

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 24 NUMBER 15 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2001

**TODAY'S EDITION**

See page 2 for  
holiday activities at  
the Donaldson Brown  
center.

## Dudley, Reifsnider to speak at Fall Commencement ceremonies



DUDLEY

*By David Nutter*

While sleigh bells may be ringing, graduation bells will be pealing the weekend of December 21-22 as Virginia Tech celebrates its Fall Commencement for its graduate and undergraduate students in Cassell Coliseum.

Ken Reifsnider, the Alexander Giacco chair of engineering, will be the keynote speaker at the Graduate School ceremony beginning at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21.

Charles J. Dudley, professor of sociology and director of the University Honors Program, will be the keynote speaker at the undergraduate ceremony to be held Saturday, Dec. 22, beginning at 10 a.m.

Since joining the university in 1974, Dudley has received many honors—including the University Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence and the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in the Department of Sociology—for his

devotion as a teacher and for academic excellence.

Since taking over the Honors Program in 1990, the scope and operations of the program have flourished. Working with faculty and staff members, Dudley created the Commonwealth Scholars Degree, the Combined Bachelor's/Master's program, the Honors Baccalaureate Degree, the Freshman Honors Seminar, Honors Reading Groups, and the Leadership Praxis for the Residential Leadership Program.

Dudley also partnered with a number of campus administrators and faculty members to create the Hillcrest Honors Residential Community, the Honors Community for Arts and Sciences and Engineering students, the Residential Leadership Program, the Pamplin Scholars Program, Colloquia and Study Abroad in Japan, and the National Scholarship Identification Program. (See *COMMENCEMENT* on 2)



REIFSNIDER

## New institute delves into metropolitan-development issues

*By Sarah Newbill*

A new Virginia Tech Institute for Metropolitan Research (VTIMR) will investigate the dynamics and development issues surrounding large metropolitan areas world-wide.

Projections for the year 2010 suggest there will be around 475 cities in the world with populations of a million or more, and of those, approximately 55 will have populations of 5 million or more. Urbanization on this scale implies a continuing need for analysis and investigation of its effects and implications for community quality of life, for the environment, and for governance. The new institute will undertake basic and applied

research on a range of problems and issues pertaining to metropolitan development.

The institute is dedicated to conducting sponsored interdisciplinary research on problems and issues associated with metropolitan development in the state, the nation, and the world. The institute will be located in Alexandria, central to the Washington metropolitan area whose size, growth rate, and socio-economic complexity presents a set of challenges and issues that parallel those of other major U.S. and world cities. A major focus will be on key areas of theoretical and applied research that confront metropolitan governments, organizations, and citizens world-wide, including the critical dimension of globalization and its implications for major

metropolitan areas.

The institute will also assist governments and non-profit institutions in resolving policy problems through research, technical assistance, and continuing professional education. VTIMR will be able to assist communities in the region to develop strategies and capacities to help resolve programs associated with metropolitan development.

The institute will be working with numerous college and university-based research centers, including the Institute for Policy Outreach, the Institute for Public Policy Research, the Center for Global Accountability, the Institute for Innovative Governance, the Institute for Community Health, and the Institute for Environmental and Urban Studies. (See *NEW* on 3)

## EO/AA, ACDMA develop proposal for new commission

*By Clara B. Cox*

The University Committee on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and the Advisory Council on Diversity and Multicultural Affairs have met jointly since September to develop a proposal for a new entity in the university governance structure: a Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

"The two advisory bodies realized that they were increasingly dealing with an overlapping agenda and set of concerns and decided that it made sense to combine our collaborative efforts in the form of a commission. Such a governance body would strengthen our means of addressing policy issues on a university-wide basis," said Benjamin Dixon, vice president for

(See *EO/AA* on 3)

## New campus construction projects under way

*By David Nutter*

The campus is abuzz with new several construction projects that are part and parcel of the university's master plan.

The soccer field at the corner of Washington and West Campus Drive is the hub of much of the new construction activity. Plans are under way to eventually build three new buildings on the site.

Construction has begun on a unified Student Services Building. As envisioned by the university's master plan, the Student Services building brings together a number of service functions to the residential area of campus. The three-story, 36,000-gross-square-foot building will primarily house Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, and the Bursar's Office. Other units to have a small presence in the building include Parking Services, CNS and ACS.

"The building will have a lot of

(See *CONSTRUCTION* on 3)



West perspective view of the Chemistry/Physics Building Phase I, covered in last week's page 3 for the Student Services Building project.

SpectrumSee

## Tech featured on Science Coalition web site

*By Susan Trulove*

Research at Virginia Tech will be featured the week of December 17 on the "On-Campus" section of the Science Coalition web site, a comprehensive resource for information on federally funded science research.

Each week, the coalition highlights scientific advances and on-going research at member universities. As a premiere research institution, Virginia Tech has been noted for scientific achievement and education in the areas of information technology, biotechnology, materials, and other areas that cross disciplines.

