grade 1, Residential/Dining Programs.

Housekeeping Worker, 2846J, Grade 1, Recreational Sports.

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

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 6926H, Grade 3, Residential/Dining Programs.

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

Laboratory Instrument Maker, 1005T, Grade 10, ISE.

Laboratory Specialist, 7662M, Grade 8, Biochemistry.

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

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7302M, Grade 9, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 7645M, Grade 9, PPWS.

Laboratory Technician, 7519T, Grade 4, Chemistry.

Medical Technologist, 6774J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Medical Technologist, 2596J, Grade 9, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

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

Office Services Specialist, 2024J, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine Experiment Station.

Office Services Specialist, 7661F, Grade 5, Surplus Property.

Office Services Specialist, 1310T, Grade 5, University Registrar.

Office Services Specialist, 1015T, Grade 5,

Marketing.

Office Services Specialist, 2236H, Grade 5, Residential/Dining Programs/Facilities/Services.

Office Services Specialist, W022120G, Grade 5, Physical Plant/Grounds/Recycling/Solid Waste.

Plumber Steamfitter, 0709G, Grade 7, Physical Plant.

Program Support Technician, W022876T, Grade 6, Undergraduate Admissions.

Program Support Technician, 2718T, Grade 6, Personnel Services.

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

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

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

Secretary Senior, 5577M, Grade 5, Animal/Poultry Sciences.

Security Guard, W020470G, Grade 2, Police Department.

Security Lead Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), W020119G, Grade 3, Parking Services.

Security Lead Guard (Parking Enforcement Off.), 7653G, Grade 3, Parking Services.

Student Services Specialist, 7648T, Grade 8, University Honors—Provost.

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

Web Site Technician (Prgm Support Tech. Senior), 6914T, Grade 7, Physics.

PART TIME

Agricultural Technician B, W022203J, Grade 5, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Airport Line Service (Vehicle Svc Attendant), W022078G, Grade 3, Airport.

Animal Care Tech B, W022914J, Grade 5, Veterinary Medicine.

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

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

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

Cashier/Hostess, W022981G, Grade 2, DBHCC.

Enrollment Services Assistant, W022462T, Grade 7, Undergraduate Admissions.

Fiscal Assistant, W023113J, Grade 5, VTIC.

Fiscal Assistant, W023107M, Grade 5, Entomology.

Fiscal Assistant, W022977M, Grade 5, Biochemistry.

Fiscal Assistant, W023088T, Grade 5, Women's Center.

Housekeeping Worker, W020574G, Grade 1, DBHCC.

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

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

Laboratory Mechanic B, W023112M, Grade 6, CSES.

Laboratory Specialist, W023103M, Grade 8, Horticulture.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020627T,

Grade 5, Chemistry.

Laboratory Technician Senior, W020117G, Grade 5, EHSS.

Office Services Assistant, W022875T, Grade 4, Undergraduate Admissions.

Office Services Assistant, W020838J, Grade 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Assistant, W022390T, Grade 4, Registrar.

Office Services Specialist, W023044J, Grade 5, Dean of Students.

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

Postal Assistant, W022844L, Grade 4, Alumni Relations.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238J, Grade 7, Health Center.

Receptionist, W020297L, Grade 2, Computing Center.

Research Assistant for Wireless Telecomm, 023109A, Grade 8, CNS.

Security Guard, W023055G, Grade 2, Police Department.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Fiscal Technician, U5165M, Grade 6, CALS/Life Sciences Administration.

Housekeeping Supervisor, U627C, Grade 4, Physical Plant.

OFF CAMPUS

Office Services Assistant, 7530J, Grade 4, Henrico.

Research Specialist Senior, 4119M, Grade 9, Eastern Shore Research/Extension Center.

Research Specialist Senior, 7658M, Grade 9, Conservation Management Institute.

Scnp Youth Program Assistant/Office Services Assistant, 7536, Grade 4, Danville City.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Hospitality/Tourism Management. Assistant/Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 103 War Memorial (0317). Review begins September 30.

Department of Electrical/Computer Engineering. Visiting Assistant Professor. Contact: K. Ramu, 340 Whittemore (011). Review begins immediately.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Northern Virginia Center. Northern Virginia Coordinator for Information Technology Programs. Contact: L. Fornash, Room 406, 7054 Hancock Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043. Review begins immediately.

Alumni Relations. Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, College of Engineering. Contact: Thomas Tillar, Alumni Hall (0102). Review begins August 15.

Office of International Research/Development. Program Director, Women in International Development. Contact: S.K. De Datta, 1060 Litton-Reaves (0334). Review begins September 30.

NSF AWARDS

Continued from 1

assistantships, and laboratory equipment. Other faculty participants are Charles Bostian, Luiz DaSilva, Nat Davis, and Bill Tranter of ECPe; Marc Abrams, Ing-Ray Chen, and Srinidhi Varadarajan of computer science; Pat Koelling of industrial and systems engineering; George Morgan of finance; Sheryl Ball of economics; and Joe Sirgy of marketing. Also assisting with the program are Pam Kurstedt, director for the College of Engineering at the Northern Virginia Center; Beville Watford, associate dean of engineering for academic programs; and Michael Alley of ECPe.

