

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2001

TODAY'S EDITION

See page 2 for
information on
campus activities.

To Members of the Virginia Tech Faculty

Dear Colleagues:

On several occasions during my first month at Virginia Tech, I have stated how pleased I am to arrive as the university finalizes and endorses its strategic plan. With the strategic plan in place, I will be able to work with you, the faculty, and with the administration, staff, and students to fashion and implement an action agenda supportive of our overall university goals, including the goal of becoming a top-30 research university.

To this end, we will be launching major academic efforts designed to align emerging college plans with on-going and new academic initiatives. Our core missions of undergraduate education, graduate education, research, and outreach will continue to provide a solid framework for the academic programs. However, it is essential that we look beyond traditional academic boundaries and take prudent risks if we are to succeed. Focusing on President Steger's vision of an outward-looking university with strong international programs and expanded state and national connec-

tions will serve us well. My approach will be to create a climate where we think and act like a top-30 university. We will make little progress if we simply try to imitate what other great universities have already done.

PROVOST'S LETTER

As a first step, the Provost's Office has decided to make new enabling investments this year in five key areas that should help us to be successful. Both President Steger and Executive Vice President Ridenour fully endorse our intention to invest a substantial portion of this year's unallocated funds into core academic programs.

We are allocating substantial matching funds to the colleges to assist with faculty start-up costs. The recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty members across the entire campus is essential for the future development of Virginia Tech.

We are allocating funds to enhance the operations of the Graduate School. Virginia Tech must be able to recruit and support high-quality graduate students, especially in areas that are increasingly competitive.

We are allocating funds to enhance research support operations. We need to assure faculty members that they can seek and obtain new extramural funds as efficiently as possible.

We are allocating funds to stabilize the library so that we will not be forced to cut subscriptions this year. At the same time, we will determine what else needs to be done so that we will have a library in the future that can support increased levels of research and scholarship.

We are allocating funds to continue to build the core infrastructure for nanotechnology research and to launch the first phase of the Institute for Information Technology.

These investments should make it easier for on-going and newly developed faculty-based academic initiatives to move forward.

(See *LETTER* on 3)

Provost lists steps for attaining university goals

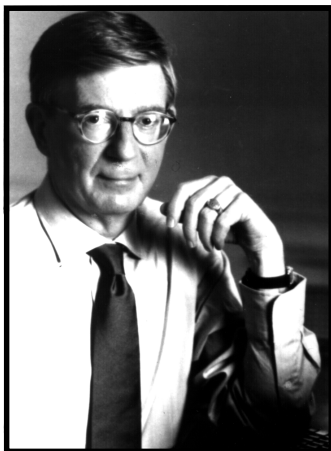
By Clara B. Cox

In a move to enhance the university's efforts to reach the ranks of a top-30 research institution and to meet the academic goals of the university's new strategic plan, the Provost's Office will allocate funds to five key areas and will establish three new councils to address resource commitments to initiatives posed in the plan.

"Providing enabling investments in key areas and moving into an action mode to implement the goals of our strategic plan will help us to further promote on our campus the type of climate found at leading universities," said Provost Mark McNamee. "Our faculty have fully demonstrated their ability to plan for the future. We saw the need to support their efforts to move forward."

In the accompanying letter to the faculty, McNamee said additional funding will go to colleges to assist with faculty start-up costs, to the Graduate School to recruit and support

(See *PROVOST* on 3)



WILL

Pulitzer winner Will to speak on campus

By Sookhan Ho

Nationally syndicated *Washington Post* columnist and TV news analyst George F. Will will give a talk at Virginia Tech on Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7:30 p.m., in Burruss auditorium.

Will is the featured speaker for the Cutchins Distinguished Lecture, presented twice a year by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Center for Leader Development in the Pamplin College of Business. His talk, "Public Affairs, Public Policy, and American Society," is open to the public at no charge.

Will's column, syndicated since 1974,

(See *PULITZER* on 4)

Dean Johnson announces 2002 retirement

By Jean Elliott

Janet Johnson, dean of the College of Human Resources and Education, has announced that she will retire in the summer 2002, after serving 20 years with the university.

