

# SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 29 FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2001

TODAY'S EDITION

See page 2 for information on campus activities.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

April 18, 2001

**'Our goal is to move this campus forward on matters of diversity.'** President Charles Steger

Several weeks ago a regrettable, unfortunate, and avoidable incident occurred between two university faculty members and their classes. Inflamed rhetoric and emotion have obscured some of the facts and influenced opinions since. I believe it is important for our university community to know the facts, but more importantly, confront the emotions driving the resultant behaviors.

On Tuesday, March 27, Professor Larry Killough went to the classroom assigned to him by the Registrar's Office for conducting an exam. He encountered another class in session in that room. He entered and informed the instructor, Paulo

Polanah, that the classroom had been assigned to him. Mr. Polanah was aware that this was not his assigned room. He had relocated because he had concerns about the adequacy of the audiovisual equipment in the room originally assigned to him. The tone of the exchange between the two faculty members has been described in conflicting ways. It is evident that each faculty member sees it differently. Mr. Polanah refused to leave. Dr. Killough adjourned to his office and called the University Police. The police

then arrived at the classroom and asked Mr. Polanah to leave or step out in the hallway for discussion. Mr. Polanah refused. After a short discussion in the classroom, the police arrested him for disorderly conduct.

We all have clearer vision with hindsight. I expect professors to not knowingly disregard room assignments. To do otherwise would result in chaos throughout the campus course schedule.

Some say that it is common practice to

borrow a vacant classroom. It is, but it is also common practice to give up the room when the assigned group arrives. Nor can I condone uncivil behavior between faculty members over a room disagreement. Regardless of how one views or interprets the facts, it is regrettable and embarrassing that the police were put in a position of having to arrest a teacher for not leaving a classroom. The university has requested that the commonwealth attorney not prosecute the charges.

To both classes that were disrupted, I apologize on behalf of the university community. The faculty members have expressed regret to the classes. This incident is now over and I believe that it serves no purpose

(See LETTER on 4)

## Ambassador to keynote Founders Day

By Jennifer Mabe,  
University Relations intern

Founder's Day is the university's celebration of its history as well as a coming together of students, faculty and alumni.

This year's celebration will begin at 3 p.m. in Burruss auditorium on Friday, April 27. The keynote speaker will be the Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States, Alfred Defago.

Immediately following the convocation, the Corps of Cadets will hold a Review Ceremony on the Drillfield, followed by a reception, which will serve as a birthday party for the university.

Defago, a speaker who has extensive experience in cultural affairs and international relations, will discuss "Globalization: A Challenge and an Opportunity: An Ambassador's Reflections."

The Founders Day ceremony is also a time to recognize outstanding achievements of the faculty, students and staff. The university will present three of its top awards during the ceremony, the Ruffner Medal, and two Distinguished Alumni Awards. This year, Clifton C. Garvin Jr., former chief executive officer of Exxon, will receive one of the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Cecil R. Maxson Jr. will receive the Ruffner Medal and the other Distinguished Alumni Award.

Defago was appointed the Swiss ambassador to the United States in 1997, having served as the Swiss consul general in New York since 1994. He was director of the Federal Office of Culture, overseeing all cultural activities of the Swiss Confederation.

Defago holds a Ph.D. in history and  
(See UNIVERSITY on 4)



**PROGRAM NOTE** The Weather Channel film crew was here recently to tape the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and Virginia's Smart Road. The project will be featured on the Weather Channel's Atmospheres program at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25. (R. Griffiths)

## Panford receives national recognition

By Sally Harris

Moses Panford, professor of Spanish, has been selected from a national applicant pool to attend one of 24 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Panford teaches in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The NEH is a federal agency that each summer supports seminars and institutes at colleges and universities so teachers can work in collaboration and study with experts in humanities disciplines.

Panford will participate in a seminar titled "Teaching the African Diaspora: An Afro-Romance Approach." The five-week program will be held at the University of Missouri at Columbia and will be directed by Marvin A. Lewis.