Another component of the IREN program will be the university's Local Multipoint Distribution Service (LMDS) Initiative, the wireless-broadband access that the Virginia Tech Foundation acquired from the FCC in 1998. The

licensed area covers about 30 percent of Virginia, and IREN fellows will participate in the design, deployment, use, and evaluation of novel LMDS-based broadband wireless networks.

"NSF's support of our IREN program is evidence that Virginia Tech is a leader in the state and a strong competitor on the national level in networking technology and research," Midkiff said.

NSF is providing funding through its Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) in Advanced Networking program, initiated in 1997 to help educate Ph.D. scientists and engineers with interdisciplinary skills needed for the jobs of the future. The agency awarded grants to 19 universities in 2000. This is the first IGERT grant presented to Virginia Tech.

More information is available at <http://www.irean.vt.edu>.

EINSTEIN

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Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and has published essays about the human side of science in such publications as *Smithsonian Magazine* and *The New Yorker*. He also published fiction. He has not only served as professor of science and writing and senior lecturer in physics at MIT, but also has headed the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies there. He published the novel *Einstein's Dreams* in 1993.

Other activities planned for the academic year to relate to *Einstein's Dreams* and the Common Book Project include a lecture and film series, on-going student/faculty discussion groups, and original student productions about ideas from the book.

For more information, visit the web site at www.einsteinsdreams.vt.edu, or e-mail [einstein.dreams@vt.edu](mailto:einsteins.dreams@vt.edu).



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Fariello receives Fulbright to University of Panama

By Sally Harris

Anna Fariello, a faculty member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Tech, has received a Fulbright grant to teach Museum Studies at the University of Panama.

Fariello will teach seminars in Institutional Assessment and Collections Management and will assist the University of Panama in setting up a graduate-level internship program with the Contemporary Art Museum and the Panama Canal Museum.

Fariello is a former research fellow with the National Museum of American Art and Smithsonian Institution, a position she held for the past two years. Fariello is curator of three

exhibitions currently touring: *ReFormations: New Forms from Ancient Techniques*, which is traveling regionally, *Francis Whitaker: Iron Master*, which is traveling nationally, and *A Century of Contribution: Christiansburg Institute and Educational Change in Virginia*, a state-wide touring exhibition sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

The Fulbright Program is America's flagship international educational exchange program and is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright. Its purpose

is to build understanding between peoples of the United States and peoples of the rest of the world.

Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and demonstration of unusual leadership potential in their fields. Previous recipients have included poet Rita Dove, actor John Lithgow, and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Anna Fariello, winner of a Fulbright grant to Panama, delivers remarks at the opening of *A Century of Contribution: Christiansburg Institute and Educational Change in Virginia*, a statewide touring exhibition sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

Forestry CD set identifies woody plants

By Lynn Davis

A new interactive multi-media tutorial for the identification of woody plants has just been released by Kendall/Hunt Publishing. *Woody Plants in North America* is a two-CD set split into angiosperms (hardwoods) and gymnosperms (softwoods) and covers both native and ornamental woody plants found across North America. The software was developed over a six-year period by Virginia Tech in cooperation with tree-identification experts at Oregon State University, the Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Georgia.

"We believe it is likely the single largest collection of color photographs for native woody plants found in North America," said John R. Seiler, forestry professor.

The main authors, Seiler, John A. Peterson (Virginia Tech), and Edward C. Jensen (Oregon State) are all award-winning educators and software developers. Both Seiler and Jensen have won the Society of American Foresters' Carl Alwin Schenck Award for excellence in forestry education. Their software has been tested on college students in controlled studies and shown to significantly increase identification skills.

The software includes a morphology section that illustrates common terms used to describe twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, and form of woody plants. The main body of the tutorial contains over 9,500 pictures and full text descriptions of all plant parts for 470 species of woody plants.

Numerous photographs are annotated to highlight the most critical distinguishing features. Multiple pictures of important distinguishing features help users develop a "feel" for normal variation expected in the field. For example, bark is often shown for numerous developmental stages of a tree. Each feature of similar species can also be compared side-by-side with the most distinguishing features highlighted. Range maps, summary descriptions, site information, and interesting tidbits are also given for each species.

A quiz section allows users to evaluate their progress in identification. Quizzes can be customized by species or plant part, or can be broadly based. For example, students can include only species for which they are currently responsible for in a course.

As new species are learned they can be added to the quiz list. During a quiz, additional hints (pictures) can also be looked at if the identity is unclear on the first image. Users can continue looking through images until they can identify the plant or give up. Misspellings in the botanical name are indicated, and if identified incorrectly, the correct species is indicated.

One-page, printable fact sheets for all species in the program can be found at the web site www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro. Each fact sheet contains a text description, plus several color photographs showing key features. To learn more about the software, visit the web site www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/wpina.

