

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 23 NUMBER 24 FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2001

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 4 for
information on
William Cohen's visit.

Veterinary College receives full accreditation from AVMA

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has been awarded full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for the maximum seven-year term.

"This positive outcome is a tribute to all the hard work of a large number of people on all three of our campus locations in both Virginia and Maryland over the past 20 years," VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre said.

The college's successful re-accreditation follows a comprehensive, 18-month process that culminated in an October 2000 visit by an AVMA Council on Education accreditation team.

The AVMA-COE final report did note delays in the construction of an isolation

facility at the college's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia and mandated that a report documenting the conclusion of that project must be filed with the AVMA within the next two years.

Planning documents concerning the \$1-million facility are almost complete, funds to support the construction have been identified, and the isolation unit will be built within a year, according to Eyre.

This was the first time the AVMA has conducted an accreditation visit on the basis of programmatic outcomes assessment, Eyre said, and COE officials have indicated that the successful experience with the VMRCVM process may lead to a transformation of the process for other colleges of veterinary medicine in the future.

The AVMA's Council on Education typically evaluates each of the 32 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada on the basis of 11 "essentials." Those essentials include organization, finances, facilities and equipment, clinical resources, library and learning resources, students and alumni, admissions, faculty and staff, curriculum, continuing education and extension, and research and graduate studies.

As opposed to traditional accreditation processes that measure various institutional criteria against established norms, the outcomes-assessment process provides a more individualized assessment that measures various performance parameters against stated goals and objectives.

To develop the data required to evaluate

the college's performance in each of the "essential" areas, the college conducted extensive surveys with faculty and staff members, students, prospective students, professional and graduate alumni, employers of veterinarians trained in the VMRCVM, and veterinarians who refer cases to the Blacksburg Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.

A 20-member committee of faculty and staff members and students worked from April 1999 through October 2000 on the outcomes-assessment self-study, which produced an almost 300-page document which was then forwarded to the AVMA Council on Education for review before their site visit.

Steger addresses Senate Finance Committee

(Editor's note: Following are remarks presented to the General Assembly's Senate Finance Committee by President Charles Steger.)

I very much appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. Faculty salaries have been and continue to be a major priority for higher education in Virginia. To reflect the need to support faculty salaries, in the mid-1980s the state adopted a policy of funding teaching and research faculty salaries at the 60th percentile of each institution's benchmark group. The state also adopted a peer-group methodology that provides the foundation for the appropriate faculty salary level at each institution.

While progress was made in the early years toward achieving the 60th-percentile goal, the state was unable to maintain this progress during the early 1990s because of pressures on the state budget.

As the state's financial environment improved over the last five years, the state

and higher education placed renewed emphasis on faculty salaries as the highest priority for higher education. This emphasis has been well placed because the faculty is the heart of each institution of higher education, and the successful recruitment and retention of our faculty members is the most critical element in maintaining the quality of Virginia's colleges and universities. It is important to note that the recruiting environment for the best people is a highly competitive one. Virginia's colleges and universities are considered among the best in the nation, and therefore we are competing with the best universities across the United States.

The progress achieved over the last several years on faculty salaries needs to be continued; we are within sight of our goal of achieving the 60th percentile.

The SCHEV recommendations for fiscal year 2002 would enable the state's colleges and universities to achieve the 60th percentile of their peer groups. Released during October 2000, the council's recommendations continued to

support the 60th-percentile goal.

At Virginia Tech, we project that our faculty salary average will be at the 54th percentile for fiscal year 2001, after receiving the merit increases in November 2000.

If funded in accordance with the SCHEV recommendation in fiscal year 2002, Virginia Tech's faculty salary average would move to the 60th percentile.

To insure a bright future for this and later generations of young Virginians and to sustain and create the engines of growth in the state's economy, we must have the best faculty members.

Because of the continuing importance of faculty salaries to our institutions, we believe that the state needs to remain focused on achieving the 60th-percentile faculty salary goal. While no salary increases for fiscal year 2002 will impact the recruitment and retention of faculty members, the message that it sends to current and prospective faculty members is equally important.

Budget Updated

By David Nutter

The on-again, off-again budget reductions were put on hold by Governor James Gilmore on Monday.