"I hope it will help my research focus,"

Panford said. "I have done a couple of projects on 'The Image of Blacks in Spanish Literature.' This will help me fine tune my theories and findings and help me plan future projects and my syllabi for teaching."

The 15 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend of \$3,250 to cover their travel, study, and living expenses.

Topics for the 24 seminars and institutes offered this summer include "American Pragmatism," "Black Film Studies," "Environmental Ethics," and "The French Revolution." The approximately 400 teachers who participate in these studies will teach more than 30,000 American students the following year.

Panford, in his first year at Virginia Tech, is teaching a course on "Jews, Converts, and Blacks in Spanish Medieval and Golden

(See PANFORD on 4)

## Pamplins pledge \$5 million to MBA program

By Terry McGuire

Beginning in 2003, the two most-generous donors in Virginia Tech history will be offering a valuable incentive to encourage support of the college that bears their name. Robert B. Pamplin Sr., a 1933 Tech graduate, and his son, Robert Pamplin Jr., a member of the class of 1964, have pledged to match up to \$5 million in gifts designated for the MBA program in the university's Pamplin College of Business. The matching period will last until 2013.

Contributions from the father and son, who are chairman and president, respectively, of the R.B. Pamplin Corporation of Portland, Ore., will be used to establish an endowment fund, the earnings of which will finance MBA scholarships and fellowships. The earnings will also qualify for matching funds from the state's Graduate and Undergraduate Assistance Program.

"Pamplin College and Virginia Tech are fortunate to have as alumni two individuals whose dedication to higher education is underscored by their philanthropic beliefs," said Richard E. Sorensen, dean of the Pamplin College of Business. "This latest example of their extraordinary support will help us raise the funds needed to further enhance the quality and national reputation of our MBA program."

The pledge continues the family's long-time generosity to Virginia Tech. Their gifts, which total more than \$30 million, have supported a number of areas throughout the university including the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the athletic program, and the Pamplin Scholars Program for Virginians, which funds a one-year \$1,000 scholarship to Tech for a qualifying senior in each of the state's more than 300 public high schools. In the Pamplin College of Business, contributions from the Pamplins currently fund 110 undergraduate scholarships, 20 graduate fellowships, 10 professorships, and a number of other activities.

(See PAMPLINS on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 20

TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.

### Saturday, 21

**YMCA Hike**, 10 a.m., Lancaster House parking lot.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.

**Ensemble Concert**, 8 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

### Sunday, 22

TA-UT, 2 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.

TA-UT, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Little by Little*.  
**Ensemble Concert**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Early Music Ensemble.

### Monday, 23

**Administrative Professionals Week Begins.**  
**Theatre Forum**, 3:30 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: Molly Smith, Arena Stage.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Little by Little*.

### Tuesday, 24

**Faculty Senate**, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.

TA-UT, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Little by Little*.

### Wednesday, 25

**Administrative Professionals Day.**  
**Service-Learning Expo**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: Call 1-6964 for information.

**Family/Work/Life Resources Program**, noon-1 p.m., location TBA.

**"With Good Reason,"** 7 p.m., WVTF: "Listening to Film."  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Little by Little*.

### Thursday, 26

**YMCA Slide Show**, noon, Cranwell Center: Su Clauson-Wicker.

**Family/Work/Life Resources Program**, 7 p.m., Blacksburg Library Community Room: Call 1-3213 for information.

TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., 204 PAB: *Little by Little*.

### Friday, 27

**Founders Day.**  
**Founders Day Convocation**, 3 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Alfred Defago, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States.  
TA-UT, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Arms and the Man*.  
**Faculty Recital**, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Doris Lederer.

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 20

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Matt McIntosh, University of Arkansas.

