

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 1 FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2001

TODAY'S EDITION

See page 2 for
information on
the Celebration of
Diversity

University strategic plan approved by Board of Visitors

As Virginia Tech enters the 21st century, we are mindful of the key role the university plays in the development of productive citizens and future professionals, of the contributions of our faculty and students to the generation of new knowledge, and of our impact on multiple levels of community and society.

The Virginia Tech Strategic Plan 2001-2006

After more than one year of effort including sessions with the university Board of Visitors, six meetings of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and input from countless staff and faculty members, the university strategic plan is now a reality. At its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, the

Board of Visitors formally adopted the Virginia Tech Strategic Plan for 2001-2006.

"I am very pleased with our overall direction as well as specific goals and tasks enumerated in the plan. It describes the framework necessary for achieving top-30 ranking by the end of the decade," said James Turner, university rector.

In the plan's introduction, President Charles Steger wrote, "In order to be successful in raising its national and international reputation, Virginia Tech must have a cluster of programs that are considered to be among the best in the world."

Steger added, "Our extended community of faculty members, friends, students, alumni, and government leaders has enthusiastically endorsed the notion that Virginia Tech can be one of the nation's leading academic institutions.

Becoming a top-30 university means raising the bar of excellence for all our programs. It means adding depth to the breadth of academic expertise. It means building on our strengths and maintaining world-class excellence while at the same time helping new departments and programs achieve international respect."

Former interim provost Jim Bohland summarized the plan and the university future in this way, "Continue to look for bold initiatives in IT, a range of emerging critical technologies, various aspects of bioengineering, biomedical, and health applications, a new way of doing business in Northern Virginia, and strengthening of social sciences, fine arts, and humanities."

Bohland will continue his personal involvement in many new projects. Earlier this month new Provost Mark McNamee appointed
(See UNIVERSITY on 4)

University Mission Statement

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is a public land-grant university serving the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world community. The discovery and dissemination of new knowledge are central to its mission. Through its focus on teaching and learning, research, and outreach, the university creates, conveys, and applies knowledge to expand personal growth and opportunity, advance social and community development, foster economic competitiveness, and improve the quality of life.

Adopted by the Board of Visitors, June 4, 2001

Tech assessing institutional effectiveness

By Clara B. Cox

Following on the heels of a State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) mandate in November 2000, Virginia Tech has developed a plan to measure its competency in teaching students how to write and is developing another plan to measure its students' technology literacy.

The SCHEV mandate, which grew from Governor James Gilmore's Blue Ribbon Commission recommendation, requires state colleges and universities to develop and execute plans for assessing institutional effectiveness in six areas between 2001 and 2004: writing, technology literacy, oral communication, scientific reasoning, critical thinking, and quantitative or mathematical skills.

SCHEV selected the first two areas for measurement during the current academic year. The schedule for evaluating the remaining four areas has not been set.

The state council provided some of the guidelines and criteria for the process, but in general the colleges and universities must define the measures themselves. "This has proven to be much more difficult than expected," said Dixon Hanna, associate provost for academic planning, resources, and space, who is directing Tech's efforts for the Office of the Provost.

SCHEV has already approved Tech's approach to evaluate student writing, which may be the easiest area to assess, according to Provost Mark McNamee. The university's plan focuses on a common writing assignment for students taking English courses. From 3,600 papers to be written by students this fall, 400 will be scored by two additional reviewers.

(See TECH on 4)

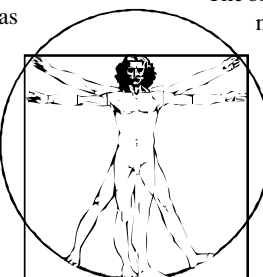
WELCOME BACK
Students were treated
with food and mascot
greetings at Sunday's
annual picnic marking
the beginning of the
academic year.
(J. Greenough)



Peters Foundation to establish Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

A Roanoke-based private foundation with strong ties to Virginia Tech, has announced plans to open a college of osteopathic medicine in Blacksburg.

