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TODAY'S EDITION

**See page 8 for faculty
and staff jobs
information.**

International-programs office reassures personnel abroad

By Jeanne M. Garon

All Virginia Tech students and faculty members studying, teaching, and traveling abroad have been notified of the terrorist attacks on the United States and have been asked to maintain contact with the university, said Christine Jarchow, interim director of the University Office of International Programs (UOIP).

"We want to assure the university community, including the parents of our students abroad, that we are monitoring the climate for Americans traveling internationally with a continuous eye toward protecting the members of our Virginia Tech family," she said.

Jarchow said UOIP is issuing informa-

tion updates to students abroad via an e-mail listserv and regular updates to the UOIP web site. "We haven't called any students home," she said, "but we have a procedure for emergency international evacuations, should any situation ever require it."

Jarchow said the U.S. State Department's issuance of precautions for Americans traveling abroad, which UOIP has forwarded to all on its rosters, "underscores the importance of students and faculty members notifying UOIP when conducting study or teaching programs abroad: "We can only forward federal advisories to students and faculty members we know are abroad," she said. "We want to take this opportunity to remind students interested in study

abroad, and their faculty advisors, to notify us so that we can protect, advise, and reassure them in instances like this."

UOIP is serving as a connecting point for parents and students who cannot otherwise reach each other and has cooperated with Tech's Cranwell International Center in offering support to concerned parents and domestic and international students.

Tech students overseas or their parents may contact UOIP at 1-5888, 1-6452, or 1-5834. The office will monitor incoming e-mail sent to its vtabroad@vt.edu address and update its web site, <http://www.international.vt.edu> throughout the crisis.

Researchers get \$3.4 million from VDOT

By Liz Crumbley

Virginia Tech engineering will use a \$3.4-million grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to monitor the cost savings and level-of-service effectiveness of a new state program that allows private contractors to initiate and implement interstate-highway construction and maintenance projects.

When the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) was enacted under Governor George Allen's administration in 1995, Virginia became the first state to allow private contractors to submit unsolicited proposals for interstate maintenance and construction, explained Jesús M. de la Garza, professor of civil and environmental engineering.

"The idea behind PPTA is threefold," de la Garza noted. "First of all, the public needs timely acquisition of and improvements to transportation facilities. Secondly, these needs may not be completely satisfied by existing methods of acquisition, improvement and construction. Finally, authorizing private entities to acquire, construct, improve, maintain and operate transportation facilities may result in the availability of these facilities in a more timely and less costly fashion."

VMS Inc., a maintenance-services contractor in Richmond, submitted the first proposal under PPTA regulations. Since 1997, VMS has managed maintenance projects for 250 miles of highway on portions of interstates 81, 95, 77 and 381. The private contractor has provided and/or procured all labor, materials, equipment and services for a fixed price of \$131.6 million.

In 2000, VDOT turned to Virginia Tech for an independent assessment of VMS maintenance, and de la Garza and Professor Michael C. Vorster conducted a study of the cost efficiency of the pilot VMS project. "We were able to report a positive level of savings between the cost of highway maintenance as provided by VMS and what it would have cost VDOT to bid out the same work to contractors," de la Garza said. The study reported estimated savings of \$16 million to \$23 million over a five-year period.

"The cost efficiency of PPTA so far has come from VMS's ability to procure labor, equipment and materials for lower costs," de la Garza said.

In December 2000, shortly after the Virginia Tech report was submitted to VDOT, Governor James Gilmore announced plans to expand work under PPTA. Gilmore proposed a goal of having up to 75 percent of all interstate maintenance in Virginia handled through private initiative.

In addition to maintenance, PPTA enables private contractors to initiate new construction on Virginia's interstates, Vorster said. The contracting firm FD/MK has raised funding through a bond issue for construc-

VBI receives \$289,429 grant

By Susan Trulove

The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) has received a \$289,429, 10-month contract from Phenomenome Discoveries, Inc. to collaborate with Phenomenome to develop innovative software that will allow scientists to visualize metabolomics data.

Metabolomics is the study of changes in the expression of a large number of small organic molecules (such as sugars and vitamins) in biological systems. It complements study of the genome by providing objective measurements of an organism's state. It can be used to compare, at a very fine level, the differences between different mutants to find out the function of the mutated genes.

The bioinformatics software developed under this collaboration will organize and display the expression level of large numbers of the small organic molecules in ways that assist scientists with its interpretation, said Pedro Mendes, principal investigator of the project at VBI. The software will also combine data from gene and protein expression in the same view. "This will further help the scientist pinpoint the exact function of genes and proteins by putting them in the context of the underlying biochemistry," he said.

Mendes leads a research group dedicated to modeling biochemical networks. The group is already studying algorithms to analyze gene networks and is developing simulation software for high-performance computers. He said of the collaboration with Phenomenome, "We have for some time been interested in combining metabolomics data with gene expression and proteomics. Metabolomics will aid in revealing how genotypes are associated with phenotypes and make large-scale computer simulations of cells. This collaboration with Phenomenome will help us test our analysis methods with the best technology for measuring the metabolome."

Dayan Goodenowe, president and CEO

(See VBI on 8)

FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY TODAY

The 5 p.m. Program Feature's President Charles Steger's State of the University Address.

Virginia Tech will honor its outstanding faculty and staff members today beginning at 5 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel auditorium.

In addition to recognizing teaching and research excellence, President Charles Steger will give his vision for the university and highlight efforts on important initiatives now under way.

University Provost Mark McNamee will serve as master of ceremonies for the hour-long program. "It will be an honor to recognize those who have helped to create excellence in teaching, research and their commitment to outreach," McNamee said.

See special awards section beginning on page 3.

Gillespie named EO/AA director

By Clara B. Cox

Mel Gillespie, senior vice president for research, training, and program development for B&C Associates in High Point, N. C., has taken office as director of the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office.

The director is responsible for interpreting EO/AA laws; monitoring the university's performance with respect to compliance issues and to the affirmative-action and diversity goals-setting processes covering women and minority students, and faculty and staff members; and ensuring non-discrimination in every aspect of employment for all employees and applicants. The position reports directly to the president and coordinates programmatic activities with the vice president for multicultural affairs.

"Dr. Gillespie has a wealth of experience on which to draw, and we look forward to his leadership in our equal opportunity and affirmative action efforts. His work will be particularly important as the university continues its efforts to become more diverse," President Charles Steger said.

At B&C, an international consulting firm that specializes in positioning corporations in a diverse business climate, Gillespie was responsible for the development and application of strategic equity, diversity, and change-management programs for several Fortune 500 companies and has designed diversity, equity, and sexual-harassment training modules. Among his projects, he has assessed and restructured Maya Angelou's organization and

has developed a model to re-define and re-direct the Women and Minority Business Enterprise program of Nissan Motors.

Gillespie has worked in higher education both in jobs related to diversity and multiculturalism and as an instructor. He has been assistant to the president and director of diversity initiatives and affirmative action at the University of Maryland-College Park, director of social equity at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, special assistant to the president for multi-culturalism and director of affirmative action for Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis, coordinator of the Multicultural Educational Resource Center at Weber State University, and director of social actions at the Air Force Academy.

He has additional experience as equal-employment opportunity and diversity-management manager in human resources for Montgomery County, Md.; director of equal education opportunities for the Broward County School District in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and instructor of minority studies for the Department of Defense Race Relations Institute.

He holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Florida Atlantic University, a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma, and a bachelor's degree in education from Miami University in Ohio. He also received a graduate certificate in change management from Johns Hopkins University.

(See GILLESPIE on 8)

(See RESEARCH on 8)

ACTIVITIES

Friday, 21

Diggs Roundtable, 2 to 4:30 p.m., Hillcrest large conference room.
Center for Digital Discourse and Culture Speaker, 3:30 to 5 p.m., 160 Shanks: Deena Larsen.
Einstein's Dreams Week event, 4 p.m., Cranwell Center.
Faculty/Staff Awards Ceremony, 5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.
International Club, details TBA.