Gilmore ordered Virginia Tech along with other state higher-education institutions to develop contingency plans for reducing its operating budgets for the current fiscal year as well as next year's budget. At Tech that translated into 1.5 percent from its operating budget for the current year and 4 percent for the next fiscal year. (See BUDGET on 4)

Cupp establishes trust for civil war center, athletics

By Clara B. Cox

Sandra C. Cupp, widow of Blacksburg businessman Patrick D. Cupp, has created a charitable trust in excess of \$1 million at Virginia Tech, half designated for the university's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the remainder for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, in recognition of programs supported by her late husband, who died in an automobile accident last fall.

The trust will be used to establish the Patrick D. and Sandra C. Cupp Civil War Endowment Fund for the general support of the Civil War center and the Patrick D. and Sandra C. Cupp Football Endowment Fund in support of the football program.

James I. Robertson Jr., alumni distinguished professor of history and executive director of the Virginia Center for

Civil War Studies, announced the gift at the opening session of the tenth annual Virginia Tech Civil War Weekend on March 9.

"In making these gifts to Virginia Tech for Civil War studies and the football program, I am honoring three of my husband's loves: history, Hokie football, and Virginia Tech," Sandra Cupp said. "We are indeed fortunate to have Dr. James Robertson and Coach Frank Beamer at Virginia Tech, and these gifts are also made in recognition of their many accomplishments and the success they have brought to Virginia Tech. I am happy to complete these gifts in memory of one of Virginia Tech's greatest fans: Pat Cupp."

According to Robertson, "The award made by Mrs. Sandy Cupp in memory of her husband and our friend, Pat Cupp, is the largest gift to date for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. I am profoundly grateful for this endowment

that will enrich the study of Civil War history at Virginia Tech for countless generations yet to come."

Jim Weaver, director of athletics, expressed gratitude on behalf of the Athletics Department. "Pat and Sandy Cupp have been outstanding supporters of Virginia Tech athletics, and we are deeply appreciative of this new gift for the Hokie football program."

Patrick Cupp was a charter member of the Advisory Council for the Civil War center. "From the beginning of the development campaign for the center until he died, Pat enthusiastically supported the center. He was an enthusiastic leader and advisor, and we still feel the loss resulting from his death," Robertson said. "This gift will keep his memory alive throughout the future of the center."

PROVOST SEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Provost Search Committee has planned the following events that are open to the university community:

"Meet the Candidate" reception/discussion for Mark G. McNamee Monday, March 19, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Old Dominion Ballroom, Squires; for Dean O. Smith on Monday, March 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m., Owens Banquet Hall; for Ellen Wartella, on Thursday, March 29, 4:30 to 6 p.m., Hillcrest Dining Room.

Candidates' full vitae are available for review at the Reserve Desk in Newman Library. Short biographies may be viewed on the Provost Search web page.

BOV B and G Committee to meet

By David Nutter

The Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will meet Tuesday, March 20, from 11 a.m. until noon in the Jefferson Boardroom of the Hotel Roanoke.

The purpose of the meeting is to review revised schematic drawings of the proposed Bioinformatics building.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 16

Salary and Wage Paydate.
Last Day to Resign.
Guest Lecture, 3:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Hans-Bernd Brosius, University of Munich.
International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: W. Wat Hopkins.
Faculty, Guest Artist Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: David Ehrlich, Mary Louise Hallauer, Ellie Eban.

Saturday, 17

YMCA Hike, 10 a.m., Lancaster House parking lot.
Women's Month Workshop, Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: 1-7806 to register.
Women's Month Performance, 7:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: 1-7806 for information.

Sunday, 18

Bloodmobile, 1-6 p.m., Miles Hall.

Monday, 19

University Council, 3-5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Women's Month Presentation, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Missy Cummings.
VTU Lively Arts, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Diary of Anne Frank.

Tuesday, 20

ULD Training Program, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., DBHCC Room G: 1-6727 to register.
Guest Lecture, 4 p.m., DBHCC rooms D, E: Ping-chen Hsiung, *Academia Sinica*, Taiwan.
Einstein's Dreams Performance, 7-9 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall: 1-2375 for information.
Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.
CHRE Diversity Presentation, 7 p.m., DBHCC auditorium: Lisa Delpit.