The Board of Directors of the Harvey W. Peters Foundation disclosed its intentions Monday to establish the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. The medical college intends to begin operation later this year and ultimately plans to enroll its first class of students in the fall of 2003.



The osteopathic college will be the second major medical entity spawned by the Harvey Peters Foundation. The Harvey W. Peters Research Center for the Study of Parkinson's Disease and Other Central Nervous System Disorders was established at Virginia Tech through an endowment of the late Marion Bradley Via, a Roanoke philanthropist. The Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering was named in honor of the family.

(See PETERS on 4)

New faculty consulting program aids businesses

By Jeanne M. Garon

A university-sponsored faculty consulting program approved recently by the Board of Visitors is accelerating the rate at which Virginia Tech provides businesses with technical assistance, according to C. Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach. The Technical Assistance Program enables businesses to tap faculty expertise quickly when process-related or technical challenges necessitate a near-immediate response.

Jones said the program, active as a pilot project since 1998, has 20 to 30 projects completed or under way. Lead time between businesses contacting Tech and faculty members starting work on the projects has been as little as two to three working days.

"Our ability to respond quickly and thoroughly to businesses with technical challenges is no secret to the hundreds of companies Tech has served since its inception," Jones said. "The Technical Assistance Program provides a new framework for this outreach to the business community, enabling entrepreneurs and business owners to access more quickly and efficiently the resources Tech can apply to help solve their everyday problems." The program is one of Virginia Tech's economic-development contributions to the state, he said.

The Technical Assistance Program addresses projects that are short in duration, do not involve the generation of new knowledge or intellectual property, and generally do not exceed \$25,000 in direct costs. Examples of projects from the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE), the first to deploy the program on a trial basis, include an organizational-transformation planning and

(See NEW FACULTY on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 31

Paydate for Faculty and Staff.
Last Day to Add.
International Club, details TBA.

YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.,
YMCA Office.

Saturday, 1

Virginia Museum of Natural History, 10 a.m. to
noon, Brown Farm: Kids Day Out.
Football, noon, Lane Stadium: Connecticut.

Monday, 3

Labor Day Staff Holiday.

Tuesday, 4

Bloodmobile, noon to 6 p.m., Squires Old Dominion
Room.

Wednesday, 5

Farm and Family Showcase, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Kentland
Farm. **Bloodmobile**, noon to 6 p.m., Squires Old Dominion
Room.
“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTF.

Thursday, 6

Farm and Family Showcase, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Kentland
Farm.
YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
YMCA Office.
Bloodmobile, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Squires Old Dominion
Room.

Friday, 7

YMCA Open University Registration, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
YMCA Office.
International Club, details TBA.

SEMINARS

Friday, 31

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson:
Mike Whangbo, N.C. State.

Thursday, 6

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Claudia
Mora, Tennessee.

Friday, 7

Highlands in Chemistry, 11 a.m., 3 Davidson: James
Landers, UVA..

BULLETINS

ASPIRES competition announced

The deadline is September 14 to submit proposals for “A
Support Program for Innovative Research Strategies.”
ASPIRES is an investment program dedicated to
enhancing research and scholarship activities at Virginia
Tech. Awards are made to Virginia Tech faculty members on
a competitive basis in response to proposals that describe
strategies for improving sponsored research activities, the
distinction of our scholarship, and the quality of graduate
education in all academic disciplines.
For details and application forms, see the ASPIRES web
page at www.research.vt.edu/aspires/.

Research funding info available

Researchers interested in funding may visit the Research
Division’s Opportunity Update site at www.rgs.vt.edu/funding/ou/update.html, which is available exclusively to faculty and
staff members and students.
The update contains notices on upcoming workshops,
meetings, and special events; current funding programs from
government agencies and private foundations in a wide
variety of disciplines; and postdoctoral and graduate
fellowships

Members of the university community can also arrange to
receive electronic reminders with highlights from the site.
For weekly notification of Opportunity Update (OU), send
an e-mail to Liz Ackerman at lizacker@vt.edu. OU can also be
attached to the e-mail notification, upon request.