(See *TECH* on 4)



# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

**Friday, 14**

**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.  
Exams Begin.**

**Saturday, 15**

**Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Radford.**

**Wednesday, 19**

**"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF.**

**Thursday, 20**

**Exams End.**

**Friday, Dec 21**

**Graduation Reception for International Students, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Cranwell Center.**

**Graduate Commencement, 2:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.**

**Women's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At JMU.**

## BULLETIN

### New area code going into effect

Communications Network Services (CNS) is notifying the campus community that the new 434 area code for the western half of the existing 804 region becomes mandatory on Jan. 15, 2002.

For more information, go to web site [http://www.cns.vt.edu/news/sn\\_06.html](http://www.cns.vt.edu/news/sn_06.html).



**Lena Meredith-Hite, executive housekeeper at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, and her staff helped kicked off the holiday season by creating a winter wonderland around a gingerbread house crafted by Executive Chef Todd Wolfson.**

(J. Greenough)

## Public invited to enjoy holiday at DBHCC

*By Jeanne M. Garon*

The staff and management of the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center are inviting residents of the New River Valley to take a break from their busy holiday schedules and to experience the spirit of the season at the hotel. Visitors may stop by for a quick look at the hotel's lobby decorations or stay for a yuletide lunch in the hotel dining room.

"Chef and Lena, together with their staffs, really outdid themselves this year," said Bob Muse, the hotel's interim managing director, referring to the efforts of Executive Chef Todd Wolfson and Executive Housekeeper Lena Meredith-Hite.

Wolfson was designer and architect of the hotel's traditional flagship decoration—a large,

ornate gingerbread house made entirely of cookie dough and confections. Meredith-Hite and her team crafted the winter wonderland surrounding the house and decked the halls with lollipops, garlands, toys, evergreen trees, and the Nutcracker.

"We hope residents and visitors to the New River Valley will stop by and celebrate the season with us," Muse said. "The gingerbread house makes a great backdrop for holiday family photos, and chef is cooking up some great holiday meals."

The lobby decorations may be viewed around the clock through December 23.

The Donaldson Brown dining room serves lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30 to 1:30.

## New study-abroad program lets students work with Swiss companies

*By Sookhan Ho*

Virginia Tech Marketing Professor David Brinberg will lead a group of 20 students early next month on a new semester-long study-abroad program in Switzerland that will include collaborative projects with Swiss students for Swiss businesses.

In addition to classes at the university's Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale and weekend cultural excursions, the students will team up with two dozen students at the *Università della Svizzera Italiana* (University of Italian Switzerland) to develop marketing plans for Swiss olive oil and wine producers.

Brinberg, who worked for eight months to organize the program, including traveling to Switzerland twice, has met with officials from the Ticino Wine Association and Sabo, a family-owned olive-oil company based in Lugano, who are interested in getting help from the students in drawing up their export plans.

Brinberg said that after teaching at the Riva center in the fall of 2000, he was motivated to create a study-abroad experience for students that would more closely integrate classroom learning with international business practice. He said the integration of classroom and real-world business projects is what sets his new program apart from typical study-abroad programs. "It's designed to integrate our students more closely into the local academic and business community and to give them a greater sense of what it means to live and work in a global economy."

At a time when Americans are generally preferring to stay close to home, his students,

Brinberg said, are eagerly looking forward to their semester in Switzerland. Most of the students are business majors, and many will be venturing abroad for the first time, he said.

"I don't have fears about being over there. I feel very safe in Switzerland, as safe as I feel here," said Mandy Ranalli, a junior in marketing. "My parents felt fine about it. They were worried after the attacks but realize that you have to move on. They want me to be more cautious, to be aware of my surroundings."

Ranalli, whose only previous trip abroad was a high-school excursion to England, France, and Italy, says the program offered opportunities to learn about a new culture, get hands-on business experience, and develop new friendships. "It's such an opportunity—there's no way I could pass this up."

Brinberg is confident that the experience "will, in many ways, make his students better global citizens." It will give them a greater appreciation, he says, of the "various pressures people in other parts of the world live under. They'll see the world differently."

The students will take classes in marketing, business-information technology, and finance. Brinberg, who will teach for the first six weeks, will be followed by business-information-technology Associate Professor Lance Matheson, who will teach for four weeks, and Finance Professor Randy Billingsley, who will teach for two weeks. Brinberg will return to Switzerland for the final weeks of the program, which will end in early May, to provide guidance while the students complete their field projects.

## Sporn Award nominations sought

Omicron Delta Kappa is sponsoring their annual selection of Virginia Tech's Sporn Award recipient. The Sporn Award is a student-selected award for teaching excellence in an introductory-level class (1000/2000). One award of \$2,000 is given each year.