Wednesday, 21

Family/Work/Life Resources Program, noon-1 p.m., location TBA.
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "Happy Birthday Mr. President: Fresh Looks at James and Dolley Madison."

Thursday, 22

Bloodmobile, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Eggleston.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Steve Darr.
Virginia Biotechnology Association Event, 6-8 p.m., CRC Chat Room Cafe: Call (804) 643-6360 for reservations.

Friday, 23

International Club Coffee Hour, 5 p.m., Cranwell Center: John Broderick.

SEMINARS

Friday, 16

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Peter

Schreiner, University of Georgia.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Tom McKnight, TAMU.

FST, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 132 Food Science and Technology Building: Eric Suloff, John Koontz, Marleen van Aardt.

STS, 3:30, 1020 Torgersen: Joy Harvey.

Communication Studies, 3:30 p.m., Hillcrest honors conference room: Hans-Bernd Brosius, University of Manich.

Monday, 19

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Dariusz Swietlik, USDA Fruit Lab.

Thursday, 22

Plant Physiology, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Jerzy Nowak.
CSES, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Mike Schmidt.

Friday, 23

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: William D. Jones, University of Rochester.

MCBB, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: C. Jeff Smith, East Carolina University.

FST, 12:20-1:25 p.m., 132 Food Science and Technology Building: Anna Mansfield, John Schurman, Jennifer Goode, Sonia Gonzalez.

STS, 3:30-5 p.m., 1020 Torgersen: David Silver, Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies.

BULLETINS

Lecturer to speak on Chinese culture

Ping-chen Hsiung, research fellow at the Institute for Modern History at the Academia Sinica in Taiwan, will present "Tender Voyage: Children and Childhood in Late Imperial China" on Tuesday, March 20 at 4 p.m. in DBHCC rooms D and E. Hsiung's areas of study include the history of children, gender studies, Chinese health and culture, and modern Chinese cultural and social history. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of History and several other groups.

EOAA announces new initiatives

The Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) Office announces publication of two new brochures, *The Americans with Disabilities Act: Information and Resources* and *Evacuation and Safety Planning for Individuals with Disabilities*, and free university-wide training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for all managers and supervisors. To request brochures or free ADA training, call the EOAA office at 1-7500.

Hill offers workshop, performance

Percussion artist, teacher, and poet Ubaka Hill will offer a drumming workshop and performance in celebration of Women's Month. The five-hour workshop will be held on Saturday, March 17 in Squires Old Dominion Ballroom. Workshop participants will perform with Hill at 7:30 in the DBHCC auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public. The cost of the workshop is \$15, a drum is required, and participants must pre-register by calling the Women's Center at 1-7806.

Female fighter pilot discusses challenges

Missy Cummings, assistant professor of engineering fundamentals, will present "Breaking through Barriers: One of the Navy's First Female Fighter Pilots Discusses her Life in the Warrior Ranks" on Monday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in DBHCC auditorium. A naval officer for 10 years, Cummings speaks nationally about her experiences. Her book, *Hornet's Nest*, gives an account of the discrimination she encountered in the fighter-pilot community. Cummings will hold a book signing after the presentation. This event is co-sponsored by the Women's Month Planning Committee. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or anderson@math.vt.edu.

German Communication Association president here

Hans-Bernd Brosius, president of the German Communication Association and professor of communication at the University of Munich, will present "Toward an Exemplification Theory of News Effects" at 3:30 p.m. today in the Hillcrest honors conference room. Brosius' research interests include media use and political communication and news reception and methodology. His visit is sponsored in part by the Department of Communication Studies.

CHRE Diversity Committee presentation held

The College of Human Resources and Education Diversity Committee presents "Touched by Their Fire/Blinded by Their Brilliance: Reinventing the Education of African American Children," a talk by Lisa Delpit. The presentation will be Tuesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the

DBHCC auditorium.