Upcoming events sponsored by VMNH

The Virginia Museum of Natural History will offer Kids
Day Out on Saturday, Sept. 1 featuring nature at the Brown Farm
with Mike Rosenzweig from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 961-5453 to
register. The program is free. On Wednesday, Sept. 5, the New
River Valley Bird Club. New museum Director Mike Rosenzweig
will speak on Museum Programs and volunteer opportunities.

Language classes offered

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is
offering courses in Chinese, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese,
and Spanish through the Division of Continuing Education for
persons not enrolled as regular students. The courses are available
on a non-credit basis for a special fee. Classes begin August 27.
To register, call 1-5182. For more information, contact the
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at 1-5361 or e-
mail terry.papillon@vt.edu.

Philosophy Department announces conference

The Department of Philosophy will hold a conference
titled “Objects and Artifacts: A Topic in the Philosophy of
Technology” September 7-9 at the Hotel Roanoke Conference
Center.
All sessions will be held at the Hotel Roanoke Conference
Center. A registration fee of \$40 covers breakfast Saturday and
Sunday, breaks, and lunch Saturday in the Hotel Roanoke
Dining Room.
For more information, contact Cheryl Adkins, Department
of Philosophy (0126).

Non-credit on-line course offerings listed

Non-credit on-line course offerings are now listed with
credit on-line course offerings on the new VTOnline at <http://www.vto.vt.edu>. The non-credit on-line courses are available at
varying fees to faculty and staff members and students to
improve job skills or for personal development. Current course
offering areas include business, finance, gardening/landscaping,
computer basics, technical web development, advanced
computer networking and databases, marketing, and architecture.
For more information on the distance-learning program,
see <http://www.iddl.vt.edu>.

Showcase makes nutrition learning fun

The Virginia Tech Farm and Family
Showcase will be held Wednesday and
Thursday, Sept. 5 and 6 at Kentland Farm
At the showcase, held from 9 a.m. to 8
p.m. Wednesday, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, children and adults can learn about
nutrition. Children can meet the “vegetable”
and the Chef Combo puppets that will tell them
about healthy eating. They can learn how much
they need to eat each day of the food groups in
the Food Guide Pyramid.
The nutrition exhibit will help parents
learn to see child-size portions. A 3-ounce
serving of meat is the size of a deck of cards.
What is a medium-size apple or how can a
parent visualize a half-cup of ice cream?
The package says the doughnut has 13
grams of fat. How much is a gram of fat? One
of the nutrition displays will have various tubes
of “fat” making it easy to visualize how much
is really in that doughnut. How much fat is in a
serving of French fries?
Nutrition is just one of many things on
display at the showcase that highlight
agricultural, natural, and human-resources
education and research at the university.
How can you improve your chances of avoiding
food-borne illness? The “Does The Food You
Eat Bite Back?” exhibit at the showcase will
have tips for handling food safely at home.
There will be information and Virginia
Cooperative Extension publications on how

washing your hands, using thermometers, and
carrying, storing, preparing, and serving foods
the right way all affect food safety.
The showcase will have something for
almost everyone. Special events include an
Amazing Maize Maze, sheepdog herding
demonstrations, a Wood Magic show, Water
Wizard information, biotechnology, and antique
farm equipment. There will be sessions on
fishing, equestrian vaulters, saw-milling,
butterfly gardens, woodland management, the
Toms Creek Conservation Project, fall vegetable
gardening, cheese-making, a livestock-birthing
center and displays of buffalo, dairy calves,
goats, and baby pigs.
There also will be technical information
for those in the industries of agriculture and
natural resources, as well as information and
fun activities for landowners, homeowners, and
families. The showcase will feature information
on field crops, cattle, fruits, swine, horses,
poultry, forestry and wood, as well as lawn and
garden care, landscaping, wildlife, forages, and
many other topics of interest.
There will be walking tours viewing stream-
bank conservation and wildlife-habitat projects.
Sessions will feature household pest control
and the importance of soil in selecting a home
site.
For a full listing of activities and a schedule,
visit the web site at www.farmandfamily.vt.edu.