**MCBB**, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Susan Liebman, University of Illinois.

**STS**, 3:30-5 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room: Andrew Pickering.

### Monday, 23

**Horticulture**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Eric Beers.

### Thursday, 26

**Natural Resources**, 3 p.m., Fralin auditorium: John Hosner.

**Plant Physiology**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Zhinming Dong, St. Mary's University.

**CSES**, 4 p.m., 246 Smyth: Jennifer Guay.

**Geological Sciences**, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Peter Malin, Duke University.

### Friday, 27

**Highlands in Chemistry**, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Frank Settle, Washington and Lee.

**MCBB**, 12:20-1:10 p.m., 102 Fralin: Gary Wnek, VCU.

**Communication Studies**, 3-5 p.m., LSHTA: David Moore.

## BULLETINS

### Herring to speak on diversity, Internet

Linguist Susan Herring will present "Linguistics Diversity and the Internet" on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Conference Center auditorium.

Herring will explore the effects of the Internet on the status of major and minor languages, as well as cultures, around the world. She is an internationally recognized expert on the dynamics of gender, language, culture, and computer-mediated communication, and has published widely in the field. She is an associate professor of information science and adjunct associate professor of Linguistics at Indiana University in Bloomington, IL.

The program is being sponsored by the School of Public and International Affairs, the Institute for the Social Assessment of Information Technology, and the Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association. For more information, contact Maria Papadakis at 1-3805 or e-mail [papadakis@vt.edu](mailto:papadakis@vt.edu).

### Service-Learning Expo set

The sixth annual Service-Learning Expo is set for Wednesday, April 25 in Squires Old Dominion Ballroom. The expo features outstanding service-learning projects from the past academic year. Posters are on display from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A reception will begin at 3 p.m. and an awards ceremony at 4 p.m. For information,

visit <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/sl/expo2001.html>, or call the Service-Learning Center at 1-6964.

### Artistic director to speak at TA forum

As part of its forum series, the Theatre Arts (TA) department will host a free lecture by Molly Smith, artistic director of Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. The lecture will be held in Squires Studio Theatre on April 23, at 3:30 p.m. Smith will talk about her experiences as a theatre founder and artistic director as well as the role of theatre in the 21st century. There will be a reception following the forum in Squires Dogwood Room.

## Tech sponsors telecommunications seminar in Henrico

By Jeanne M. Garon

Virginia Tech will sponsor the seminar, "The Last Mile to Virtual Communities: Are You Ready?," on June 1, at the Cultural Center at Glen Allen in Henrico County.

The seminar, the third in a series outlining issues and potential solutions in providing or using high-bandwidth capabilities in localities, will address challenges and potential options for linking high-bandwidth communications to homes and businesses affordably. The seminar will also cover the stimulation of demand for and full use of e-commerce, e-government, and e-learning applications.

"The rapid growth of the Internet, increased dependence on information or data in all sectors of society, and the tendency world-wide to deregulate telecommunications for global commerce have fueled our nation's and state's appetite for access to greater bandwidth and the commerce, government, and learning applications it enables," said Anne Moore, director of information technology initiatives. "This seminar is one in a series designed to bring Virginia Tech's expertise in information technology (IT) to the professionals most in need of it, while also facilitating new dialogue on IT issues throughout Virginia."

The seminar aims to connect representatives from major telecommunications providers with local and state government officials, business owners and managers, and

city and county administrators. Participants will learn how to assess their community's readiness for e-business, e-government, and other network-based initiatives. Discussion issues will include linking infrastructure to homes, businesses, and schools; making advanced communications available at affordable rates; and developing and using electronic applications for business, government, and education that leverage the power of advanced networks.

Tedd E. Povar, technical-assistance director for the Virginia Institute of Government, will

serve as moderator of the event, which includes "Best Practices Report," a luncheon presentation given by Karen R. Jackson, director of general e-business strategy at Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology. Other speakers include John Bonfield, executive vice president of creative and brand services; Gene Windter, senior vice president of Greater Richmond Partnerships; Michael Freeman, project manager for e-government initiatives at Innovation Groups of Ashland, Oregon; and Robert Fields of the Franklin,

Virginia Community Assessment Case.