"After six years since the founding of CHRE, the college is well-established with an exemplary record of research, outreach and instruction," Johnson said. "Given that situation combined with personal plans, this appears to be a good time for the transition of the leadership of the college."

Johnson joined Virginia Tech in 1972 in the human nutrition and foods department. She served as an associate professor in nutrition, and in February 1995, was named interim dean of the College of Human Resources. In July 1996, she was named dean of the College of Human Resources and Education, re-structured from

the former colleges of Human Resources and Education.

"That has been my biggest challenge," she said about the union of the colleges. "A team brought it together and I was happy to facilitate that team. We are now together as equal partners and the merger is an artifact of history."

"Janet was a fast study as an administrator," said Associate Dean Jerry Niles. "Her ability to coordinate merger activities was related to her attitude toward treating people with fairness. She has a sense of justice that comes so naturally to her. The impact on others is that, when they see it, it sets a tone that's so constructive. She has a sense of integrity that is unimpeachable."

Johnson has been involved in a leadership capacity in a myriad of professional organizations and honor societies. Her awards include

the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Leaders Award that was presented at the Pacesetters Dinner this past July; Outstanding Educator by Phi Delta Kappa; and the Borden Award for establishing a wheat research program.

"She is relatively unflappable," Associate Dean Dianne Yardley said. "She is fair, compassionate, and gentle in her correction. She has no personal agenda and no ego. She listens. She gathers info. She knows a lot about all of the individual programs."

Provost Mark McNamee is in the process of forming a search committee. Johnson's actual departure date is flexible to accommodate the entry of the next dean.

"I will continue business as usual this year and will be working to contribute to the smooth transition for my successor," Johnson said.

Search committee forms to replace CHRE dean

By Clara B. Cox

A newly formed search committee will soon initiate a national search for a dean of the College of Human Resources and Education to replace the current dean, Janet Johnson, who has announced that she will retire in the summer of 2002.

Provost Mark McNamee has named Gregory Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources, as the committee chairman. Other members named to the committee by the provost are Kusum Singh, professor of educational leadership and policy studies; Muzaffer Uysal,

professor of hospitality and tourism management; Karen Roberto, director of the Center for Gerontology; April Few, assistant professor of human development; Janet Rankin, professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise; Rosemary Goss, the Residential Property Management Advisory Board professor of near environments; Glen Holmes, associate professor of teaching and learning at the Northern Virginia Center; David Alexander, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Wayne Tripp, superintendent of

Salem City Schools; Helen Smith, a Bedford County Extension agent; Janet Wimmer, laboratory specialist in near environments; Miya Simpson, director of the McNair Program and a doctoral student; and George Flick, university distinguished professor of food science and technology.

According to Patricia Hyer, associate provost and a committee staff resource person, the committee will hold its first meeting on October 8. McNamee will attend the meeting to discuss his expectations for the search.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 5
Last Day to Drop.
International Club, details TBA.
Theatre Arts Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: “Cole.”

Saturday, 6
Parents’ Day.
Natural History Museum Program, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., VMNH: Project WET.
Football, noon: at West Virginia.
Theatre Arts Production, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre: “Cole.”

Sunday, 7
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

Monday, 8
Columbus Day Holiday for Staff Members.
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.

Tuesday, 9
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1120 Torgersen.
CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC room F.
Faculty Development Workshop, 2 to 4 p.m., 1120 Torgersen.

Blacksburg Transit Public Hearing, 7:30 p.m., 116 Squires.

Wednesday, 10
Off-Campus Housing Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room C.
Faculty Development Workshop, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 1:30 to 3 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.
“With Good Reason,” 7 p.m., WVTF.

Thursday, 11
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 1140 Torgersen.
Faculty Development Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, 3060 Torgersen.
YMCA Slide Show, noon, Cranwell Center: Jennifer Sughrue.
Faculty Development Workshop, 3 to 5 p.m., 3060 Torgersen.
CEUT Program, 3 to 5 p.m., DBHCC.

Friday, 12
EHSS Open House, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Environmental, Health and Safety Services.
International Club, details TBA.

SEMINARS

Friday, 5
MCBB, 12:30 p.m., 102 Fralin: Bob Dietrich, Syngenta.
Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Isiah Warner, LSU.