Saturday 22

VT Open House.
Natural History Museum program, 11 a.m. to noon: 1-3001 for details.
Football, noon: At Rutgers.

Sunday, 23

Deaf Awareness Week Begins (Through 9-29).
VT Open House.
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

Monday 24

Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room G.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.

Tuesday, 25

Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room G.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.

Wednesday, 26

Yom Kippur Begins (Sundown).
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.
"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF.

Thursday, 27

Yom Kippur.
Leadership Development Program, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., DBHCC room C.
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
Theatre Arts Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: "Cole."

Friday, 28

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Leadership Development Program, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 116 Robeson.
International Club, details TBA.
Theatre Arts Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: "Cole."
Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.

SEMINARS

Friday, 21

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: David Uehling, Glaxo SmithKline.

Monday, 24

Philosophy, 3 p.m., 126 McBryde: Susan Haack, Miami.
Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Andrew Gow, Duke.
STS, 4 p.m., 150/152 Squires: Wendy Rogers, Georgia Tech.

Thursday, 27

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4096 Derring: Jonathon Lees, UNC—Charlotte.

Friday, 28

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Michael J. Kelley, William and Mary.
Philosophy, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Ben Bradley.

Graduate and Professional School Day set

The Graduate Student Assembly is sponsoring the Graduate and Professional School Day 2001 Tuesday, Sept. 25, in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Approximately 80 universities and Virginia Tech departments will be represented and will provide students with information about their programs. Graduate schools, law schools, medical/health-related schools, business schools, and engineering schools are expected to attend. Some of the universities and programs already registered include Wake Forest University, University of Georgia, MCV/VCU Medical School, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and the University of Virginia.

This is an opportunity to learn more about graduate and professional schools. This event is free to all students, and professional dress is not required.

Hispanic celebration continues

By Clara B. Cox

A keynote address by an internationally known cartoonist and a variety of other activities have been scheduled for the remainder of Virginia Tech's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Except where noted, the events are open to the public and are free.

Cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz will deliver the keynote address on Friday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

His talk is sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Month Steering Committee. For more information, contact Kimberly Philpott at 1-3787/TDD or 1-8718.

Other celebration events include:

Thursday, Sept. 27, noon to 1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center, 140 Squires: Melanie Uttech, assistant professor in the College of Human Resources and Education, "Only Us Women: Gender Construction in a Male Migrant Sending Community in Mexico." For more information, call 1-7806.

Saturday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Latino Greek Step and Stroll. For

more information, call 552-1828.

Thursday, Oct. 4, noon to 1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center: Manuel Pérez Quinónez, assistant professor of computer science, "Hispanics in the Academic Environment in the United States." For more information, call 552-1828.

Thursday, Oct. 11, noon to 1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center: Olga Padilla-Falto, a professor of foreign languages and literatures, "Bilingualism and Cultural Heritage." For more information, call 1-7806.

Friday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: Latino Cultural Show, featuring *Círculo Hispánico*, Latin Link, and the African Students Association. For more information, call 552-1828.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m., War Memorial Chapel: Bilingual Ecumenical Worship Service. For more information, call 552-2306.

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Dietrick and Shultz Halls: Copacabana Night 2001. For more information, call 1-3266.

University to dedicate Durham Hall, Dover lab

By Lynn Nystrom

On Sept. 29, Virginia Tech will dedicate Durham Hall and the Dover Corporation Manufacturing Systems Integration Laboratory (MSIL).

Durham Hall is named for Fred D. Durham, a 1922 graduate of the civil engineering department, and the first president, CEO, and chairman of the Dover Corporation.

Last year, Durham's daughter, Eleanor Durham Davenport and her husband, William M. Davenport, and their children pledged \$5 million to establish a scholarship endowment to support undergraduate and graduate engineering scholarships. This spring, the Dover Corporation pledged an additional \$250,000 to establish a scholarship endowment to support undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Engineering.

In November, 2000, the Board of Visitors approved naming Durham Hall, and in August of this year, it elected to re-name the MSIL, located in the Grado Department of Industrial

and Systems Engineering, to reflect the Dover Corporation's commitment to the engineering college.

"The contributions made by the Davenport family and the Dover Corporation to support scholarships empower our students with financial resources, and more importantly, with a sense of pride that their efforts and accomplishments have been recognized. These scholarships will have a huge impact on the quality of our engineering students for years to come," said F. William Stephenson, dean of the College of Engineering.

Re-naming the Virginia Tech lab after Dover, a diversified manufacturer with more than 40 subsidiaries, is "most appropriate," Stephenson said. MSIL provides a facility to support research in the study and analysis of manufacturing systems. Research is conducted both on operational problems, like manufacturing scheduling, as well as design problems, like facility layout and supply-chain system design.

MSIL is located in Durham Hall, which also houses facilities for four departments in the College of Engineering: the Charles E. Via Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Harry Lynde Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the John Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, and the Mechanical Engineering Department.

The 72,000-square-foot, four-story building supports more than 100 professional offices, research laboratories, a satellite communication network, and microprocessor laboratories. Durham Hall hosts the Mobile and Portable Radio Research Group, the Vibrations and Acoustics Laboratory, the Center for Intelligent Materials Systems and Structures, and the new Center for High Performance Manufacturing.

Durham, who died in 1998, received the College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987



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2000 Faculty-Staff Award Winners

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

Herb Pettway

By Stewart MacInnis

Herb Pettway, director of the Chesapeake Department of Agriculture, 4-H youth-development agent, and coordinator for Virginia Cooperative Extension will receive the 2001 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension.

Pettway is being honored for volunteer and resource development as well as for providing programs for youth and families particularly those considered "at risk." For example, he enrolled more than 120,000 youth, 30,000 adult and teen volunteers, trained and supervised 750 summer camp counselors, directed 27 summer 4-H residence camps, and raised in excess of \$360,000.

He has worked at the local, district, state, and national levels to provide innovative and dynamic 4-H youth programs. The nationally recognized Chesapeake Ready, Set, Grow—4-H Master Gardener Urban Gardening Program included more than 230 master-gardener volunteers who reached more than 15,000 students and 350 classroom teachers.

Under his leadership, the Chesapeake 4-H program has worked cooperatively with the Rotary Club of Chesapeake and Chesapeake Public School for the past 11 years sending 300 pre-school youth from "at-risk" communities to summer camp. Their parents were involved in parenting workshops. Rotary grants for this program total \$19,000. This program also has been recognized at the state and national levels.

For several years, Pettway headed the City's Child Abuse Prevention Campaign.

He takes great pride in having touched the lives of thousands of young people over the years and is often referred to as "Father 4-H." A former teen counselor said, "Mr. Pettway has had the single most influence in my life aside from the guidance of my parents. The number of youth who have been molded into civic-minded individuals because of Mr. Pettway is countless. He has already left his mark on society through his involvement with 4-H youth. I am proud to be a product of 'Father 4-H.'"

Pettway joined Extension in 1973 after serving as a classroom teacher with the City of Chesapeake Public Schools. He received his bachelor's degree from Campbell University, master's at Old Dominion University, and continued graduate work at Virginia Tech.

Susan Sumner

By Stewart MacInnis

A stream of new food-safety regulations has flowed from government agencies in recent years, prompting Susan Sumner, professor of food science and technology, to develop and deliver educational programs to help small- and medium-sized food processors meet the challenges posed by those new regulations.

Sumner's work and leadership in the field of food safety has earned her the 2001 Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension. The award will be presented today at the annual



PETTWAY

Faculty-Staff Awards Ceremony.