The program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Institute of Government, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Innovation Groups. The fee is \$80, which includes materials and lunch. Registration is required by May 18. For more information, visit <http://jin.dis.vt.edu/ITForum>. To register, visit the secure site <https://www.conted.vt.edu/ssl/mile-reg.htm> or call 1-5182. For directions to the site call 804/261-6200 or visit <http://www.artsglenallen.com/directions.html>.

## BioThon to assist Tech student's medical needs

By Lynn Davis

A BioThon is slated to begin on Friday, April 27, at Explore Park in Roanoke and continue for 48 hours until Sunday, April 29. Volunteers will be raising funds to cover medical expenses of a fisheries and wildlife sciences student at Virginia Tech at the same time they are surveying the park for plant and animal species.

The event will bring together Virginia Tech faculty members and students, outside professionals, naturalists, and other volunteers, who will be soliciting pledges from anyone in the community for each species of a plant,

mollusk, insect, crayfish, reptile, amphibian, mammal, fish, and bird that they document during the count.

The inventory is a cooperative effort by the Tim Copeland Medical Fund, Explore Park, Virginia Tech's department of fisheries and wildlife sciences, and volunteers. Tim Copeland, a graduate student in the fisheries and wildlife department who has leukemia, has undergone a bone marrow transplant and this event will help defray some of those costs.

Scott Klopfer, GIS/remote sensing coordinator for Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources who heads up the event, said, "We

hope to document at least 500 species for Explore Park, but if we have plenty of counters, we could count as many as 1000. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by doing this naturalist inventory for Explore. We are asking folks for a pledge of five cents of more for each species we find."

The inventory will serve as an important measuring base for Explore to know what is currently in the park for future comparisons relating to the health of the land.

For more information, to volunteer, or make a pledge, visit the web site at: <http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/www/biothon/biothonmain.html>; or contact Klopfer at 1-7348, [sklopfer@vt.edu](mailto:sklopfer@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