Conference celebrating southern food set

"A Place at the Table: Celebrating Southern Food, Literature and Culture," will be held April 4 at Tech. The conference begins at 1 p.m. in DBHCC room E and features literature, culture, and cooking of the South. There will be a dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a reading by award-winning author Ernest Gaines at 8 p.m. The conference sessions and reading are open to the public free of charge, and no registration is required. There will be a charge for the dinner, and pre-registration is required by April 2. For information or to register for the dinner, call Virginia Fowler at 1-6919. For more information, go to <http://athena.english.vt.edu>.

Motor Pool seeks opinions

Employees who travel on university business or use vehicles leased through the motor pool are asked to fill out the on-line survey available at <http://www.mp.vt.edu/survey>. It will assist a committee which has been formed to study future travel needs. The survey is only available on line from March 12-30. For information, contact Steve Mouras at 1-4548.

First national stepping conference scheduled

The first national conference on the popular dance phenomenon known as "stepping" will be held April 6-7 at DBHCC. The conference has sessions on the history and functions of stepping as well as leadership and social change. Brian Williams, founding director of Step Afrika! USA will present the keynote address. The registration fee for the entire conference is \$85 for standard registration, \$65 for students. On-line registration and a complete schedule of events are available at http://www.cis.vt.edu/humanities/conf_step/index.html. The deadline is March 23. Call 1-5182 for information. The conference is sponsored by the Humanities Program, Black Studies, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, and several other organizations. For information, call 1-9593 or email bfine@vt.edu.

Step Afrika! USA will also give a benefit performance to raise money for the Christiansburg Institute and lead a free step workshop which is open to the public. Tickets for the benefit performance can be purchased at the Squires ticket office. Call 1-5182 to register for the step clinic.

Celtic studies conference scheduled at Tech

From Welsh court poems to the food of the Scottish Highlands, the conference of the Celtic Studies Association of North America will cover many topics related to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. March 29 and run through 11:30 a.m. April 1. Sessions will be held in DBHCC rooms D and E. Registration for full-time participants is \$20, and the conference is open to the public. Call Joe Eska at 1-6212 to register. Those who plan to attend only one or two sessions need not register. The Celtic Studies Association of North America is sponsoring the event, which is being funded by the Department of English. Pre-registration for the conference is due by March 23, but on-site registration will also be available. For the preliminary program, visit wiz.cath.vt.edu/celtic/.

Author discusses women becoming mathematicians

Margaret Murray, associate professor of mathematics, will present "Women Becoming Mathematicians: The Book" on Monday, April 2 at 4 p.m. in 455 McBryde. Murray will give a presentation describing her research and how the book evolved. Afterwards, she will answer questions and sign books. The Department of Mathematics, the Math Club, and Womenspace are sponsoring the program in celebration of Women's Month and Math Awareness Month at Virginia Tech. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or anderson@math.vt.edu. People with a disability who need assistance should contact Anderson at least one week before the event.

Take Back the Night activities scheduled

Blacksburg's twelfth-annual "Take Back the Night Rally and March" will be held on Thursday, March 29 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. to protest violence against women and promote awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors which perpetuate violence. The rally will be held from 7:30-8 p.m. on the Drillfield in front of Burruss. (The rain location is 1870 Litton Reaves.) At 8 p.m., participants will march through campus and downtown Blacksburg, returning to the Drillfield for a closing celebration. The march route is accessible for disabled persons.

Participants are asked to bring small candles or flashlights and wear a purple ribbon tied with a knot for friends or family members who been sexually assaulted. Purple ribbons will be available at information tables before events during Women's Month and each weekday at the Women's Center. Sponsoring organizations include Amnesty International, the Dean of Students Office, and the Women's Center, among others. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041 or 951-2013 or Mary Mayzel at 1-7806.

Clothesline project workshops, displays announced

The Clothesline Project is an effort to raise awareness of violence against women and the impact it has on society. Survivors of violence and friends and families of victims create shirts emblazoned with direct messages and strong illustrations. To create a shirt, visit the Women's Center (behind McBryde Hall) between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from Monday, March 26 to Friday, March 30.

Sponsors include Womenspace and the Women's Center. Project displays will be available on the Women's Center lawn Wednesday, March 28 and Friday, March 30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Thursday, March 29 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Drillfield. For information, contact Susan Anderson at 1-8041, 951-2013, or anderson@math.vt.edu or Loretta Ullrich at 951-7590 or lulrich@vt.edu.