Head of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Sumner not only conducts her own Extension program, but she is also the department's Extension project leader. The educational materials she created are used in Extension programs throughout the United States and internationally.

With research and Extension programs that are inter-related, Sumner has been at the forefront of many of the significant issues in the food-processing industry. She has used her research to develop workshops and training manuals for small processors to help them fulfill the requirements of the federally mandated Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point food-safety program.

She is helping position her department to take a leadership role nationally in an effort to institute a food-safety and product-quality program developed in Australia, the Safe Quality Food program. She is now working to apply this program at the farm level to assist farmers with this method to ensure food safety on the farm.

Her programs drew praise from Mike Davis of the University of Tennessee. "Her programs are well focused and are recognized nationally for significance and quality," he said.

Sumner earned her bachelor's degree from North Carolina State University, and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Scott Geller

By Susan Trulove

Scott Geller, a psychology professor with an international reputation for using applied behavior analysis on large populations, not just in small groups, to change people's habits regarding polluting and personal safety, will receive the 2001 Alumni Award for Excellence in Research.

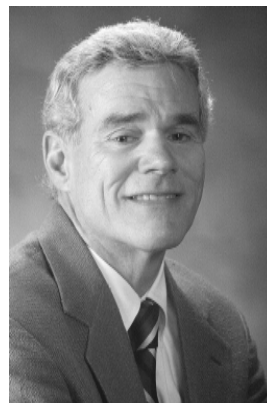
"Dr. Geller is an outstanding model of a scientist of any type. He has innovatively demonstrated the worth of psychological applications to such socially significant problems as motor-vehicle injuries and death and environmental waste," wrote Michael C. Roberts, professor and director of the clinical child psychology program at the University of Kansas.

Roberts said Geller's work has had a huge impact on the world outside of research. "A second main theme of Dr. Geller's applied scientific efforts has been to demonstrate the utility of psychology in improving the environment through waste management such as litter control, waste reduction, and resource recovery."

He concluded, "Dr. Geller possesses a fundamental belief that the scientific process can be used to illuminate, to understand, and to make changes in everyday problems. Scott Geller has a commitment to science and to finding means to improve the human condition."

Brian A. Iwata, research foundation professor at the University of Florida, agrees. "Through his research, teaching, and consultation, Scott has made a lasting contribution to the integration of scientific and professional psychology in the public interest. His work has not only produced direct and measurable benefits to society, it has resulted in the saving of lives."

Geller's research has targeted prison management, education, immunization of children in third-world countries, alcohol abuse and impaired driving, community theft, road rage, and transportation and occupational safety. He has published the results of his research in almost 300 journal articles and more than



GELLER

60 books or book chapters. His book, *The Psychology of Safety: How to Improve Behaviors and Attitudes on the Job*, is required reading for individuals studying to be certified safety professionals.

Geller's work has been supported by many agencies and businesses, amounting to more than 75 research grants valued at more than \$4 million.

He is a fellow of the American Psychology Association, the American Psychological Society, and the World Academy of Productive and Quality Sciences.

Daniel Inman

By Susan Trulove

Daniel Inman, the director of the Center for Intelligent Material Systems and Structures, will receive the 2001 Alumni Award for Excellence in Research.

Inman's research interests include vibration of machines and structures, vibration testing, modal testing, and parameter estimation, vibration suppression of structures, and smart structures. He holds a patent in smart structures of self-sensing actuation.

He is working to hold antennas quiet on military satellites. Closer to home, the floor of your automobile has vibration suppression material so you have a quieter ride. And Inman's group is working on quieting auto instrument-panel vibrations. "Responding to customer complaints about squeaks and rattles cost the auto industry a lot of money," Inman said. Tools of the trade are dampening materials and active-control systems, or 'smart' materials, which turn on and "use clever ways to dissipate energy and remove vibration."

"He is a dedicated scholar who has made major contributions to the theory of structural health monitoring, adaptive structures, structural damping, non-linear vibrations, and structural dynamics," said Gary Anderson, manager of the U.S. Army Research Office's Structures and Dynamics Program.

"His work has immediate application in the analysis of military land vehicles, weapon systems, fixed wing aircraft, and rotorcraft," Anderson said. "This work exhibits not only a significant degree of technical merit at the basic research level, but also a tremendous practical value....Professor Inman has made significant contributions in the challenging and important areas of modeling of structural damping and predicting the presence and location of damage in structures."

Inman has also been the major professor for 33 doctoral students and 50 master of science students.

Inman is an international speaker, and is presently the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) distinguished lecturer.

Other honors include being a fellow of ASME, the American Academy of mechanics, the International Institute of Acoustics and Vibration, and an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He recently won the ASME Adaptive Structures and Material Systems Prize and the AIAA/ASME Structures, Structural Dynamics and Materials Conference Best Paper Award.

"His work in the areas of vibration, smart structures, and applied controls is truly outstanding and internationally recognized," said mechanical engineering Department Head Walter O'Brien.



INMAN



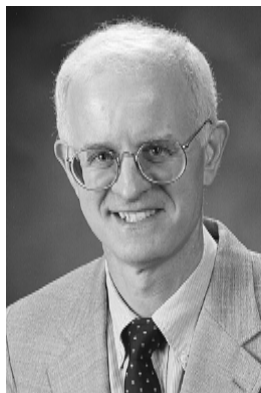
SUMNER

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

George W. Norton

By Sookhan Ho

George Norton began his career in international development as a just-out-of-college Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia in 1971. Thirty years and about as many countries and thesis and dissertation committee chairmanships later, he has colleagues, program administrators, students, and former students giving enthusiastic and touching testimonials about the impact he has had on international agricultural development, their lives, and their careers.



NORTON

Norton, professor of agricultural and applied economics, will receive the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Programs at today's awards ceremony.

Norton specializes in evaluating and predicting the effects of technological and institutional change, and finding environmentally friendly means for managing farm pests.

Those who know him cite his dedication to his work and his students, his extraordinary productivity, deep humility and respect for others, and consensus-building skills.

His colleagues point out that a process Norton developed to help agricultural research systems evaluate alternatives and set priorities has been adopted by many of those systems around the world. They cite his leadership and hard work that helped Virginia Tech win and renew a multi-million-dollar USAID grant. They note that his students have won high honors for their research, returned to serve their home countries, or work in international development organizations.

"He has, without doubt, been the greatest influence on my professional development," said former student Jeff Mullen, now an assistant professor at the University of Georgia.

Gladys Mutangadura, a native of Zimbabwe who is now a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, said Norton taught her the importance of using scientific methods that were relevant to local conditions, and empowering local people so that they can set their own priorities.

Krishna Bahadur Napit, who earned an M.S. and Ph.D. at Virginia Tech, said Norton prepared him very well to serve as an agricultural economist in his home country of Nepal. "He also served as a model for my life."

XCALIBER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

John Seiler, Jeffrey Kirwan, John Peterson



PETERSON

KIRWAN

SEILER

By Lynn Davis

Their new interactive multi-media CD tutorial for the identification of woody plants and trees and their FORSite Education Program on the web have earned John Seiler, Jeffrey

Kirwan, and John Peterson, all of the College of Natural Resources, the 2001 XCaliber Award for excellence in teaching with technology and innovative approaches.

The Center for Innovation in Learning has been giving this award each year since 1997 as part of Virginia Tech's efforts to recognize outstanding contributions of faculty and staff members who are integrating technology in teaching. The award commends the three men for their efforts to focus on student-oriented outcomes as active, more self-directed learning. Seiler is a professor of forestry, and the College of Natural Resources recently named him the Shelton H. Short Jr. professor of forestry. Kirwan is Extension specialist for 4-H youth, and Peterson is a research associate, lead programmer for the software, and webmaster.