**Two full-time food-service positions available.**

**Administrative/Research Assistant**, 007674B, Pay Band 3, ECE/MPRG.

**Administrative Assistant**, 000150S, Pay Band 3, VP for University Development/University Relations.

**Administrative Assistant**, 007745R, Pay Band 3, Graduate School.

**Assistant Business Manager**, 007740B, Pay Band 4, Engineering.

**Assistant For The Alumni Center Campaign**, 002179S, Pay Band 3, University Development.

**Bakers Assistant**, 000704H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Deet's Place.

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

**Communications Officer**, 001567L, Pay Band 3, Police.

**Computer Network Support Technician Senior**, 006510B, Pay Band 4, Philosophy.

**Course Development Specialist**, 007708M, Pay Band 4, Entomology.

**Editor/Communications Coordinator**, 007681S, Pay Band 5, OIRD.

**Electrical Engineer**, 007742Y, Pay Band 5, Physical Plant.

**Housekeeping Assistant Supervisor**, 000945H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

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

**Human Resource Specialist**, 002499R, Pay Band 4, Personnel Services.

**HVAC Technician Senior**, 000516H, Pay Band 4, RDP.

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

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

**Laboratory Specialist**, 004004M, Pay Band 3, CVM.

**Laboratory Specialist Advanced**, 007735M, Pay Band 4, BSE.

**Laboratory Specialist Senior**, 004275B, Pay Band 4, Chemistry.

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

**Library Courier Assistant**, 000489F, Pay Band 2, Library/Circulation Reserve.

**Office Services Specialist**, 004497F, Pay Band 2, Purchasing.

**Office Specialist**, 002236H, Pay Band 2, RDP/Facilities and Services.

**Payroll Manager**, 002501F, Pay Band 5, Controller's Office.

**Pre-portion Supervisor**, 000752H, Pay Band 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

**Program Support Technician**, 007749M, Pay Band 3, CVM.

**Program Support Technician Senior**, 000012C, Pay Band 3, Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc..

**Programmer/Analyst**, 006245M, Pay Band 5, AHNR Information Technology.

**Snaps Security Guard**, 007723C, Pay Band 1, Police.

**Sous Chef**, 000940H, Pay Band 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.

**Special Events Planner**, 006782S, Pay Band 3, VP for University Development/University Relations.

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

### PART TIME

**Application Processor**, W022876R, Pay Band 4, Undergraduate Admissions.

**Assistant Editor**, W020344S, Pay Band 3, University Relations/Outreach Communications.

**Cad Technician**, W023237A, Pay Band 3, CNS.

**Clinical Research Coordinator**, W023222J, Pay Band 4, HNF.

**Food Service**, W023201H, Pay Band 1, RDP.

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

**Industrial Hygiene Technician (Program Support Technician)**, W022050Y, Pay Band 3, EHSS.

**Inventory Assistant**, W023230F, Pay Band 2, University Controller.

**Laboratory Aide**, W020811M, Pay Band 1, CVM.

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W020627B, Pay Band 2, Chemistry.

**Office Service Specialist**, W022120Y, Pay Band 2, Physical Plant/Grounds/Recycling/Solid Waste.

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

**Program Support Technician**, W022617M, Pay Band 3, Horticulture.

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

**Switchboard Operator**, W020821M, Pay Band 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

### OFF CAMPUS

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

**Program Support Technician**, 005409M, Pay Band 3, VCE—Goochland County.

**Public Relations Assistant**, 007382J, Pay Band 3, Alexandria Research Institute.

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

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

**Secretary Senior**, 005779M, Pay Band 2, VCE—Franklin County.

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

## FACULTY POSITION

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**University Development Assistant/Associate Director of Development, College of Engineering.** Contact: Susan Sink, 333 Norris (0259). Review begins immediately.



**TRES SOMBREROS** This year's International Week Street Fair was held on a beautiful sunny Saturday, providing another reason to wear hats from home. (J. Ashby)

## Police department receives national re-accreditation

Virginia Tech Police Department's acting Chief John Brotherton has announced that the department was successful in meeting the requirements of a highly regarded and broadly recognized body of law-enforcement standards and was nationally accredited for a second time by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc (CALEA).

The department's national accreditation represents the satisfactory completion of a continuous process of thorough, agency-wide self-evaluation, concluded by an exacting outside review by a team of independent assessors. It also represents the agency's on-going accep-

tance of the obligation to continue the quest and commitment for professional excellence in law-enforcement policy and practice.

Brotherton said, "The accreditation program has required tremendous effort on the part of the police-department personnel, but also proves to be beneficial in maintaining the overall integrity of the officers, the department and their dedication to the university. Accreditation increases the community's awareness that Virginia Tech Police is a full-service professional agency that is committed to the safety and security of the university."

(See POLICE on 4)

## Stanford scientist to speak in May

By Sally Harris

Richard N. Zare of Stanford University, one of the most prominent, well-respected, and influential scientists of our time, will speak on "Pushing Spectroscopic Measurements to Extreme Limits" Friday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in 102 Fralin Biotechnology Center.

Zare is the Marguerite Blake Wilbur professor in natural science at Stanford University. He is renowned for his research in the area of laser chemistry, resulting in a greater understanding of chemical reactions at the molecular level. By experimental and theoretical studies, he has made seminal contributions to our knowledge of chemical processes and contributed significantly to solving a variety of problems in chemical analysis. His development of laser-induced fluorescence as a method for studying reactions has been widely adopted in other laboratories.

Zare has received more than 50 major national and international awards for his scientific achievements. Most recently, he received the 2001 Charles Lanthrop Parsons Award by the American Chemical Society for remarkable public service. Last year, the ACS awarded him the Nobel Laureate Signature Award for Graduate Education. In 1998, he finished serving a six-year term on the National Science Board, the last two of those years as its chairman. For his work as chairman, the board approved a special citation in his honor and presented him with the Distinguished Service Award.