Art historian, archeologist to visit

By Sally Harris

Virginia Tech's campus chapter of Phi Beta Kappa will host art historian and archeologist Joan Breton Connelly under the auspices of Phi Beta Kappa's national "Visiting Scholar Program" September 20-22.

During her visit on campus, Connelly will give a public talk on "Women and Ritual: Priestesses in Ancient Greece," at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, in 150 Squires. The talk is open to the public.

She will also meet with undergraduates in classics and women's studies and be the guest of honor at a tea sponsored by the University Honors program.

Connelly is associate professor of fine arts at New York University and, since 1990, has served as director at the Yeronisos Island Expedition and Field School, off the coast of western Cyprus. As an art historian and archeologist, she has spent 20 years in the field, pursuing her interests in the Hellenistic East and excavating at sites throughout Greece, Cyprus, and Kuwait.

She is the author of *Votive Sculpture of Hellenistic Cyprus* and the forthcoming *Women and Ritual: Priestesses in Greek Art and Society and Parthenon and Parthenoi: Reinterpretation of the Parthenon and Its Sculptural Program* (in progress), based on her study of Athenian myth, cult, and drama.

Her talk will trace the elusive story of priestesses in ancient Greece. The scope of evidence about these women is vast and delineates every stage of the path through priesthood: from eligibility and acquisition of office, to how priestesses dressed, to their roles in the ritual, to their compensation for service, to their special rights and privileges, and, finally, to their commemoration at death. The epigraphic, literary, and archaeological record provides far-flung and fragmentary, yet firm, evidence that brings this vibrant story to life.

The Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program, Classical Studies and the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the University Honors Program are sponsoring this public lecture.

For more information about the talk or Connelly's other engagements on campus, contact Amy Nelson, Department of History, at anelson@vt.edu or 1-8369.

RDP welcomes in-coming students

By Lori Greiner

It was another successful opening for Virginia Tech as the Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) opened the residence halls and dining facilities for approximately 8,500 students. Success resulted from the dedication and efforts of many student organizations, faculty and staff members, and a collaboration of all RDP divisions.

"It makes me really proud to be here," said President Charles Steger. "The efforts of all the volunteers for opening weekend truly exemplify Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim*, That I May Serve."

As opening weekend brought thousands of students and families to Blacksburg, more than 35 clubs and organizations (more than 400 students) volunteered Saturday morning as Team Hokies. The volunteers spent hours welcoming students to the university and helped students unload and move into their new homes.

"This has been one of the best openings in years," said Edward Spencer, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of residential and dining programs. "Having so many student volunteers take part helped things

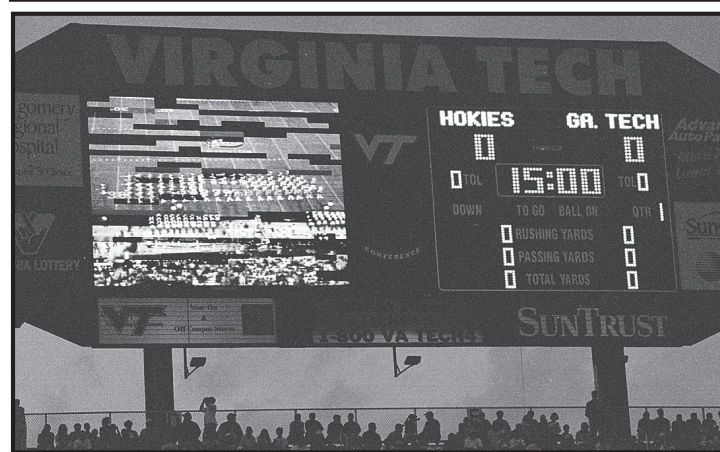
run smoothly."

The Residence Education division of RDP coordinated several activities such as hall socials, floor meetings and tours of campus to allow students to mingle and learn about residence life.

"It's great how so many people come together to make the transition to college life easier," said Niqué Lannon, Residence Hall Federation president. "The Residence Education staff really cares about helping students adjust to living on campus."

To continue the tradition of bringing students together, RDP opened four new theme housing programs for students this year: the Honors Community, the Biological and Life Sciences Learning Community and the Virginia Tech Design Collaborative. In addition, the Residential Leadership Community (RLC) has been expanded to include a program for returning RLC students.

Theme housing programs serve as learning communities where students with similar goals and interests can learn and grow through shared experience.



COUNTDOWN TO THE DELUGE Slightly more than 15 minutes after this photo was taken, lightning and heavy rain forced the cancellation of the SunTrust Bowl between Tech and Georgia Tech. Spectrum will publish information on the resolution of the game situation. (R. Griffiths)

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Life Sciences, Human Resources and Education, and Veterinary Medicine participate. The BSI offers assistance in developing new technology-based instructional designs for life-science courses. It also runs a transitional advising office for students who are exploring undergraduate majors within the life sciences or who are transferring into, within, or out of the life sciences. In addition, it coordinates undergraduate research opportunities and facilitates the design of new curricular and pedagogical efforts that involve BSI-participating departments and colleges.