**Cultural presentations
highlight
diversity celebration**

By Clara B. Cox
Students who contribute to the diversity of
Virginia Tech will share their cultural traditions,
personal stories, and informative facts during
the university’s fourth annual Celebration of
Diversity on Wednesday, Sept. 12. The 7-8:30
p.m. event, which will be held in Squires
Commonwealth Ballroom, is open to the public.
“The purpose of the Celebration of
Diversity is to showcase the diverse opportunity
for learning and cultural exchanges that our
students bring to this community. It is also an
opportunity to learn about the concerns of diverse
communities,” said Barbara Pendergrass, dean
of students. Last year, the celebration attracted
over 1,000 people.
The program consists of three components:
“In My Own Voice,” where students share their
experiences at Virginia Tech as a member of a
particular community; “Did You Know,” which
consists of students sharing facts about diversity
that are important to them; and “Cultural
Exhibition,” which involves student groups
sharing some activity that exists on campus
because they are here.
(See CULTURAL on 3)

**Music department
re-structures
choral ensembles**

By Sally Harris
Virginia Tech’s Department of Music has
re-structured its two choral ensembles and added
a third group.
The Symphonic Choir, a large, all-univer-
sity choir, is a re-structured version of the former
University Concert Choir that used to meet in the
afternoons. While the earlier version of the choir
consisted of all students, the Symphonic Choir is
open to faculty and staff members and students
who want to sing together. It will meet Tuesdays,
from 7 to 9:30 p.m., in Squires Recital Salon.
The Symphonic Choir will perform
symphonic works and other works for large
choirs. It will begin its inaugural year by
performing Benjamin Britten’s *The War Requiem*,
which calls for two orchestras, a boy choir, and
guest soloists. For this performance spring
semester, Badanes will bring in an internationally
acclaimed guest conductor. The group also will
perform in the annual holiday scholarship benefit
concert November 30.
The Symphonic Choir requires no formal
audition, but does require some singing experi-
ence. There is no limit on the number of mem-
(See MUSIC on 3)

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with "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

Four full-time food-service positions available.

Banquet Manager, 001118Y, PB 3, DBHCC.

Bioprocess Laboratory Specialist, 003373M, PB 4, BSE.

Continuations Receiving/Periodicals Receiving Supervisor, 007822G, PB 3, Technical Services, Library.

Data Integrity Manager, 007818S, PB 3, University Development.

Dishroom Assistant Supervisor, 000705H, PB 1, RDP/Dietrick Dining Center.

Financial Planning Manager, 007567F, PB 5, BFP.

Housekeeping—Night Crew, 002742H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities/Services.

Housekeeping Manager, 006926H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities/Services.

Housekeeping Worker, 0000721H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities/Services.

Housekeeping Worker, W022490H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities/Services.

Housekeeping Worker, W023295H, PB 1, RDP/Owens Dining Center.

Information Technology Support Manager, 000056J, PB 4, CHRE Office of Innovations.

Instructional Technology Systems Integrator, 007766S, PB 6, Educational Technologies.

Laboratory Specialist, 007820R, PB 3, VBI.

Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, PB 3, CE.

Laboratory Specialist, 007245M, PB 3,

Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist Senior, 007645M, PB 4, PPWS.

Laboratory Technician, 007799G, PB 2, Biochemistry.

Library Assistant, 002229G, PB 3, Library.

Office Services Assistant, 007819R, PB 2, VBI.

Office Specialist, 007462H, PB 2, RDP/Residence Education.

Payroll Manager, 002501F, PB 5, Controller's Office.

Program Support Technician, 007666J, PB 3, Human Development.

Programmer, 007825J, PB 4, ELPS.

Research Specialist, 007790R, PB 3, VTTI.

Shopleader, 000404H, PB 1, RDP/West End Market.

Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician, 007655R, PB 3, VTTI.

Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.

Student Activities Office Manager, 001020J, PB 3, UUSA.

Trades Utilities Senior Worker, 007112F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

Training/Documentation Coordinator, 007518S, PB 3, University Development.

Unit Head, Circulation/Reserve/Storage, 007817G, PB 4, Library.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W022565M, PB 2, CVM.

Animal Care Technician, W020066M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician, W022563M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Animal Care Technician/Small Animal, W022675M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Event Services Receptionist, W023299J,

PB 2, UUSA.

Two part-time food-service positions available

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Library Courier Driver, W023301G, PB 2, Library.

Library Storage Assistant, W023300G, PB 2, Library.

Operations Specialist, W022862S, PB 2, AIS—IRM.

Parking Enforcement Officer, W020891F, PB 1, Parking Services.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Educational Researcher, U007824M, PB 3, AAE.

Program Support Technician Senior, U007544F, PB 3, Facilities—MS.

OFF CAMPUS

4-h Sncp Program Assitant, 005890M, PB 2, VCE—Hampton City.

Efnep Adult Program Assistant, 006101M, PB 2, VCE—Arlington County.

Efnep Program Assistant, 007811M, PB 2, VCE—Fairfax County.

Fiscal Technician, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering.

Office Manager, 007796Y, PB 4, IALR.

Program Administrator, 006436Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.

Program Assistant, 006808J, PB 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 007816J, PB 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006616J, PB 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006587J, PB 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006593J, PB 2, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006606J, PB 3, HNFE.

Program Assistant, 006605J, PB 2, HHFE.

Program Support Technician, 002209R, PB 3, Graduate School.

Radio Announcer, W020800L, PB 3, Uni-

versity Relations/WVTF.

Sncp Adult Program Assistant, 006800M, PB 2, Albemarle County.

Sncp Program Assistant, 006614M, PB 2, Hanover County.

Sncp Youth Program Assistant, 006609M, PB 2, VCE—City of Alexandria.

Sncp/Youth Program Assistant, 007330M, PB 2, VCE—Culpeper County.

Sncp/Youth Program Coordinator, 007233M, PB 2, VCE.

Wildlife Worker, 006644B, PB 2, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Center for Gerontology/Dept. Human Development. Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist in Gerontology. Contact: Karen Roberto, 237 Wallace (0426). Review begins Nov. 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Fralin Biotechnology Center. Coordinator, Biotechnology Outreach. Contact: Don Ball, Fralin Biotechnology Center (0346). Deadline Nov. 1.

Institutional Planning/Research Analysis. Statistical Research Analyst (revised ad). Contact: Deborah Olsen, 129 Smyth (0433). Review begins Sept. 1.

Controller's Office. Associate Controller for Financial Reporting/Cost Accounting. Contact: Kenneth Miller, 201 Southgate Center (0312). Review begins Sept. 24.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources (re-advertisement). #111463, Southampton Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Sept. 14.

Football parking, traffic changes noted

The following parking and traffic changes will take place Friday, Aug 31 and on Saturday, Sept 1 for the first home football game.

On Friday before the game, the following lots and roads will be restricted to no new parking after 5 p.m. and all vehicles must be removed from these lots and roads by 10 p.m. Friday or be subject to towing: Litton Reaves/Wallace Lots (located off Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive); Coliseum Lot (located off Washington

Street and Spring Road); the gravel lot located behind the Jamerson Center, Stadium Lot, track/soccer lot, tennis-court lot (on Washington Street beside the Coliseum); Engel lot; EHSS lot (located off Tech Center Drive); Maintenance lot (located off Southgate Drive); Spring Road; and Washington Street (southern side {tennis court} only from Spring Road to Kent Street).

New lots added to the list of restricted for football parking are the Engel/Cheatham lot, Price lot, Davidson lot (only the section parallel to West Campus Drive); Solitude lot, and the Derring lot (large section that parallels Perry Street and not the section between Derring and Pamplin/Hahn).