Student, faculty performance of Einstein's Dreams

A performance of *Einstein's Dreams* by students and faculty members will be held at 7 p.m. March 20 in Squires Colonial Hall. The book *Einstein's Dreams* was given to every first-year student at the beginning of the academic year as part of the Common Book Experience. The performance is co-sponsored by VTU and the Common Book Steering Committee. More information is available at 1-2375, www.einsteinsdreams.vt.edu, or einsteins.dreams@vt.edu.

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. More details of these positions, specific application procedures/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/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

One full-time food-service position available.

Accountant Senior, 000010C, Pay Band 4, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Administrative Assistant, 001228R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Assistant Counselor, 006557R, Pay Band 3, Scholarships/Financial Aid.

Budget Analyst, 001908F, Pay Band 4, Budget/Financial Planning.

Business Development Director, 007568T, Pay Band 5, ECE/MPRRG.

Buyer Senior (Contracts Officer), 001593F, Pay Band 4, Purchasing.

Computer Access Control Analyst, 001244D, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Data Warehouse Architect, 006930L, Pay Band 5, ISC.

Database/Application Development Specialist, 007230R, Pay Band 5, RGS.

Development Program Researcher, 007728L, Pay Band 4, University Development.

Electrician, 007565F, Pay Band 3, Physical Plant.

Graduation Analyst, 000013R, Pay Band 2, University Registrar.

Grounds Worker Senior, 006855F, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant, Grounds Department.

Housekeeping Worker, 001631G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, Pay Band 1, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Worker Senior, 006926H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

Isb Program Assistant, 007730M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.

Lab Specialist, 007706B, Pay Band 3, Chemistry.

Lab Specialist, 000799B, Pay Band 3, Biology.

Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, Pay Band 3, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, Pay Band 3, CE.

Large Animal Supervisor, 006998M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Library Assistant, 006664F, Pay Band 3, University Libraries: Art/Architecture Library.

Manager Of Development Communications, 007400D, Pay Band 5, University Development.

Medical Technologist, 002584M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Operating Systems Analyst, 000871L, Pay Band 5, Computing Center.

Program Support Technician, 007509B, Pay Band 3, CPES.

Program Support Technician, 004443R, Pay Band 3, ICAM.

Program Support Technician, 001522B, Pay Band 3, Political Science.

Programmer/Analyst, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNR IT.

Public Relations Specialist, 006837R, Pay Band 4, WSFP.

Records/Fiscal Manager, 001039B, Pay Band 3, Police.

Research Engineer, 007634R, Pay Band 4, VCCER.

Shop Leader, 000567H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Cochrane—West End Market.

Sous Chef, 000940H, Pay Band 3, Residential/Dining Programs/Southgate Bake Shop.

Sous Chef, 007266H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Dietrick Dining Hall.

Specialty Food Production Assistant, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet's Place.

Surgical Ward Technician, 002637M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Technical Writer/Editor, 007721R, Pay Band 3, CWC.

Telecommunications Network Technician, 006965A, Pay Band 3, CNS.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician A, W022563M, Pay Band 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Banquet/Setup (Foa-b), W022143G, Pay Band 1, DBHCC.

Computer/Internet Technician, W023083J, Pay Band 3, Athletics.

Computer Network Support Tech, W023174G, Pay Band 4, Police.

Database Maintenance Assistant, W023218F, Pay Band 2, Library/Technical Services.

Executive Secretary, 004557R, Pay Band 3, CNR.

Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications), W023203A, Pay Band 2, CNS.

Fiscal Assistant, 007727R, Pay Band 2, FWS.

One part-time food service position available.

ICU Vet Technician-large Animal, W022218M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Museum Administrative/Program Specialist, 007242R, Pay Band 2, Museum of Natural History.

Nutrition Counselor, W023219B, Pay Band 4, Psychology.

Office Services Specialist, W020230M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Office Services Specialist, W023188R, Pay Band 2, Provost's Office.