Seiler, the past recipient of many teaching awards, and Peterson have already won numerous awards for their tree CD, which was released by Virginia Tech's licensee, Kendall/Hunt. *Woody Plants in North America* is a two-CD set split into angiosperms (hardwoods) and gymnosperms (softwoods), covering both native and ornamental woody plants found across North America. The software was developed over a six-year period in cooperation with tree-identification experts at Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Georgia. "We believe the CD is likely the single largest collection of color photographs for native woody plants found in North America," Seiler said.

Tested on college students in controlled studies and shown to significantly increase identification skills, the tree CD includes a morphology section that illustrates common terms used to describe twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit, bark, and form of woody plants. The main body of the tutorial contains over 9,500 pictures and full text descriptions of all plant parts for 470 species of woody plants.

Numerous photographs are annotated to highlight the most critical distinguishing features. Each feature of similar species can also be compared side by side with the most distinguishing features highlighted. Range maps, summary descriptions, and site information are also given for each species. A quiz section allows users to evaluate their progress in identification.

One-page, printable fact sheets for all species in the program contain a text description plus several color photographs showing key features. Fact sheets are also linked directly to the USDA "Silvics of North America."

FORSite provides large amounts of information and interactive exercises on trees and forests. Students can learn everything from the basics of forestry equipment to measuring trees and how forest ecosystems work. Elements of this web site are being used by 4-H members across the U.S. who participate in the web site National 4-H Forestry Judging Program. Kirwan was recognized for excellence by the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals at their biennial meeting in 2000.

Seiler has won the Society of American Foresters' Carl Alwin Schenck Award for excellence in forestry education. His nationally acclaimed "Woody Plants in North America CD" was featured prominently in the forestry industry's premier research publication, *Journal of Forestry*, December issue, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and a host of other publications.

The XCaliber Award cites Seiler, Kirwan, and Peterson for their efforts in producing electronic textbooks and educational sites for forestry instruction. "The comprehensive set of tutorials and web pages that has emerged from your database of electronic images of native woody plants in North America is impressive," the Selection Committee said. "These resources are all the more important since they are accessible to a range of learners, from undergraduate students to middle-school students and teachers."

The selection committee applauded their "goals and the results of your considerable labor. The design and development effort is laudable. Your readiness to revise materials and continuously update your web pages in light of student comment and evaluation is commendable."

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

A. Ozzie Abaye

By Stewart MacInnis

For A. Ozzie Abaye, teaching is a passion that energizes her and that energizes her students. Her passion transforms the act of teaching into learning by her students. Her passion and her skills in the classroom are among reasons Abaye is to be awarded the 2001 University Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence at the annual Faculty-Staff Awards Ceremony.

In the nearly nine years she has been on the faculty in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Abaye

has made her mark with students. In three-quarters of the end-of-course evaluations, students awarded her a 3.9 or better rating on teaching ability.

In addition to teaching, she is an adviser for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, as well as a member of a number of master's and doctoral committees. She has developed two new courses, and she has conducted a very successful research program as well.

Abaye also advises student clubs and teams. She coaches the university crops-judging team that competes at the regional and national level. She has served as adviser to the Agronomy Club, Sigma Alpha Women's Professional Society and several other organizations.

She has generated funding to take students to the field for on-site evaluations of the types of problems discussed in her courses. Field trips, group activities, and active learning experiences are among her favorite teaching methods. With them, she combines an understanding nature to create a learning environment that many students rate as the best they have at Virginia Tech.

Abaye, by virtue of receiving the University Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence, joins the university's Academy of Teaching Excellence.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Wilson College, her master's degree from Pennsylvania State University, and her doctorate from Virginia Tech.



ABAYE

Mike Vorster

By Lynn Nystrom

The tributes and accolades came from around the country. Numerous colleagues and former students of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Professor Mike Vorster took the time to write strong letters of endorsement of his nomination for the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Vorster, the David H. Burrows professor of construction engineering and management, is a 15-year veteran of Virginia Tech. He came to the University from the University of Cape Town where he was the department head of civil engineering.

Since his arrival at Virginia Tech, he has received consistently high student evaluations of his teaching, and his pupils have particularly noted his "concern and respect" for them, rating him a 3.83 out of a possible 4.0.

On the subject of his philosophy on teaching, Vorster said, "Good teaching lies at the intersection of your knowledge of the subject and your respect for those who learn. You achieve this by making learning enjoyable, by having logical, understandable, and relevant material, and by understanding the difference between teaching and learning."

Vorster is also considered to be one of the premier educators in the distance-learning endeavor for the department. Joshua Hurst, a master's student who was taught by Vorster via television, describes him as a standout among distance-learning professors, with his "enthusiasm toward and flexibility while working with the students at the remote sites."

Vorster has contributed significantly to the continuing education (CE) needs of the construction industry. He co-directs the Transportation Construction Management Institute, a 10-day CE program.

Govi Kannan with the Volvo Construction Group in Asheville, N.C. said, "In my 10 years of education in three different countries, I can state without hesitation that he is the only professor to have used case studies in construction as a medium of education. I value his professional and ethical standards, learn from his ability to listen to others, and admire his ability to constantly keep in touch with ever changing technology."

In submitting the overall nomination, William Knocke, CEE department head, wrote, "Dr. Vorster is one of the best educators in the department, recognized for his excellence by



VORSTER

twice receiving the College of Engineering's Certificate of Teaching Excellence, given annually to no more than four faculty members in the entire college. Year in and year out, Dr. Vorster is one of the highest-rated CEE faculty members based upon student evaluation scores."

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING *Sheryl Ball*

By Sherri Box

Advancements in technology and web-based registration processes have caused many departments at Virginia Tech to step-up their advising efforts. Sheryl Ball, director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Economics said it is "very professionally rewarding to have my colleagues (and students) tell me that I'm doing a good job when I'm working hard at something that is meaningful to me. I see trying to keep students from feeling lost at a large university like Virginia Tech as a huge but important challenge." For her efforts, Ball has been chosen to receive the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising.

When Ball took over the responsibility for undergraduate advising there were 159 majors in two colleges and there was little attempt to monitor student progress in an organized and consistent way and there was no central listserv for majors to obtain information. Ball has used technology to disseminate information to students as well as other undergraduate advisors; she has developed improved monitoring systems to track student progress, and she has instituted contacts with businesses for job placement.

Currently, there are an estimated 350 economics majors and this growth is attributed, in large part, to Ball's recruitment efforts and her management and guidance of this growth.

"I think advances in technology and web-based registration have made the time I spend talking with students face to face much more meaningful. Since students have more resources to find their own answers to basic questions about what courses they need to take and what courses are available, I find myself spending a larger percentage of my time mentoring," she said.

Catherine Eckel, professor in the Department of Economics, said "perhaps more important than any of her specific accomplishments is her warm but highly professional attitude toward the students. She really cares about them, but she expects a lot of them, too. Dr. Ball is tough on students who need that approach, and encourages other faculty members to refer students to her who have unusual difficulties. She has an ability to solve problems by being very clear with students about her expectations from them, giving them responsibility for making important choices, and in the process, helps teach students how to be more responsible and professional themselves".



BALL

ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING *Thomas Ollendick*

By Julie Kane

During his 20 years at Virginia Tech, Thomas Ollendick, who will receive the Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising today, has positively impacted the lives of many graduate students and the department of psychology. He is a university distinguished professor in psychology and director of the Child Study Center. Under his influence as director of the doctoral program in clinical psychology from 1984 to 1996, the program evolved into a nationally and



OLLENDICK

internationally respected area of excellence.

During his tenure, 90 master's degrees and 113 doctoral degrees were awarded in clinical psychology. In the early 1990s, the program was ranked ninth in the world as a center of clinical psychology excellence by Elsevier Publications. In 1996, the program was ranked tenth in the world in research publications in the areas of social learning theory and behavior analysis and therapy. Ollendick was ranked eleventh in the world in terms of research productivity by an individual researcher.