Before the game starts at noon, traffic on Washington Street, Tech Center Drive, Southgate Drive, and Spring Road will become one way toward the football stadium. Traffic on Duck Pond Drive will become one way toward B-Lot

(only to Washington St). After the game the streets directions will reverse until the traffic flow returns to normal.

The public will be charged \$5 for parking during football games. This only applies to those who do not display a valid VT parking permit. The lots used by the public will be the B-lot (large commuter lots off Prices Fork Rd). Blacksburg Transit will not run shuttles from the public parking area of B-Lot (located off Perry Street) nor the Virginia Tech Airport Buses will run all normal routes for Saturdays and will add additional buses as needed.

Handicap parking will be available in the faculty/staff sections of B-lot. Signs will be posted for guidance to that area. Handicap shuttles will transport persons from B-Lot to the stadium before, during, and after the game. Call 1-3200 for more information

MUSIC

Continued from 2

The second change in the choral ensembles is the re-naming and slight re-structuring of the Meistersingers, which will be known as the Chamber Singers. The group will have 22 to 24 singers, a slight reduction in size from its Meistersingers days. For students only, the group is open to music majors and non-majors through auditions. The Chamber Singers will meet four times a week, Monday through Thursday from 3:35-4:25 in the Recital Salon.

The third, and new, choral group is designed to fill "a significant gap" in music education at Virginia Tech, Badanes said. Known as the Camerata Singers, from the singing societies of the time of Bach, the group will be a select ensemble open to students by audition. The Camerata Singers will meet Monday and Wednesday from 5 to 5:50 p.m. Membership will be capped at 35 singers.

Auditions for the Camerata Singers and the Chamber Singers have been held, but those still interested in auditioning should call Badanes at 1-5334 or send e-mail to him at kbvoco@vt.edu. The first rehearsal of the Symphonic Choir, which requires no formal audition, will be Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. in the Recital Salon.

CULTURAL

Continued from 2

For the second year, the Student Advisory Board on Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (SACDMA) will present a diversity award to a student organization that has contributed to the university's goal of fostering an inclusive and welcoming community. SACDMA was established to advise the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

The Hush Harbor Choir, a community choir commissioned by Nikki Giovanni and directed by Carolyn Dixon, will open the event. Persons interested in participating in the choir can sign up by calling the Dean of Students Office at 1-3787 and should be at practice on September 12 at 4 p.m. in the Commonwealth Ballroom on the evening of the program.

MAPs (Multicultural Awareness Programs) is the sponsoring group for the event. "They have worked diligently to organize a program that will be entertaining but yet informative. Each year, MAPs attempts to broaden the diversity of participants. They want all who attend to leave with a greater sense of awareness and interest in diversity," Pendergrass said.

"The pivotal goal of this program is to convey the message that diversity does include everyone and that we all have something to learn from each other. Equally important, all of us share in the responsibility for making Virginia Tech a comfortable learning community for all," Pendergrass said.

For more information, call 1-3787 or TDD 1-8718.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Editor
John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor

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Business Manager
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Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

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

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IN OTHER NEWS

Suit to be filed against promoter

By Dave Smith

Virginia Tech has announced that it will file suit against the Gazelle Group, Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey, to recover expenses it was entitled to for hosting the 2000 Black Coaches Association (BCA) Football Classic between Georgia Tech and Virginia Tech. The Gazelle Group is the owner and promoter of the 2000 BCA football contest.

The ESPN-televised pre-season football contest was to have been played on Aug. 27, 2000, at Lane Stadium, but was cancelled by officials due to a severe thunderstorm that arose before the kick-off. The game was never played.

Virginia Tech will ask the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, where the suit will be filed, to require the Gazelle Group to remit a portion of the gross receipts that remained from the game. The suit will allege Virginia Tech is entitled to receive, in accordance with its host agreement with the Gazelle Group, reimbursement of expenses for hosting the NCAA-certified event. The contract amount sought is for 35 percent of gross receipts.