In 1998, he ended a three-year appointment as a council member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, received the ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry, and was awarded Harvard University's Centennial Medal. In 1997, Zare was named California Scientist of the Year and was awarded NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Award.

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Etiquette program helps students

Virginia Tech's Personal Touch Catering has designed a dinner program, "Interviewing Over Dinner-Rare, Medium, or Well Done?," dedicated to teaching the finer points of dining etiquette, as well as providing tips for interviewing over dinner.

"Making a good impression during a dinner interview can make or break an employer's decision to hire you," said Anthony Purcell, manager of Personal Touch Catering. "Our program takes students step-by-step through the elements of proper dining etiquette.

Each dinner includes a 30-minute presentation and a five-course meal. The program covers pre-dinner preparations, introductions, receptions, seating, ordering, place settings, tricky foods, do's and don'ts, and dining disasters. Participants are provided instruction before each course on how to tackle different dining situations.

Don Rieley, director of undergraduate programs for the Marketing Department in the Pamplin College of Business, has incorporated this fine-dining program into his Marketing 3154 class. "Having a college education is not enough if you have not mastered the social graces as well. So much of the corporate world revolves around food; it is therefore imperative that young people be comfortable in a formal dining setting. This added 'polish' separates our students from the masses that graduate from American campuses every year," Rieley said.

Students have also seen the benefit of the program. "As a college student I found the etiquette program to be extremely beneficial," said Amy Schmid, a recent Virginia Tech graduate.

Due to the popularity of the program, etiquette dinners have been pre-scheduled on various dates during each semester to accommodate groups of less than 50 people. For larger groups, private etiquette dinners can be arranged. To make the program more accessible to students, a variety of payment options are offered including dining plans, Dining Dollars, Hokie Passport Account, Mastercard/Visa and cash.

For more information about the program, call Lori Greiner, RDP customer advocate, at 1-8068.

## UNIVERSITY

*Continued from 1*

German literature from the University of Bern. He also studied at the University of Vienna, the German Institute in Rome, and the Vatican Library.

Defago's visit builds upon the close ties that have already developed between Virginia Tech and Switzerland. "My country is particularly proud of having Virginia Tech represented in Southern Switzerland through its Center for European Studies," Defago said.

"It is an honor to celebrate Virginia Tech's 129th Founders Day with Ambassador Defago. Virginia Tech is committed to building upon its already strong international focus in our curriculum and research enterprise. I believe Ambassador Defago's visit will further nurture those ties," President Charles Steger said.

Founders Day ceremonies first took place in 1972 during the Virginia Tech centennial to commemorate the establishment of the institution on March 19, 1872.

## Outstanding Leader Award nominations sought

The Academy for Leadership Excellence announces a call for nominations for the Academy for Leadership Excellence Outstanding Leader Award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize those university employees who have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities through superior job performance, job-related extracurricular activities, (such as participation in university governance) university, college, and departmental committee work, and other areas of service to the university. Supplemental activities outside the university, which enhance the nominee's overall profile of service to the university and community, may be considered, but will be considered secondary to university activities.

Any university employee, on or off cam-

pus, may nominate individuals for the award. Nominations will consist of a one-page typed, signed letter outlining the leadership qualities of the nominee. Endorsements of the nomination by supervisors or others are not required. An employee may nominate as many individuals as he/she wishes; however, each nomination must be made separately, and the nominator must sign each.

Eligibility for nomination will be limited to employees in classified staff positions or in administrative/professional faculty positions. Tenured and tenure-track faculty members are not eligible, since other awards are available to these groups. Self-nominations are ineligible. This award should not be viewed as competing with the President's Award for Excellence.

The Leadership Award Committee of the Academy will consider letters of nomination for Leadership Excellence and will select three finalists. Committee members will verify the nominations and then make a final selection.

The person selected for the award will be honored at the academy's year-end banquet on July 12, where a framed certificate of award will be presented. The award will be announced in *Spectrum*.