Pharmacist (Relief), W022501M, Pay Band 6, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Pharmacy Assistant A, W020839M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Quality Assurance Agent, W023015L, Pay Band 3, AIS.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, Pay Band 3, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Receptionist, W020297D, Pay Band 1, Computing Center.

Sales/Catering Assistant, 022356C, Pay Band 2, DBHCC.

Small Animal Icu Technician, W020101M, Pay Band 4, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Associate Dir of Physical Plant for Buildings/Grounds, U007729F, Pay Band 6, Physical Plant.

Student Program Support Technician, U005607J, Pay Band 3, Near Environments.

OFF CAMPUS

Administrative Assistant, 006186M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Southeast District.

Enrollment Program Assistant, 002091J, Pay Band 3, Northern Virginia Center.

GIS Specialist, 006822R, Pay Band 3, CMI.

Radio Announcer, W020800L, Pay Band 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.

Research Specialist Senior, 006504R, Pay Band 4, CMI.

Secretary-4-H Technician, 007635M, Pay Band 2, VCE—Patrick County.

Underwriting Account Executive, 001963L, Pay Band 3, WVTF.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Educational Leadership/Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor, Counselor Education. Contact: Dianne Yardley, 111 War Memorial (0317). Review begins March 1.

Art/Art History. Instructor. Contact: Bailey Van Hook, 20 Smith House (0103). Review begins May 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Military Affairs. Executive Officer, Corps of Cadets. Contact: Col. W.L. Fox, 143 Brodie (0213). Review begins April 15.

VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources. #111149, Crop/Soil Science, Wythe Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 19.

VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources (re-advertised). #FA759, Environmental Horticulture, Stafford Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 14.

VCE. Extension Agent, Family/Consumer Sciences (re-advertised). #111088, Family/Human Development, Richmond. Contact: John Dooley, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins March 14.

Institute for Distance/Distributed Learning. Instructional Designer/Developer for Online Learning. Contact: Sherri Turner, 3046 Torgersen (0445). Open until filled.

Virginia Tech bioinformatics research to be displayed, discussed

By Susan Trulove

Virginia Tech researchers will display and discuss their work related to bioinformatics and computational biology (BCB) on Monday, March 19, during a poster session and workshop at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (DBHCC).

The workshop is intended to bring together faculty members, students, and staff members at Virginia Tech who are working in disciplines that may have new applications in BCB, said Len Peters, vice provost for research. "The purposes of this meeting are to educate the Virginia Tech community on the research, curriculum, and scholarship currently being pursued among BCB-related disciplines, to begin

to coalesce a vision for BCB at Virginia Tech, and to determine the next steps for implementing this vision."

Bioinformatics and computational biology refer to the application of information technology, information theory, computational science, mathematical analysis, signal processing, and statistical methods to complex biological problems. Bioinformatics specifically refers to the search for and use of patterns and inherent structure in massive biological data sets, such as genome sequences, and the development of new methods for database access and queries. Computational biology is more frequently used to refer to physical and mathematical simulation of biological processes.

In April of 2000, the state of Virginia established the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) at Virginia Tech.

Workshop registration begins at 8 a.m. Presentations, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the front auditorium, will provide overviews and progress reports on selected activities. The poster session, which opens at 11 a.m. in rooms F and G, is expected to facilitate discussion and promote collaborations, Peters said.

The organizing committee for the workshop includes Leonard Ferrari, Ina Hoeschele, Dennis Kafura, Malcolm Potts, Bruno Sobral, John Tyson, Tracy Wilkins, and Brian Woerner.

For more information, contact John O'Neil at oneilj@vt.edu or 1-9355.

General Assembly legislation benefits state employees

(Editor's note: The following information, the first of several articles concerning legislation affecting state employees, has been provided by the Virginia Retirement System. For more information on the contents is available at <http://www.state.va.us/vrs/vrs.htm> or by calling Bill Leighty at (804) 344-3120 or Jeanne Chenault at (804) 697-6665.)

VRS Benefits Enhanced

The 2001 General Assembly marked a significant year for Virginia's 300,000 active

public employees and 98,000 retirees as senators and delegates developed and passed comprehensive bills designed to strengthen benefits and enhance retirement options.