The complaint alleges that the Gazelle Group received \$593,807 from non-refunded ticket stubs, program sales, parking fees and merchandise sales, and that Virginia Tech has not received any reimbursement from the Gazelle Group for itemized expenses agreed upon and approved by the Gazelle Group following the cancelled game. Virginia Tech officials have been notified that Georgia Tech will also file a claim against the Gazelle Group.

The Black Coaches Association (BCA), the title sponsor and the primary beneficiary of the NCAA-certified contest, will not be a party to the lawsuit since there was no contractual arrangement between Virginia Tech and the BCA. Virginia Tech officials have notified the BCA of the pending suit against the Gazelle Group.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

him to become senior fellow for biomedical, bioengineering, and health projects.

Turner, Steger, and Bohland all agree that special strategic partnerships will be crucial to expanding opportunities and developing necessary resources. "It is quite possible that we will jointly develop degree programs or an entire school with another Virginia university, a private university out of state, or a company or hospital," Steger said. Throughout the summer the university has been in discussion with several other universities to partner on major new endeavors.

As reported from earlier university board meetings, the strategic plan affirms the board's intent to maintain on-campus enrollment to approximately 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students. "Without additional state resources, growth is simply not a possibility. And the current enrollment feels about right for us," Turner said.

McNamee started work toward the end of the process, but has been in communication with Steger throughout the summer. "I'm impressed with that notion that we not only build on traditional strengths, but also will seek to bolster arts, humanities, and social sciences. A truly great university must have pervasive quality throughout the academic enterprise," McNamee said.

The plan contains about 175 specific goals and objectives for undergraduate education, graduate education, research and scholarship, and outreach. Some highlights include expanding graduate enrollment and moving toward a 1:4 ratio of graduate to undergraduate students, increasing doctoral students as a percentage of graduate students, increasing sponsored research by the National Institutes of

NEW FACULTY

Continued from 1

assessment activity for a local manufacturer conducted by Eileen Van Aken, ergonomic workstation evaluations for several labor-intensive industries conducted by Maury Nussbaum, and measurements of the hearing-protection capabilities of prematurely born infant earmuffs for a medical-products company conducted by Gary Robinson and John Casali. John Phillips, Tech's economic-development officer, said the program addresses an identified market need: "One origin of the program was direct requests Tech received from local companies. We are an established leader in helping companies perform basic research, intellectual-property development, and product development, but many companies have not been made aware of Tech's interest in helping them address even small-scale problems requiring rapid turn-around."

Ted Settle, director of Continuing Education, which administers the program, cited a market-research project as another origin of the program. "We know there's a need out there for this program," he said. "Continuing Education is regularly engaged with the marketplace. Staff members visited multiple company sites in Virginia. Instead of asking them 'What are your training and educational needs?' we asked the broader question 'What are your business problems?' The Technical Assistance Program is, in part, the outcome of this field-based research."

Phillips said the program benefits faculty members as well as participating businesses. Before the program, he said, faculty members who were approached by businesses for small-scale projects often handled the request through their own consulting businesses. "Independent faculty consulting is still an option," he said, "but as university-sponsored activities,

Health by 20 percent per year and increase overall sponsored research by 10-12 percent per year by 2006, and enriching the undergraduate learning experience by forming an honors college, expanding international study opportunities, and expanding specialized "learning communities."

In addition to very specific component goals and objectives for undergraduate education, graduate education, research and scholarship, and outreach, the plan also contains updated value statements, a new mission statement, and a vision statement. The university board earlier adopted a new university mission statement.

The strategic planning process was coordinated by Rosemary Blieszner, professor of human development, who served as director of strategic planning from December 2000 to September 2001. The entire plan will be distributed to the university community in late September. To see components of the plan go to <http://www.unirel.vt.edu/stratplan/>.

Technical Assistance Program initiatives enable faculty members to have greater access to university resources in completing the project, to reduce the time they spend setting up and managing a project, to receive direct pay for their consulting work without having their time bought out, to pay students directly under the program, and to receive recognition for the work in the portion of their annual review that is associated with community outreach."