Jack Finney, professor and chair of the department of psychology, describes Ollendick as "the consummate graduate advisor and mentor...an activity he genuinely enjoys and values highly. His continued participation will surely make our advance to the top-30 research universities more probably and realizable," he said.

As a teacher, Ollendick has received an average rating of 3.8 (range of 3.4 to 4.0) in his graduate classes over his career at Virginia Tech. Many of his students currently hold academic positions at major universities and medical centers, including Harvard University, Brown University, Johns Hopkins University, the Medical College of Virginia and Boston University.

In terms of additional mentorship activities, approximately half of his over 300 conference presentations and 250 publications have been undertaken with former or current graduate and undergraduate students. In addition, three of his books have been co-authored with former students. His interactions and mentorships have not stopped when his students leave Virginia Tech.

PROVOST'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING *Leslie Graham*

By Liz Crumbley

"Profiles in Persistence," the title of Leslie Graham's Ph.D. dissertation, might also be the theme of her career. Graham, the recipient of the Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising, began working at Virginia Tech in 1980 as an information processing specialist in statistics after earning her undergraduate degree in sociology/psychology. Since then, while working full time, she has earned two graduate degrees, developed a number of mentoring programs and succeeded in increasingly challenging advising positions.

After completing her M.A. in counselor education and student personnel services at Virginia Tech in 1988, Graham became academic and career advisor for the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE). While advising between 200 and 300 undergraduates each year during her eight-year stint in ISE, she also worked on her doctorate and became a GED alternate chief examiner for Montgomery County Public schools.

In 1995, Graham received the Virginia Tech Award for Excellence in Career Advising and the next year received the College of Engineering Dean's Award for Exemplary Service for her work with undergraduates.

Graham's dissertation, completed along with her Ph.D. in 1997, was a study of undergraduate women in engineering. For the next two years, she served as coordinator of student support services for Minority Engineering Programs and director of recruiting for the College of Engineering.

Since 1998 Graham has developed four grant-supported programs for mentoring university and high-school students. She also has taught courses in engineering ethics, women's studies, college success strategies, and the national FIRST Robotics program, for which she is the Virginia Tech project leader. In 1999, she was inducted into the Virginia Tech Academy for Leadership Excellence.

As director of undergraduate affairs for the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) since 1999, Graham directs all academic and career advising for the department's 400 undergraduates and supervises an advising center that provides services to about 1,200 current and prospective engineering students during the academic year.

"During the short time she has occupied her current leadership position," said Charles Nunnally, ECE professor and former assistant department head, "she has turned the advising function of a very large department from being a mechanical, reactive activity into a sensitive, proactive, forward-looking activity."



GRAHAM

WINE AWARD *Holly Bender*

By Jeffrey Douglas

A passion for teaching and a fascination with technology have combined to make Clinical Pathologist Holly Bender one of the brightest stars in an emerging group of university faculty members dedicated to transforming the way students learn.

Bender, a faculty member in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, will receive a 2001 Wine Award, considered the most prestigious among university teaching awards.

The award for instructional excellence rests on a strong foundation of earlier honors. Bender has received seven "Teacher of the Year Awards" in the VMRCVM, two Merck AgVet Awards for Innovative Teaching, two College Teaching Excellence Awards, a Virginia Tech Certificate of Teaching Excellence, and the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, a national award which recognizes outstanding teaching within the profession of veterinary medicine.

Since arriving in 1980, Bender has accumulated overall student evaluations of 5.72 on a six-point scale. "I love to teach," said Bender, who earned her DVM from Michigan State and her Ph.D. degree from Virginia Tech in conjunction with the University of Georgia. "When you see the light come on in a student's eye, it's an incredibly rewarding experience."

Bender's clinical pathology course was rated the number-one veterinary educational experience among alumni surveyed as part of the college's recent outcomes assessment-based accreditation review.

"Our veterinary students are fun to teach. These students are incredibly motivated. You don't have to build a fire under them. They've got the fire. They just need the direction," Bender said.

Bender is providing that direction with creative new teaching methods that make the most of emerging instructional technologies.

Bender inspired the university's Biomedical Informatics Research Group (BIRG) and is team leader on the development of a new Internet-based analytical-reasoning program termed Problem List Generator (PLG) that has attracted international attention in educational circles.

The PLG program challenges students to develop deductive reasoning and higher-order thinking skills as they apply fact-based knowledge in making case-based diagnostic assessments.

Principal investigator on just under a half million dollars in educational research grants for BIRG, Bender has recently been notified the group will receive \$1.24 million in new funding from the federal Department of Education.

Bill Brown

By Sarah Newbill

Bill Brown came to Virginia Tech from a leading architecture firm in Massachusetts, and just a few years out of Harvard University, where he obtained his master of city planning and urban design. Since then his life has been filled with making it possible for those around him, students and faculty members alike, to "learn" design, as he believes that one cannot truly "teach" it. Brown will receive the Wine Award at today's awards ceremony.

"Professor Brown is a rallying point for thoughtful and critical discussion among students, faculty members, and administrators. He has an invisible ability to effectively put people together and to keep them together in productive, lasting learning environments," Architecture Professor Gene Egger said.

Brown is credited with significant innovations in the pedagogy and curricular structure of the graduate architecture program over the years, as the program continues to enjoy national recognition and stature. "I view him as one of the top



BENDER



BROWN

teachers in our entire department,” Department Head Frank Weiner said. “He is an extremely articulate studio critic able to impart lucid observations that enable students to find the strength in their work and continuously raise the level of their achievement.”

Brown’s dossier is evidence of a sustained commitment to teaching and learning, as well as research and outreach. Throughout his tenure, his teaching load has been centered around design studios for students approaching completion of their studies, primarily as fourth- or fifth-year undergraduates or graduate students, preparing them for practice in the architectural profession. Brown has not limited his efforts to the more ‘mature’ student. Architecture Professor Bill Galloway quotes a recent alumnus of the department who said Brown was the single most important faculty member with whom he worked. “He was a struggling undergraduate student and indicated he would not have finished his degree, nor would he have succeeded in his professional career, were it not for professor Brown’s influence,” Galloway said.

As chairman of the master’s program for 14 years, Brown established educational standards and practices, admissions processes, and creative financial support to attract top students from around the world. All this has made the department highly successful in attracting German and Latin American Fulbright scholars to the university. Other outstanding contributions to the educational mission of the department include initiating significant innovations in the master-of-science and off-campus graduate-degree programs.

Susan G. Magliaro

By Jean Elliott

Susan G. Magliaro has served in the teaching profession for 27 years—first, as a public-school teacher, and, since 1983, at Virginia Tech. Her areas of expertise are problem solving, instructional design, and professional development. These areas of research provide the strong foundation for her stance as a “student of teaching,” and she conveys this perspective of always being a learner to her students regardless of their points of trajectory as educators.



MAGLIARO

At Tech, Magliaro first worked as a student teacher supervisor and course instructor in her assignments as a graduate student. On the faculty of the teaching and learning department since 1988, she has worked with pre-, beginning, and veteran teachers, as well as university faculty members, in the life-long quest of learning to teach. As one of her students said, “Dr. Magliaro models what it means to be a good teacher, believing that pedagogy is worthy of continual study.”

Throughout her career in academe, Magliaro has sought to keep a synergy between her teaching, research, and outreach. Over the past 13 years, she has taught 19 different courses both on- and off-campus. A consistent component of her teaching is the study of her own practice, often in collaboration with her students. This inquiry approach to practice has afforded her not only the opportunity to develop her own teaching expertise, but also to study all aspects of learning to teach as well as instructional and curriculum design. This work has yielded a textbook, instructor’s guide, over 130 book chapters, articles and presentations, and numerous teaching awards including the 1993 Alumni Teaching Award.