Monday, 8
Biochemistry, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Jorge Escalante-Semerena, Wisconsin.

Tuesday, 9
Global History, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., 427 Major Williams: Daniel Thorp.
AHNR IT, 4 to 5 p.m., 1810 Litton Reaves: Naraine Persaud.

Wednesday, 10
History Teaching, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., 427 Major Williams: Terry Wildman.

Thursday, 11
Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: Mike Blum, Nebraska.

Friday, 12
Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Alan Esker.
Philosophy, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Talbot Brewer, UVA.
History, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., 427 Major Williams: Irv Resnick, Tennessee.

BULLETINS

Bioforest Technologies VP to lecture
Steve Ruddell, vice president of BioForest Technologies USA, will give a lecture on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 3 to 4 p.m. in Fralin auditorium on “Certification of Forest Management Practices Under SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiative) and ISO (International Standards Organization) 14000.”
BioForest Technologies is one of the leading organizations involved in auditing and certifying forest-management practices in the United States and Canada.
Ruddell received his B.S. in forest management from Utah State University, M.S. in forest products and an M.B.A. in operations management from Michigan State University, and has worked toward a Ph.D. in forest-resource economics and trade policy.
This lecture is the second lecture of the Fall 2001 Public Seminar Series sponsored by Virginia Tech’s College of Natural Resources on certification issues in sustainable natural-resource management.

Workshop highlights faculty research support
New faculty members are invited to a special workshop

entitled “Your Research Career at Virginia Tech: Getting Started,” to be held Friday, Oct. 12, 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium. The workshop will familiarize faculty members with a variety of services offered by the university to support their research interests.
Those planning to attend should notify Debbie Nester at 1-5410 or e-mail debbiell@vt.edu. For more information, contact Porter at 1-6747 or reporter@vt.edu.

Senates invite candidates to campus
The Staff and Faculty senates invite all members of the university community to attend a discussion of higher-education issues on Tuesday, Oct. 16 by candidates for delegate David Nutter at 7 p.m., and Creigh Deeds at 7:30 p.m.
The presentations will be in 32 Pamplin.

EHSS re-schedules Open House
Environmental, Health and Safety Services invites faculty and staff members to its Open House on Friday, Oct. 12, from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit web site <http://www.ehss.vt.edu/Events/OpenHouse/OpenHouse.htm> or contact Charlotte Waggoner at ren@vt.edu or 1-5864.

IDDL presents instruction-evaluation seminar
The Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning will present a seminar on evaluation of instruction on October 19, from 8:30 a.m. to noon in 150 Squires.

MAA Regional Meeting scheduled
The Mathematics Department will host the Fall 2001 MD/DC/VA Regional Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America on October 19 and 20.
Individuals planning to attend the meeting must pre-register if they wish to attend either the banquet dinner on Friday evening or the lunch on Saturday. Pre-registration information is available at web site <http://www.math.vt.edu/people/spielman/maa/fall01>.

Intellectual-property conference scheduled

Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc. (VTIP) is sponsoring a free seminar for the university community on “Why intellectual property at Virginia Tech?” on November 8 in the Donaldson Brown Center auditorium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration deadline is October 26.
“Universities are being asked to have a direct impact on society by creating industry, training to upgrade employee skills, and by directly assisting businesses through research and development,” said VTIP Executive Vice President Mike Martin. “Marketing the results of university research can enhance the university’s ability to reach out in the present by creating new products and business, and in the future by providing resources for research

and student support.”
VTIP encourages disclosure to provide a competitive advantage for federal research proposals based on patented technology, industrial research support based on protected IP, business development which requires a protected position to attract investment capital, and licensees who require a protected position to attract investment to high-risk product development
The workshop addresses these issues and illuminates how the intellectual-property process can assist Virginia Tech in its goal to be a top-30 research university.
Morning sessions will cover “Why IP at Virginia Tech,” by Mark McNamee, university
(See *INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY* on 3)