Phillips also said that initiatives pursued under the program enable faculty members to reduce or eliminate their personal liability for inadvertent errors or omissions.

Settle said the program benefits Virginia

PETERS

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The proposed college is a private venture that will be supported by private funds and tuition income. The medical college expects to begin construction on a state-of-the art teaching facility by early 2002.

The foundation has engaged Virginia Tech officials in discussions with college officials about use of teaching faculty members and university space to assist the new college. "If an agreement is approved, the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine would operate under a collaboration agreement with Virginia Tech," said James Bohland, senior fellow for biomedical, bioengineering and health projects. "The Peters Center would then serve as the coordinating unit for joint research endeavors."

Should a collaborative agreement be reached, the medical college would contract for the use of certain university facilities for teaching and research. It intends to hire selected faculty members from Virginia Tech under a contract-reimbursement basis to teach some courses. The medical college also will have its own full-time faculty. It will not operate a practice plan or hospital, but will work with hospitals in Virginia for student training and post-graduate residency experiences.

Dixie Rawlins has been hired as founding dean of the college. Rawlins had been the acting dean at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri. "In addition to educating the next generation of osteopathic physicians, we plan for the college to produce a significant amount of medical research," Rawlins said. "With Virginia Tech's emerging strengths in biotechnology applications and bioinformatics, there should be powerful synergies."

In addition to assisting the start-up college with teaching and research, Virginia Tech also will pursue strategies to establish the telecommunications infrastructure for development of telemedicine in rural areas.

Bohland said that medical leaders around the country are becoming increasingly concerned about the shrinking opportunities for medical training in this country. Rural areas of Virginia suffer chronic shortages of physicians. State-

Tech and its faculty. His unit's handling of the projects, he said, "allows faculty members to focus their time and attention on clients' core technical problems, providing businesses with quicker answers and faculty members with reduced time spent on administrative tasks." The program also enriches the university's ability to help students prepare themselves to become members of a "very well-trained next generation of professionals and managers," he said.

Faculty members may learn more about the Technical Assistance Program by contacting Ed Nelson in Continuing Education at 1-9446 or enelson@vt.edu.

wide, there is one physician for every 1,695 citizens. According to a report released earlier this year by the Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium (GMEC) many western Virginia counties have population-to-doctor ratios greater than 5,000 to 1. In 1998 the Virginia General Assembly created the GMEC to place graduate medical students in the offices of country doctors.

Currently, there are 19 other osteopathic medical schools in the United States. Osteopathic physicians receive the same license to practice medicine and surgery as allopathic (M.D.) physicians. Osteopathic medicine is a distinctive form of medical care founded on the philosophy that all body systems are interrelated and dependent upon one another for good health. Osteopathic physicians use all of the tools available through modern medicine including prescription medications and surgery.

TECH

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"We will build a data base and track other writing performances of these students. One good thing about this competency measure is that we can see where students are weak and provide follow-up help as needed," McNamee said. The university must post the results of its measurement of writing competency in July 2002 on a SCHEV web site.

McNamee estimated that the evaluation process for the writing area alone will cost the university \$50,000.

In addition to cost, one problem with at least some of the measures, which have been compared to the Standards of Learning in public schools, is that they assess competencies students already have when they arrive on campus. "Most Virginia Tech students are already technology literate by the time they get here," Hanna said.

Another problem is finding a common student experience on which to base some of the measurements. That is what university officials face in measuring technology literacy since no courses in that area are common to all undergraduates. "We have not found a successful strategy for doing a campus-wide test, so we think we are going to move the definition and testing of technology competency into a college-specific, more discipline-focused exercise," Hanna said.

College deans agreed to that approach during a recent Deans' Council meeting. They must now develop a definition of literacy/fluency for their majors and implement a testing approach to provide an assessment. "Here we would expect the definition of literacy to be different in each college and more tuned to curricular requirements," Hanna said.

Officials expect to learn the schedule for measuring the remaining four areas some time in September.