Letters of nomination should be sent in a sealed envelope to University Leadership Development, 459 Tech Center Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0538.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 11.

## POLICE

*Continued from 1*

The accreditation program manager for the Virginia Tech Police Department is Sergeant Debbi Morgan. Accreditation is for three years, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which they were initially accredited.

The Virginia Tech Police Department is one of only 20 university police department's that have received national accreditation through CALEA.

## PAMPLINS

*Continued from 1*

In addition to their financial support, both Pamplins have also donated their time and business acumen to Virginia Tech. They were co-chairs of the university's first comprehensive fund-raising campaign in the mid-1980s and have given campus lectures and workshops on their business philosophy and business operations.

Along with today's announcement of his and his father's latest pledge, Robert Pamplin Jr. was awarded an honorary bachelor of science in

business administration from Virginia Tech at a special convocation on the Blacksburg campus.

"Practicing his belief that wealth is a gift to be shared, Bob and his companies have given more than \$100 million to various causes and have been instrumental in raising an additional \$500 million," Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said in conferring the degree. "Those benefiting include higher-education institutions, arts organization, and non-profit agencies. Beneficiaries share one common quality: they uplift and enhance the lives of those they serve."

## LETTER

*Continued from 1*

to revisit it.

Unfortunately, some have imputed racial overtones. And the incident has elevated some deep-seated feelings on the part of the campus community. I will not disparage or disrespect the feelings and opinions of those who see racism in this issue. However, I do not. Based on what we now know about the individuals involved, it does not appear that this dispute was about race. But that does not mean that we can avoid the undercurrents and on-going acts that harm members of the minority communities on our campus.

Separate and apart from this incident, we know that racism continues to exist in various forms. We know that members of our university community regularly confront the ugly face of racism. For those reasons and more, it is important that we continue our campus dialogue on building a more welcoming campus environment.

Our progress toward an open and welcoming campus has been slow. Over the past several years, however, we have endeavored to

put in place programs to enhance our understanding of diversity. Under the leadership of the vice president for multicultural affairs we have developed a comprehensive, multi-year University Diversity Plan 2000-2005. Our discussions and actions have been substantial and consequential.

Earlier this year, we announced a \$750,000 scholarship program to increase enrollment of under-represented groups. We have already begun to see results in African American enrollment with a 20 percent increase in the incoming Class of 2000 over the previous year. This spring we have seen an increase in acceptances for African Americans applying to the university. With a specialized video and intensive follow-up, we hope to persuade many of them to join our campus community. For several years, orientation programs for both students and faculty members have addressed issues of race and diversity. Student and faculty advisory councils on diversity have been active. Sessions and training on diversity occur regularly throughout the university. We will do more, but these are encouraging signs.

Increasing opportunities for under-represented groups is only one step. I hope that healing from this classroom incident can begin for all of us by taking a few moments to understand the feelings of members of our university community who see their world through a lens filtered by the brutish reality of racism. I can understand why students might react the way they did three weeks ago. I can understand how a student would have a heavy heart if a professor has low expectations because of his or her skin color. I can understand that racism is still alive when members of the community—in the 21st century—must confront graffiti containing racial epithets.

During the past two years, I have had useful dialogue with various groups representing diversity issues on this campus. Those meetings have been constructive and civil. I will continue to welcome any dialogue with the faculty, students, staff, and others on the issue of diversity as long as they are conducted in a similar manner. Our goal is to move this campus forward on matters of diversity. With the cooperation and support of all, I will continue to strive for a campus that is open, representative, and civil.

*Charles W. Steger, president*

## PANFORD

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Age Literature." This coming fall he will teach "Blacks in Early Modern Spanish Theater."

In the NEH seminar, he said, "getting to meet other scholars in the area will help me."

After receiving an honors degree in Spanish and philosophy from the University of Ghana, Panford went on to do his post-graduate studies at *Universidad Complutense de Madrid* and Temple University. He then taught at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas for seven years before joining the Virginia Tech faculty.

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