Workshop will target research funding

On Tuesday, Oct. 23, the Research Division will sponsor a Funding Search Workshop, from 8:30 to 11:30 a. m. in 3310 Torgersen. This computer lab session will be led by Jennie Klapper, manager of university services with Community of Science Inc., which operates the largest and most comprehensive research database on the web.
Workshop participants will review the process of conducting targeted funding searches using the COS database, the leading source of information for R&D professionals world-wide. Additionally, there will be a hands-on opportunity to build COS profiles that will e-mail customized funding alerts to participants on a weekly basis.
Because Virginia Tech is an institutional member of COS, faculty members receive indi-

vidualized COS subscription services at no charge to them. The COS database is comprehensive, and includes sources that fund research in education, social sciences, humanities and the arts, as well as scientific disciplines.
A session for department COS mentors will be offered Tuesday from 1 to 4 p. m. in 3310 Torgersen. Individuals designated by departments as Community of Science mentors will be trained to coach new faculty members and research staff members on how to use the web site. The session will emphasize tips and techniques for teaching others to conduct their own funding searches.
Faculty members and mentors who plan to attend either program should contact Debbie Nester at debbiell@vt.edu or 1-5410. For more information, contact Bob Porter at 1-6747 or reporter@vt.edu.

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

Alternative Transportation Manager, 007223F, PB 4, Office of Transportation.

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

Development Associate, 001964S, PB 3, Uni-

versity Development.

Electrician, 001471F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

Electronics Technician, 007842B, PB 4, CE.

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

Fiscal Technician, 007495R, PB 3, SFA.

Grants Assistant, 007843B, PB 3, CE.

Housekeeping Manager, 006926H, PB 3, RDP.

Housekeeping Specialist/Senior, 001174J, PB 1, UUSA.

Housekeeping Worker, 007262J, PB 1, Recreational Sports.

Housekeeping Worker, P002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

Laboratory Specialist, 007707B, PB 3, CE.

Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.

Multimedia Systems/Applications Specialist, 002054A, PB 4, Video/Broadcast Services.

Office Specialist, 002712H, PB 2, RDP.

Parking Enforcement Officer, 007221F, PB 1, Parking Services.

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

Program Support Technician, CCCCCC, PB 3, VTF.

Program Support Technician Senior, 002443R, PB 3, IRD.

Programmer/Analyst, 007836J, PB 5, CMI.

Recreation Center Manager, 006956J, PB 3, UUSA.

Sales/Marketing Manager, 000478H, PB 3, RDP.

Security Guard, 007722Y, PB 1, Police.

Smart Road All-weather Testing Technician, 007841R, PB 3, VTTI.

Smart Road/Travel Shenandoah Night Dispatcher Supervisor, 007834R, PB 3, VTTI.

Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP.

Support Center Assistant Technician, 007080M, PB 3, CVM.

Technical Director, Digital Library/Archives, 006789G, PB 5.

Technical Writer, 007837S, PB 4, University Development.

Transportation Planner, 007498F, PB 4, Office of Transportation.

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

Visitor Center Receptionist, 007844S, PB 2, University Relations.

PART TIME

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

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

Circulation/Reserve Assistant, W023316G, PB 2, Library Administrative Services/Circulation.

Database Maintenance Assistant, W023317G, PB 2, Library/Technical Services.

One part-time food-service position available.

Laboratory Specialist, W023305M, PB 3, APS.

Licensed Practical Nurse, W023318J, PB 3, Health Center.

Multimedia Programmer, W023319M, PB 3, AHNRI.

Nighttime Smart Road Experimental Support Technician, W023315R, PB 2, VTTI.

Office Specialist, W022596H, PB 2, RDP.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238J, PB 3, Health Center.

Security Guard, W020470Y, PB 1, Police.

OFF CAMPUS

Fiscal Technician, 007411B, PB 3, Engineering.

Forester, 007846J, PB 4, CMI.

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

Program Support Technician, 005466M, PB 3, VCE—Page County.

Radio Announcer, W020800S, PB 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.

LETTER

Continued from 1

For Virginia Tech to reach its full potential, it is essential that faculty members, department heads, directors, and deans be fully involved at all stages of planning and implementation. We must build on strengths, leverage resources, seize and create new opportunities, and pay special attention to areas that are characteristic of all great universities, including the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We can accelerate our move to greater distinction by acting boldly to embrace strategies that will capture national attention. For example, if Virginia Tech can make dramatic progress in diversifying its faculty, particularly in the sciences and engineering, we can become a magnet for outstanding scholars and students.