Magliaro’s outreach activities also dovetail with her teaching and research. From 1986-95, she was involved in a range of state-wide research and development programs related to the mentoring of beginning teachers. She served as the director of the Virginia Special Education Endorsement Mentor program from 1992-95. Since 1993, she has coordinated off-campus intact master’s programs for practicing teachers. Undergirding all of these outreach efforts is the study of how these individuals are learning to teach and, often become master teachers. This knowledge is brought back to campus to share with pre-service teachers and colleagues, as well as apply to the numerous workshops Magliaro presents to campus faculty members.

SPORN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING INTRODUCTORY SUBJECTS

Matthew McAllister

By Sally Harris

Students taking Matthew McAllister’s introductory communication classes proclaim him to be the best. As a result, he has won the Sporn Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Subjects.

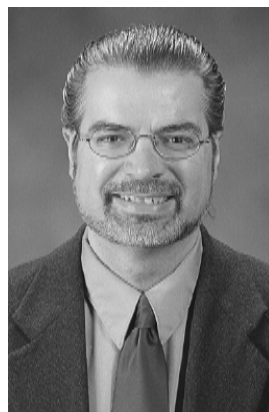
The reasons are simple to explain, but hard to accomplish in large classes. He makes the students feel as if he’s talking directly to them. He’s enthusiastic and creative in his presentations, he knows well both his subject and how to make it understandable, and he encourages class participation. He also keeps extensive office hours so students can come for help and uses the class web site to spark electronic discussion beyond the classroom. And he writes letters of congratulations to the top 2 percent to 3 percent of the students in his class and copies them to the students’ department heads. “He makes every effort for the students to feel important, not just a number,” one student wrote.

“Over the years,” wrote Ellie Sturgis, then interim head of the Department of Communication Studies and an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, “students have raved about McAllister’s knowledge of the field of communication studies, engaging teaching style, approachability, and strict academic standards.”

Introduction to Communication Studies is the largest course in the department and the only one required of all majors and minors. “For many students,” McAllister wrote, “the intro class is their first college classroom experience, and I want to make this experience a positive one. I am sure that for many students, walking into a large lecture hall for the first time is intimidating and even alienating. An important goal, then, is to make the course as accessible, energizing, and fun as possible.”

McAllister wants students to leave his course with a sense of how the ability to communicate affects one’s social power or social inequity. To show how communication scholarship relates to the real world and to break the monotony of lectures, he uses different instructional techniques such as commercials and sections of horror films to show the portrayal of gender in advertising and horror films.

McAllister has been an inspiration to fellow faculty members. According to Rachel Holloway, assistant department head, McAllister’s excellence in teaching challenges her “to perform at the level our students expect and deserve.”



MCALLISTER

SPORN AWARD FOR TEACHING UNDERGRADUATE ENGINEERING SUBJECTS

David Vaughan

By Stewart MacInnis

Nearly everyone finds something difficult to learn, but David Vaughan’s students have no doubt that their professor will stick with them until they master any point they find troublesome.

Vaughan, a professor of biological systems engineering, has developed a reputation among students as a professor who cares about them and is willing to put in as much effort as it takes to help them succeed. That attitude one of the reasons Vaughan is to be awarded the 2001 Sporn Award for Teaching Undergraduate Engineering Subjects.

Vaughan’s attitude toward students also fosters loyalty from them.

“The only reason I put so much effort in was because I didn’t



VAUGHAN

want to let Dr. Vaughan down,” said one student who struggled with a course, but who ended up making an A. “He worked so hard to make sure we understood everything.”

A member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1973, Vaughan is director of the university’s site for the national program, Biological Systems Engineering Research Experiences for Undergraduates. He has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and presentation papers. And he conducts an active research program aimed at reducing reliance on fossil fuels in agriculture.

It is in the classroom, however, that Vaughan’s reputation among students is built. He takes time to talk to them, he corresponds with them incessantly through e-mail, and he always makes them welcome in his office. His interest in students goes beyond the immediate course, to their goals in life.

“He is the career adviser for the department, and has made it his mission that all the students in [the department] will have good employment after graduation,” said one student.

Vaughan earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from North Carolina State University.

DIGGS SCHOLARS

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Richard Goff, Monte Boisen



FLOYD-THOMAS



GOFF



BOISEN

By Sally Harris

Stacey Floyd-Thomas, assistant professor of religious studies in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Richard Goff, associate professor of engineering fundamentals, and Monte Boisen, professor of mathematics, are the newly selected 2001 Diggs Teaching Scholars.

The Diggs Program was begun in 1992 to recognize and foster excellence, imagination, and innovation in linking scholarship and teaching. Each recipient is presented with a plaque, and a cash award goes to both the recipient and the nominating department.

Floyd-Thomas joined the faculty of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in 1998. Since then, she has been appointed coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Interdisciplinary Task Force. She has received CEUT summer faculty and globalizing initiatives grants and an ASPIRES grant, under which she has collaborated to establish an interdisciplinary study-abroad opportunity at the University of Cheik Anta Diop in Senegal.

Goff is the recipient of three Certificates of Teaching Excellence and the Sporn Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Engineering Subjects. He is the director of the Frith Freshman Engineering Design Laboratory. Working with colleagues, he has received a CEUT Summer Faculty Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Design as well as three SUCCEED grants for Hands-On Laboratory, Early Design, and Curriculum Renewal. Goff has also collaborated with Mitzi Vernon, professor in the Industrial Design Program in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, in creating mixed groups of students from the two colleges that design and build robotic creations.

Boisen, who has taught mathematics at Virginia Tech for 31 years, has received four Certificates of Teaching Excellence, the Wine Award, the Arts and Sciences Diversity Award, and the Xcaliber Award, among many others. As mathematics departmental coordinator for minority recruitment and affairs, he founded the Association of African-American Mathematicians at Virginia Tech, an organization that engages in a variety of efforts to recruit and retain minority students. He has taken a leadership role in transforming the Math Emporium so that it places the student in the center—not the machines, not the material.

In fall 2001, the new Diggs Teaching scholars will lead a discussion focused on their recent work. Floyd-Thomas will discuss raising ethical issues for the goal of social justice in the classroom in a manner that encourages students to examine difficult and personally challenging material. Goff will present

his vision of "Hands-On Collaborative Learning" as an approach to engineering fundamentals, which better serves a diverse student population. Boisen will discuss the essential role of care, concern, and respect in the manner in which teachers interact with women and minority students and apply technology to support learning.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Penny Cook

By Liz Crumley

"Penny has been responsible for the smooth administration of the Center since its inception," wrote Ellen Plummer, director of the Women's Center, in nominating Penny Cook for the President's Award for Excellence.

As office manager of the Women's Center since the program was established by the university in 1994, Cook supervises more than 40 student employees and volunteers, manages all bookkeeping and fiscal activities, and oversees office administrative matters.

Cook recruits, trains, places, and evaluates volunteers, interns, and service-learning students. She initiated the concept of a "receptionist team" for the center in 1996, and trains the students on the team to staff the office, make referrals, and perform outreach, as well as to learn about issues of importance in the lives of women. Cook's success with the receptionist team "is evidenced by loyal students who often work at the center until they graduate, having grown considerably in their knowledge of women's issues and in their ability to make a meaningful contribution to a service unit with an important mission," said Patricia Heyer, associate provost for academic administration.

In addition to working with students, Cook recruits for and manages the center's volunteer program, providing leadership and guidance to numerous volunteers who annually donate more than 2,500 hours of service.

Her resourcefulness also has proven beneficial to the Virginia Tech community. A few years ago, Cook and a colleague, Teresa Quesinberry of the Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center, decided that the university should offer professional development for campus office managers. They wrote a grant proposal, negotiated with the university for support, and founded the Office Managers' Development Group, which has been a source of professional and leadership training since 1996.