Purchase of Prior Service

Thirteen individual bills were combined into bills enabling a comprehensive purchase-of-service policy to be written. The goal of these bills is to streamline the process employees use to purchase prior service, making it easier for employees to understand the cost of purchasing

service and to delete obsolete code sections. These bills mark a major shift in policy regarding the purchasing of service, by promoting purchases early in employees' careers, when it is less costly for them and the retirement system. These bills benefit numerous employee groups by making the cost of purchasing military time or time for other government service, less expensive to

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY on 4)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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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.unirel.vt.edu/spectrum/>

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New e-journals now available

The University Libraries have added 650 electronically accessible journals, including many titles new to their collections, through subscription to a service called ScienceDirect. Links to these titles, which include such critical titles as *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, *Computer Methods in Applied Mechanics and Engineering*, and *Composite Structures*, are made from the electronic journals page, which is linked from the research section of the libraries' home page, www.lib.vt.edu.

The collection will ultimately include 1,150 journals from Elsevier, the world's largest publisher in science, technology, and medicine, as well as several complementary on-line resources. Some social science and humanities titles are included. The 500 titles not currently available will be added soon. With articles from 1995 forward available for all titles, the collection will represent over a million journal articles.

In the coming months the libraries will send out further updates on special features of ScienceDirect, arrange for user training sessions, and begin to catalog the titles in Addison.

In the meanwhile, users should look for these titles from the libraries' web site.

Virginia Tech negotiated the ScienceDirect initiative on behalf of an ad-hoc cooperative of academic libraries in the state. All six doctoral institutions as well as James Madison University are participating.

With the addition of ScienceDirect, the libraries now offer access to more than 2,900 full-content titles. Selected text is available from an additional 19,000 electronic publications through consolidated collections such as Dow Jones and Lexis-Nexis.

Users should send any questions or comments to their college librarian or Paul Metz, at pmetz@vt.edu.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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purchase. These bills also allow for the purchase of Job Partnership Training Act (JPTA) service Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) service as well as a limited purchase of part-time and wage service, when working for a VRS employer.

Life-Insurance Changes

Several legislative changes were enacted to provide better life-insurance options for employees. House Bill 1960 offers VRS retirees the ability to continue optional life-insurance coverage into retirement, if they had been enrolled for at least five years before retiring. The bill also extends coverage to spouses and dependent children of retirees. Retirees have requested this for several years as a way to care for their families after retirement. Another provision of the bill simplifies the existing reduction in the regular group life-insurance coverage that occurs after retirement. Life insurance will start to reduce one full year after retirement and the decrease will be taken once a year, rather than beginning immediately upon retirement and decreasing on a monthly basis.

Delegates introduced bills that provide three new life-insurance benefits to over 309,000 covered public employees. The significance of these new benefits has been largely unreported. They are new benefits for very specialized

Top-30 commitment prompts promotion-and-tenure scrutiny

By Jeanne M. Garon

Interim Provost James R. Bohland has convened an ad-hoc promotion-and-tenure committee to help enact President Charles Steger's goal of reaching top-30 status among America's research universities by 2010.

"As the university moves to increase research productivity," Bohland said, "we must revisit not only the expectations, criteria, and standards we have for the research productivity of our faculty, but also our promotion-and-tenure processes and protocols, ensuring they too are appropriate to our achieving research-30 status."

The committee, comprised of faculty and administrative-faculty members Karen Roberto (chair), David Ford, Susan Gooden, George Norton, Tom Ollendick, Len Peters, Rich Sorensen, Bill Stephenson, and Garth Wilkes, will develop recommendations concerning the following issues: how Virginia Tech's promotion-and-tenure standards concerning research productivity should reflect the university's revised research mission; what processes must be in place to ensure that the university's expectations and standards are communicated to the faculty fairly and effectively; and how Tech's promotion-and-

tenure processes should be revamped to ensure that the university's research expectations are upheld at all levels of the review process.

Bohland charged the committee to provide "specific and far-reaching" recommendations, together with the rationales for the proposed changes, to the new university provost by Aug. 15, 2001.

The university's central administration, colleges, and faculty will review the committee's recommendations and put forward for formal university review and adoption all recommendations that are deemed critical to the university's research goal.