Academic program development will be occurring at many levels in response to the strategic plan, and I will be working with the vice provosts, vice presidents, and the deans to help shape the process. However, many of the major new opportunities for Virginia Tech extend well beyond existing college bound-

aries. For example, the opportunities in biomedical sciences, biotechnology, bioinformatics, and public health transcend the colleges and the campus. We have formed collaborations with external organizations and we are actively evaluating new partnerships.

To provide strong leadership and coherence for broad-based program implementation, I am initially establishing three new campus-wide administrative coordinating councils. These councils will provide a forum for a full discussion and evaluation of initiatives with an emphasis on resource commitments and action. The councils may also initiate planning activities in areas deemed important for Virginia Tech, including new interdisciplinary graduate degree or research programs. The council members will consist mainly of deans and administrators who have resources to invest. With vision and leadership, the councils can help guide our academic progress and will ensure that initiatives are not disconnected from core missions of the university. Every council member will serve as a campus citizen, not as an advocate for a specific college or program. Since many members will serve on several councils, we anticipate and expect full consideration of activities

that span the councils.

For the academic year 2001-2002, the initial working titles for the three new councils are Administrative Coordinating Council for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Administrative Coordinating Council for Biomedical, Health, and Life Sciences, and Administrative Coordinating Council for Engineering, Physical Sciences, and Information Sciences and Technology.

I will be meeting with each council to develop specific charges and finalize the membership.

As we move forward with ambitious new agendas, we run the risk of appearing to move away from the substantial investments we continue to make in undergraduate education and outreach. This is not my vision for Virginia Tech. Great universities are able to maintain an excellent balance among the various missions and continually seek out ways for the missions to reinforce one another. I pledge to work with you to ensure that Virginia Tech's sustained and deeply felt commitment to undergraduate education receives the attention it richly deserves. We have already made investments

designed to meet undergraduate enrollment pressures, and Virginia Tech has launched innovative new outreach efforts, most notably in Southside Virginia.

As we progress through the coming year, a number of activities will occur that will help chart the course on our agenda for the future. Positive actions by both federal and state legislative bodies will be essential to provide the necessary resources to enable the university to move forward as rapidly as we envision. We must search for ways to focus internal priorities and develop a strategy for encouraging internal re-allocations to support our university initiatives. As these activities and plans are developed, it will be my objective to keep you involved and informed. I remain very optimistic about our opportunity to advance toward our common goal of becoming an even greater university. Hopefully you share that optimism and will join President Steger and all our colleagues in making it a reality.

I welcome your feedback and advice.

Sincerely,

Mark G. McNamee, university provost and vice president for academic affairs



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Spectrum, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

Spectrum is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; David Nutter, director of college and media relations.

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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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INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY

Continued from 2

provost; "Why Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties, Inc.," by Martin and Keith Jones, VTIP director of commercialization; "A panel discussion on IP at Virginia Universities—Who Owns What and Why," by Alan Bentley of the University of Virginia Patent Foundation, Jennifer Murphy of George Mason Intellectual Properties, Richard Franson of Virginia Commonwealth University Intellectual Property Foundation, and Martin; "Why Protect IP for Business Development," by Mike Drzal of LeClair Ryan; "Why Protect IP Research Agreements," by Dave Richardson, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, Virginia Tech; and "IP and Distance Learning," by Timothy Luke of the Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning.

Tracy Wilkins will be the luncheon speaker.

During the afternoon, there will be three concurrent sessions to encourage open discussion on issues in IP:

"IP in Research Contracts," moderated by Mike Martin of VTIP, with Jon Jones of Lockheed Martin, Nick Conte of Woods, Rogers & Hazelgrove, Brandon Price of Goodwin Biotechnology Inc., and Kay Heidbreder, Virginia Tech associate general counsel;

"IP in Business Development," moderated

by Keith Jones of VTIP, with William Daughtrey of Carilion Biomedical Institute, Matt Crawford of Academy Funds Inc., Hugh Wellons of Flippin Densmore Morse & Jessee, and Leonard Ferrari, director of special initiatives at Virginia Tech;

"Appropriate Protection of IP," moderated by Michael Whitham of McGuire Woods with Lee Kump of Hunton & Williams and Charles Sara of DeWitt, Ross & Stevens SC.