Cook's interest in the type of services offered by the Women's Center is not limited to her job. She serves as a volunteer crisis counselor for the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley and is working on a bachelor's degree at Virginia Tech in interdisciplinary studies with concentrations in women's studies and women's leadership.

Jessie Eaves

By Sally Harris

It's quite possible that one could never adequately describe Jessie Eaves, much less in one sentence. A fiscal technician in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, Eaves will receive one of five President's Awards for Excellence. The reasons given by those who nominated her and supported her nominations include, above all, her positive nature and willingness to help others. They described, as well, her diligence in learning to do the work of a fiscal technician in a totally updated and correct way, her service to the college and university, and her dedication to her church and community.

"She knows the rules and regulations involving fiscal matters and enforces them—with a smile and good humor," wrote Sandra Birch, assistant to the department head, in her nomination of Eaves.

According to Lenwood McCoy, associate vice president for special initiatives at Tech, "Jessie...continuously sought to know

the rules better and to make sure her work was in compliance to the greatest extent possible." Birch said Eaves attends numerous workshops to improve the skills necessary to her job.

"While she deserves recognition for the quality of her work as a fiscal technician, it is Jessie's dedication to serving the needs of the department and the wonderfully warm, friendly, and caring manner in which she does it that really set her apart as an outstanding member of the department," Birch said.

Her "caring and patient assistance" to new faculty members, her determination to get the job done, her service to others, her help to her colleagues in spite of her own full schedule, and her humanity impressed Department Head Dennis Kafura. "She is quite simply one of the most warm, open, and caring individuals I have ever known," he said. "In summary, on days when I am feeling stress and need a role model of commitment and caring, I look to Jessie. I always find her an inspiring example."

Service to the university includes work in numerous capacities in the College of Arts and Science Staff Association (CASSA), service as a staff senator, including two years on the senate's executive committee, and two years as chair of the James D. McComas Staff Leadership Seminar Committee, which, in itself, is a major undertaking, according to Carroll.

"No task is too large for her to attempt and none so small as to be unworthy of her careful attention," Birch wrote. "Whether it be taking care of the fiscal matters that belong to her job description, serving refreshments at commencement receptions, vacuuming a carpet before a seminar, or lending a sympathetic ear to international graduate students far from home, Jessie puts her whole self into her work."

Tom Head

*By Crissa Askins,
University Relations intern*

Virginia Tech's national prominence in the use and application of instructional technology is due in large measure to the success of the Faculty Development Institute.

The success of FDI is due in large measure to the vision and efforts of Tom Head. FDI was begun eight years ago and is now nationally recognized model of professional development.

"I am deeply honored by this award," Head said of the President's Award for Excellence. "During my career at Virginia Tech, I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with so many outstanding faculty throughout the university. The integration of instructional technology into the fabric of the university is very important to the long-term vitality of the institution."

The President's Award for Excellence is given annually to express appreciation for outstanding commitment to excellence. Each of the five award recipients will receive a \$2,000 check at the Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony.

As the director of Instructional Services, Head has demonstrated an "uncommon devotion" to serving the faculty and students of Virginia Tech.

"The President's Award is one way to bring to the surface and celebrate the contributions of an individual who has had an enormous effect on Virginia Tech and its faculty and facilities over a long period of time," said Terry Wildman, professor and director of the center for excellence in undergraduate teaching. "I believe he [Head] has earned this recognition many times over."

A 26-year employee of Virginia Tech, Head has distinguished himself by spearheading many of the innovative projects for which the university has received national recognition. In 1998, he orchestrated the transition from satellite-based distance education to interactive television via Network Virginia. Head has led the effort to equip and sustain over 30 classrooms throughout campus with computer projection equipment. He worked with math faculty members to create the large-scale math lab that later developed into the Math Emporium project. Head was a founding member of the Center for Innovation in Learning and has served on its board since 1996.

Christopher Peters

By Crissa Askins,

Since 1998, Newman Library has been undergoing a quiet but extensive renovation project. Each wing of the library has been cleared of all materials so that the asbestos flooring could

be replaced and the outdated lighting systems redone while simultaneously keeping all materials readily accessible to faculty and staff members and students.

As the project manager of the library renovation team, Christopher Peters has been responsible for the success of this project. Because of his dedication and willingness to serve the campus community, Peters has been awarded the 2001 President's Award for Excellence.

The President's Award for Excellence is given annually to express appreciation for employee commitment to excellence and dedication to the university.

Peters began working in Newman Library as a student shelfer in 1993. Today, Peters is the stacks manager, supervising two employees, between 50 to 80 student shelfers, and a crew of renovation shelfers. "He has created a productive and efficient team to support the mission of Virginia Tech to make knowledge readily available to the university community and the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Irene Glennon, associate professor and college librarian for the College of Natural Resources.

"I wish I could fully convey to you the reputation Chris has earned within the extended family we call the Libraries," said Paul Metz, director of collection management and college-based services. "Staff and faculty members alike invoke his name as an example of can-do spirit and effective management. He is widely liked and admired because of his cordial and pleasant manner, his analytical approach to problems, and the success of his unit."

"I have worked with Christopher Peters for well over seven years and am impressed with his boundless energy, dedication, and desire for providing excellent service to library customers," Glennon said. "It is my sincere belief that you would not find a better employee to reward with the 2001 President's Award for Excellence."

Sally Stafford

By Crissa Askins

In a university dining hall that serves 3.6 million meals per year, one would not expect to find enthusiastic or smiling employees. However, at Dietrick Dining Hall, Sally Stafford has spent the past 30 years serving students with a smile and a kind word and she has served as a positive role model for her co-workers and an inspiration to her customers. For this reason, Stafford has been chosen as one of five recipients of the 2001-02 President's Award for Excellence.

The President's Award for Excellence is given annually to express appreciation for employee commitment to excellence and dedication to the university.

Kelvin Bergsten, assistant manager at Dietrick Dining Hall said, "Sally adds a personal touch of ambiance to the room that merchandises the product and makes the customers feel special. Her friendliness makes everyone feel at home."

Stafford is the line leader of *The Training Edge*, a line that specializes in proper nutrition for athletes. She is well known by coaches, athletes, and students for her outstanding service and positive attitude. The Athletic Department has recognized her commitment to excellence by requesting that she be in charge of their special events.

"In athletics, we are constantly coaching attitude...a positive attitude is required to excel in the daily rigors of training that leads to success," said Mike Gentry, assistant athletic director for athletic performance. "We feel lucky that our athletes eating at *The Training Edge* line in Dietrick Dining Hall are greeted daily by a Virginia Tech employee who always seems to have this type of winning attitude."

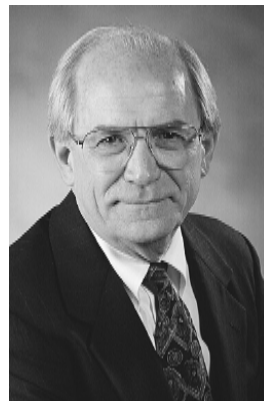
The Athletic Department has not been the only one to notice Stafford's outstanding work. Deon Lategan, associate director of board operations, said of Stafford, "As a university, we are better off because of folks like Sally. I look forward to seeing her broad



PETERS



COOK



HEAD



STAFFORD



EAVES

sincere smile when I walk through the front doors at Dietrick; we could all learn from her.”

Of the 1,540 employees needed to house and feed Virginia Tech’s large on-campus population, Sally Stafford has distinguished herself from the others. In support of Stafford’s nomination, Gentry said, “If this award is based on competence, love of job and university, and attitude, Sally is a most worthy recipient.”