Former Defense Secretary William Cohen to speak

By Sookhan Ho

Former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen will give a talk at Virginia Tech on Thursday, March 22, as the featured speaker in this spring's Cutchins Lecture Series, presented by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business. Cohen will discuss international challenges facing the United States in the 21st century. His talk, in Burruss auditorium at 7:30 p.m., is open to the public at no charge.

Cohen earned an international reputation for independence, judgement, and integrity during a 31-year career in public service. As secretary of defense, he was hailed as a model of bipartisanship—the first elected official in modern American history from one political party to serve in the cabinet of a president of another party.

Cohen's leadership helped to spread freedom across Europe through enlargement of the NATO alliance, ensure stability in Asia through deeper security alliances, and transform U.S. forces through increased defense spending. He guided the U.S. military through the 1999 NATO air campaign over Kosovo and during operations to prevent Iraq from destabilizing the strategic Persian Gulf region.

Committed to bringing accountability and the best business practices of the private sector to government, he streamlined, reformed, and modernized acquisitions and other critical operations in the Department of Defense.

During 24 years representing Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, Cohen earned widespread acclaim for his bold leadership across party lines. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he played a leading role in crafting the historic Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act. As a member and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, he co-authored legislation strengthening U.S. intelligence and counterintelligence to defend the nation from foreign political and industrial espionage.

Cohen has authored or co-authored nine books, including three novels and two books of poetry.

The Center for Leader Development aims to educate students about leadership and prepare them to be leaders of integrity. The Cutchins Lecture series is named for Clifford A. Cutchins III, a retired chairman of the former Sovran Financial Corporation who served as rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

OBITUARY

William E. Louhoff, 58

William E. Louhoff, 58, an accountant in the Accounts Receivable area of the Bursar's Office, died February 23.

Louhoff had been with the university for 30 years. He received a degree in business administration from Virginia Tech in 1967.

BUDGET

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On Monday, Gilmore announced that he had closed the state budget shortfall by reallocating most of the state universities construction monies along with unneeded

revenues from the state's retirement system and the State Compensation Board, which funds sheriffs and constitutional offices.

As a result of Gilmore's announcement, Virginia Tech's fiscal year 2001 operating budgets will remain intact and the fiscal year 2002 operating budget, as stated in the current Appropriation Act, will be fully funded. The temporary hiring freeze has also been lifted.

Lost in the budget battle were raises next year for classified staff and faculty members.

Gilmore did release some funds for capital projects, but only those that affect maintenance and health or safety needs. At Virginia Tech, the governor released \$7.9 million for the maintenance reserve and \$2.5 million for life-and-safety-code modifications.

Other major capital projects affected by the budget shortfall include a new facility for chemistry and physics, new dairy-science teaching facility, and renovation projects for Williams, Agnew, and Burruss halls. In addition, Tech was also asking for authorization to expend additional non-state funds for the South end-zone expansion of Lane Stadium, a project that is now under way.

Last year, the General Assembly authorized Tech to spend \$26 million for the end-zone project, but cost estimates are now at \$37 million. Because the General Assembly did not act on the budget, Tech failed to get its authorization modified to spend the additional \$11 million needed. The project was to be completed by fall of 2002.

circumstances that employees will appreciate if they find themselves in this situation. First, if a covered employee dies more than 75 miles away from home, this coverage will provide transportation and associated costs for the remains back to the employee's hometown for burial. This benefit is the lesser of the actual cost, or \$5,000.

Second, if an employee dies in an accident while properly wearing a safety restraint, an additional benefit of up to a \$50,000 will be paid. This benefit is designed to encourage public employees to promote safety-belt use. The final initiative contained in this bill provides financial security to public employees as the

result of workplace violence. Two additional benefits will be paid if employees die or suffer a covered dismemberment as a result of a felonious assault in the workplace: the Lump Sum Benefit and the College Tuition Benefit. The Lump Sum Benefit provides an additional benefit equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 25 percent of the accidental-death-or-dismemberment benefit amount otherwise payable under the life-insurance policy. The Prepaid College Tuition Program Benefit provides any dependent children a contract from the Virginia Higher Education Tuition Trust Fund, covering attendance at any community college, college or university.

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