PROVOST

Continued from 1

high-quality graduate students, to research support operations, to University Libraries to maintain subscriptions at current levels, and to nanotechnology research and the first phase of the Institute for Information Technology.

McNamee also is establishing three new campus-wide administrative coordinating councils: one for arts, humanities, and social sciences; one for biomedical, health, and life sciences; and another one for engineering, physical sciences, and information sciences and technology.

These councils, comprised principally of deans and administrators with resources to invest, "will provide a forum for a full discussion and

evaluation of initiatives with an emphasis on resource commitments" and may "initiate planning activities in areas deemed important for Virginia Tech," McNamee said. The councils "will have authority to take action within approved university procedures."

McNamee emphasized that undergraduate education will not suffer as the university moves toward its top-30 goal. "Great universities are able to maintain an excellent balance among the various missions and continually seek out ways for the missions to reinforce one another," he said.

The university's strategic plan is available on line at www.unirel.vt.edu/stratplan.

CIT, three universities launch Virginia nanotechnology initiative

By Susan Trulove

Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) and researchers at three Virginia universities have launched the Initiative for Nanotechnology in Virginia (INanoVA).

Nanotechnology assembles atoms and molecules to create materials, microscopic engineered systems, and molecular devices that have novel physical, chemical, and biological properties with potential for great economic impact, according to Robert Porter, a program-development manager with the research division at Virginia Tech.

"It is critical to establish linkages between researchers and industry, to foster timely business development and position Virginia for national leadership in this vital arena," said Jan Curren, director of technology awards at the CIT. "INanoVA will provide an administrative infrastructure that enhances communication among researchers and will provide resources to organize a major nanotechnology symposium that brings together leading industry innovators and academic representatives for discussions of the emerging opportunities. It will help to focus resources to build stronger connections with industry for technology transfer at an accelerated pace."

Partners in the initiative are James F. Groves, director of research and industrial programs for the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia

(UVa); Harry C. Dorn, director of the Center for Self-Assembled Nano-Devices (CSAND) at Virginia Tech; Anthony Guiseppi-Elie, director of the Center for Bioelectronics, Biosensors, and Biochips (C3B) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU); Gary E. Wnek, chair of chemical engineering at VCU and director of the Electroactive Materials and Biosystems Laboratory; and Robert Hull, director of the Center for Nanoscopic Materials Design at UVa.

At Virginia Tech, Dorn's group has created a new family of molecules by filling the carbon cages known as fullerenes, or buckyballs, with metal atoms. A spin-off company is using the new molecules for improved MRI material and exploring other applications. CSAND is researching photovoltaic devices—molecular devices that can convert light to energy, such as flexible solar cells; new catalytic material; and molecules to deliver drugs at the cellular level.

Another research group, headed by electrical-engineering Professor Rick Claus, has perfected a new molecular self-assembly process. With this process, they are beginning to manufacture ultra-thin films with electrical resistance that is "100 times better than that of bulk materials like copper and aluminum." Claus and his colleagues hold nine patents covering the new technique, called modified electrostatic self-assembly (MESA). Claus, the

director of the Fiber & Electro-Optics Research Center and president of the Blacksburg-based company NanoSonic Inc., says the research team has created a "library" of these self-assembled materials.

"In the area of medical research, programs at all three universities have the potential to make important contributions to nanotechnology research, development, and clinical applications within Virginia," Porter said. "This includes research on nanoscopic contrast agents for medical imaging and targeted drug delivery using nanoparticles, such as are being done in CSAND, and the development of polymeric tissue engineering scaffolds formed from nanofibers of various biopolymers, such as is being done at VCU."

During the next year, INanoVA participants at VCU will lead the effort to establish a framework for accelerated technology transfer from academia to industry. This effort will identify profitable nanotechnology intellectual property (IP) within the portfolios of Virginia institutions, identify emerging nanoscience activities that are likely to culminate in IP and list the key points of contact in those areas at Virginia schools, transfer high-technology nanotechnology IP from academia to industry, establish a framework for research and development co-operative agreements, and establish a framework for the involvement of corpora-

tions, non-profit organizations, federal laboratories and state laboratories in any research and development cooperative agreements.