ALUMNI OUTREACH AWARD
C. Wayne Patty

By Jeanne M. Garon

If mathematics professors begin noticing that Virginia-educated students are entering college math courses with more enthusiasm and a better grasp of the sometimes angst-inducing topic, they may have Tech Professor C. Wayne Patty to thank. Patty has spent eight years training the state’s teachers to teach math so that it is more readily understood and applied. His record of outreach to elementary, middle, and high schools in six counties has garnered him the 2001 Alumni Outreach Award and induction into the Academy of Outreach Excellence.



PATTY

Patty’s career has spanned three phases, each progressively more service-oriented. Trained and promoted to full professor as a research mathematician, he authored or co-authored three textbooks while serving as department head for 25 years. Deciding in 1993 to pursue a long-standing interest in pre-college math education, he became principal investigator for several state grants funding his teacher-training programs.

Under the grants, Patty taught teachers to use graphing calculators and calculator-based laboratories in their schools. These early projects enabled him to work closely with school system personnel. “I saw their interest in bettering math comprehension and fostering the development of instructors,” he said. “I realized this was a niche I could fill.” Patty credits these early grants with helping him win two multi-year NSF grants totaling slightly more than \$3.6 million.

In 1997, Patty became principal investigator of his first NSF-funded program, “Systemic Reform of Mathematics in Grades 6-12 for Rural Virginia,” later adding a second NSF project for grades K-5. Under these grants, Patty now delivers workshops on implementing math curricula that seek student understanding and appreciation of math’s relevance, abandoning traditional procedure- and formula-driven teaching.

His outcomes include boosting math scores for students in grades six to 12 in all counties he has helped. Even more rewarding, he said, are student reactions. “Teachers tell me their students suddenly like math!”

GILLESPIE

Continued from 1

Active in community work, Gillespie has been vice president of the African American Network in Monroe County, Penn.; Eastern Region director of the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education; a member of the board of directors for the Women’s Resource Center of the Poconos; and director of the Weber State Minority HIV/AIDS Education Coalition. He currently serves on the State of Florida Holocaust Education Commission.

Gillespie was selected for the position following a national search. “We were very pleased to recommend Mel for this position,” said Ben Dixon, chair of the search committee and vice president for multicultural affairs. “His organizational management and training skills will be welcomed as we move into the full implementation of the university’s diversity strategic plan.”

EMPLOYMENT

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.
Asst Director Of UUSA (Building Operations/Facilities), 000292J, PB 4, UUSA.
Bioprocess Laboratory Specialist, 003373M, PB 4, BSE.
Boiler Operator, 007313F, PB 3, Power Plant.
Center for Alternative Media Assistant, 002197G, PB 2, University Libraries/CAM.
Circulation/Reserve Assistant, 000468G, PB 2, Library.
Dairy Technician, 000652M, PB 3, Dairy Science.
Electrician, 007829H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities/Services.
Financial Planning Manager, 007567F, PB 5, Budget/Financial Planning.
Grounds Worker, 000844F, PB 1, Physical Plant/Grounds.
Housekeeping Manager, 006926H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities/Services.
Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.
Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, PB 3, CE.
Network Analyst, 007795R, PB 5, VBI.
Payroll Manager, 002501F, PB 5, Controller’s Office.
Plumber, 007830H, PB 3, RDP/Facilities.
Power Plant Superintendent, 000326F, PB 4, Power Plant.
Program Support Technician, 001932S, PB 3, CPAP.
Programmer/Analyst, 007836J, PB 5, CMI.
Security Guard, 007722Y, PB 1, Police.
Shop Technician, 001201S, PB 4, Architecture.
Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician, 007655R, PB 3, VTTI.
Smart Road/Travel Shenandoah Night Dispatcher Supervisor, 007834R, PB 3, VTTI.
Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP/Southgate Bake Shop.
Student Activities Program Specialist, 001020J, PB 3, UUSA.
Technical Communications Editor, 007770R, PB 3, VBI.
Technical Writer, 007837S, PB 4, University Development.
Trades/Utilities Master Mechanic, 001597H, PB 4, RDP/Culinary Services Maintenance.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W020066M, PB 2, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Animal Care Technician/Small Animal, W022675M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Banner Desktop Support Technician, W022069S, PB 3, Desktop Support.
Fiscal Assistant, W022460M, PB 2, CVM.
One part-time food-service position available.

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
Operations Specialist, W022862S, PB 2, AIS—IRM.
Secretary Senior, W023132S, PB 2, University Relations.
Security Guard, W020470Y, PB 1, Police.
Trades/Utilities Worker, W022966H, PB 1, RDP/Facilities.
Warehouse Support Operator, W022107S, PB 3, ISC.

OFF CAMPUS

Fiscal Technician, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering.
MBA Program Secretary, 007398J, PB 2, NVC.
Office Manager, 007796Y, PB 4, IALR.
Program Administrator, 006436Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.
Radio Announcer, W020800L, PB 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.
Secretary Senior, 006828M, PB 3, VCE—NO VA 4-H Center.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Urban Affairs/Planning. Faculty Positions (2). Contact: John Dickey, 201 Architecture Annex (0113). Deadline is Dec. 1.
Industrial/Systems Engineering. Anticipated Faculty Position Contact: Hanif Sherali, 250 Durham (0118). Deadline is Jan. 4.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Software Technologies Laboratory. Project Associate/Software Engineer (2). Contact: Bert Hubbard, 1900 Kraft Dr., Suite 105, Blacksburg. Review began Sept. 11.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Family/Consumer Sciences. #FA510, Rockbridge Co. Contact: Eleanor Schlenker, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Sept. 24.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Family/Consumer Sciences. #FA614, Botetourt Co. Contact: Eleanor Schlenker, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Oct. 12.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Associate Director, Family/Consumer Sciences/Community Initiatives/Assistant Dean, College of Human Resources/Education. #FA260. Contact: Judith Jones, 105B Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Oct. 15.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Educational Resource Development Coordinator, Carroll Co. Public Schools. #111836, Contact: John Dooley, 122 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Sept. 25.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources. #FA796, Augusta Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Oct. 12.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources. #FA533, Albemarle Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Oct. 12.
Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources. #112070, Lunenburg Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Oct. 12.
University Libraries. Special Collections Librarian/Manuscript Curator/Processor. Cathy Pillow, University Libraries, P.O. Box 90001, Blacksburg. Review begins Oct. 15.

VBI

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of Phenomenome, said, “We are very excited about working with the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Of the bioinformatics research groups we investigated, VBI has the right mix of biology and computer science to be able to integrate and reduce vast amounts of genomic and metabolomic data into a format that regular bench biologists can easily use to interpret the results of their experiments. The tools that will be developed as part of this collaboration mark the first real step in functional genomics research that goes beyond the isolated and static generation of data to begin the process of observing and understanding biological systems from a global and dynamic perspective.”

Phenomenome Discoveries, of Saskatoon, Canada, is a biological discovery organization. The company has developed a proprietary metabolomics technology, Met-Ex, that separates, quantifies, and identifies all of the metabolites in a complex biological sample quickly and simultaneously.

RESEARCH

Continued from 1

tion of a new stretch of road—895—around Richmond. The bonds will be paid off through toll revenues to be collected on 895, explained Vorster, who will work with VDOT to document the lessons learned in administration of the FD/MK project.

A similar project was recently proposed in far Southwest Virginia. Brown & Root, a construction firm in Houston, Texas, is negotiating with the Commonwealth Transportation Board to begin work on the “Coalfield Expressway” through Wise, Dickenson and Buchanan counties.

Under PPTA, contractors also can initiate proposals for the operation of interstate facilities, such as rest areas.

Vorster and de la Garza will use the \$3.4-million VDOT grant to establish a center of expertise to study the cost efficiency and level-of-service effectiveness of private contractor projects under PPTA. The research center will provide continuous support to VDOT on matters related to the privatization of highway maintenance activities, innovation and research in maintenance and construction contracting, and benchmarking and metrics for highway maintenance.

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