Dorn and Porter from Virginia Tech, supported by Hull at UVa, will take the lead in organizing a spring 2002 nanotechnology workshop that has the theme, "Small Scale—Big Business?" The meeting will focus attention upon findings with the most promise for commercial application, technology transfer, start-up opportunities in nanotechnology, and existing businesses interested in nanotechnology products and services.

INanoVA will hold a University Day so academic researchers can learn the needs and problems facing industry; and create a web site that catalogs nanotechnology resources within and near Virginia.

A workforce-development group discussed the educational programs required to ensure that Virginia has the human capital needed for a thriving nanotechnology industry. Recommendations are to develop a concentration in nanoscience at the undergraduate level and facilitate interactions with community colleges, establish a state-wide master-of-science degree in nanoscience and use distance learning to reduce start-up costs, offer review courses to attract students from a variety of backgrounds and interest areas, and use guest lecturers to provide an industry perspective.

Top federal government veterinarian joins VMRCVM faculty

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The federal government's chief veterinarian has assumed a two-year visiting professorship in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Craig Reed, administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), began work in the college's department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences in early September. Reed will technically remain a federal employee and affiliate with Virginia Tech under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, which enables federal employees to accept temporary appointments with other government and public agencies.

He will assist the university in the establishment of a new Joint Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health. That emerging initiative is designed to unite faculty members in the VMRCVM, the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources and Human Resources and Education in a collaborative center that will conduct research and undertake other programs designed to improve our nation's food supply and promote public health.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity to affiliate with a university like Virginia Tech and a regional college of veterinary medicine that is respected nationally for its contributions in government and corporate veterinary medicine," Reed said. "I'm looking forward to helping the university leverage its broad intellectual and programmatic resources in the food and public-health arena in a way which helps our nation deal with the major challenges which lie ahead."

Reed will also work with the VMRCVM's Center for Government and Corporate Veterinary Medicine on the campus of the

University of Maryland at College Park. He will help train and advise DVM students in the government and corporate veterinary-medicine curriculum and help coordinate student training experiences with a variety of federal agencies.

Reed will also work closely with Lester Crawford, head of the university's new Center for Food Policy and Nutrition. The Northern Virginia-based "think-tank" helps senior government and corporate policy-makers develop rational, science-based food and nutrition policy through research, outreach, public service, teaching and communications. The center was named a Center of Excellence in 1999 by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

"As the senior administrator of APHIS, Dr. Reed brings a great deal of stature and credibility to this new role in our organization," VMRCVM Dean Peter Eyre said. "The leadership, insight and wisdom he brings will enrich the educational opportunities we provide

for our students and help us elevate the contributions our college and university is making in food safety, nutrition and public health. We're tremendously excited about his arrival on campus."

Administrator of USDA-APHIS since 1998, Reed supervised more than 7,500 employees and a billion-dollar budget on programs designed to protect American livestock

from disease, and plants and crops from biological pests. He was also responsible for regulations concerning the movement of food, animal and forestry products into foreign markets, and animal-welfare laws that pertained to both non-agricultural animals and laboratory animals used in biological research.

Reed earned his BS and DVM degrees from Michigan State University.

PULITZER

Continued from 1

appears twice weekly in about 500 newspapers in the United States and Europe. He won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1977.

Will also writes a bi-monthly essay for *Newsweek*. He has published six collections of his columns and three books on political theory, *Statecraft as Soulcraft: What Government Does*,

The New Season: A Spectator's Guide to the 1988 Election, and *Restoration: Congress, Term Limits, and the Recovery of Deliberative Democracy*. His baseball books, *Men at Work: the Craft of Baseball* and *Bunts: Curt Flood, Camden Yards, Pete Rose, and Other Reflections on Baseball*, were bestsellers. He is a founding panel member on ABC's "This Week with Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts."

Will attended Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.), Oxford University, and Princeton University, where he received his Ph.D. He has taught political philosophy at Michigan State University, the University of Toronto, and Harvard University. In the 1970s, he worked as a U.S. Senate staff member and as the Washington editor of *National Review*.

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

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