Students may nominate professors who they feel provided an excellent learning experience. Nominees must have the rank of instructor, or higher, and must not have received the Wine or Alumni Teaching awards in the past seven years. A committee of student representatives from Omicron Delta Kappa and Golden Key, representing each of the seven undergraduate colleges, and a faculty advisor (last

year's recipient) will select this year's Sporn Award recipient.

Access the nomination form on the ODK web site under "Awards and Scholarships" at <http://filebox.vt.edu/org/odk/sporn.htm>. Nominations may also be sent to [sporn@vt.edu](mailto:sporn@vt.edu). List the name of the professor, the course(s) taught on the 1000 or 2000 level, and the college and department of the professor. If nominating by e-mail, list several reasons for nominating the professor, including the professor's impact on the student's college experience.

The deadline for nominations is January 31.

## COMMENCEMENT

*Continued from 1*  
tion and Preparation Program.

Reifsnider joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1968 and was promoted to full professor in 1975 and has contributed much to the school of engineering as well as the university graduate program. Reifsnider served as chairman of the Materials Engineering Science Ph.D. program from 1974 to 1992. He was the associate provost for Interdisciplinary Programs from 1996 to 2001, during which time interdisciplinary research at the university grew at an unprecedented rate.

During his years at Tech, he has directed more than 50 graduate-student programs and supervised research for over 60 engineering projects. Reifsnider has received many awards for his efforts, such as the J. Shelton Horsley

Research Award from the Virginia Academy of Science, and the Alumni Award for Research Excellence from Virginia Tech.

Reifsnider has published more than 170 articles in refereed journals, several book chapters, and edited eight books. His appearances include numerous plenary and keynote addresses, and over 90 invited lectures in 28 foreign countries.

Tickets are not required for either ceremony. New security procedures will subject all bags and purses to search before entry to the coliseum. Families and guests should arrive early and expect a delay entering the building.



# 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

**Assistant Director, Development Research**, 007556S, PB 4, University Development.

**Assistant Manager**, 000975H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Command Pilot/Safety Officer**, 002129F, PB 5, ATS.

**Coordinator of Administrative Affairs**, 007879R, PB 4, Executive VP's Office.

**Customer Service Manager**, 001525F, PB 4, Physical Plant.

**Data Base Administrator**, 000862Y, PB 5, ISC.

**Electrician**, 000065F, PB 3, FES.

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

**Food Production Supervisor**, 000405H, PB 1, RDP.

**Grounds Worker Senior**, 002333F, PB 1, PPG.

**Housekeeping Manager**, 006926H, PB 3, RDP.

**Housekeeping Supervisor**, 000269H, PB 2, RDP.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 007860M, PB 3, CVM—BSP.

**Laboratory Specialist**, 007707B, PB 3, CE.

**Large Animal Veterinary Technician**, 001996M, PB 4, VTH.

**Meat Processing Facility Manager**, 003273M, PB 4, FST.

**Medical Technologist**, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.

**Multimedia Systems/Applications Specialist**, 002054A, PB 4, VBS.

**Operations Manager**, 007121H, PB 4, RDP.

**Project Coordinator**, 006971F, PB 4, Physical Plant.

**Sous Chef**, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

**Sous Chef**, 000940H, PB 3, RDP.

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

**Transportation Planner**, 007498F, PB 4, OT.

**Warehouse Specialist**, 007142H, PB 2, RDP.

**Web-Site Designer**, 007900S, PB 4, Information Systems.

### PART TIME

**Animal Care Technician Large Animal**, W020066M, PB 2, VTH.

**Animal Care Technician/Small Animal**, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.

**Assistant Manager, VT Farm/Family Showcase**, W023344M, PB 3, College Farm.

**Distance Learning Classroom Technician**, W020967A, PB 3, VBS.

**Fiscal Technician**, W020810M, PB 3, VTH.

**ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal**, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.

**Laboratory Specialist**, W023305M, PB 3, APS.

**Office Services Specialist**, W023338J, PB 2, Dean of Students.

**Research Applications Programmer**, W023347R, PB 4, VTTI.

**Telecommunications Field Technician**, W023348A, PB 3, CNS.

### OFF CAMPUS

**Adult Program Assistant**, 006602J, PB 2, HNEF.

**Adult Program Assistant**, 006604J, PB 2, Prince William County.

**Efnep Adult Program Assistant**, 006103M, PB 2, VCE—Prince William County.

**GIS Specialist**, 006702J, PB 3, Fisheries/Wildlife.

**Radio Announcer**, W020800S, PB 3, UR/WVTF Radio.

**Research Assistant**, 007542B, PB 2, Biology.

**Research Specialist**, 003230M, PB 3,

Hampton Roads AREC.

**Youth Program Assistant**, 005889J, PB 2, HNEF.

**Youth Program Assistant**, 007233J, PB 2, HNEF.

**Youth Program Assistant**, 007464J, PB 2, HNEF.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

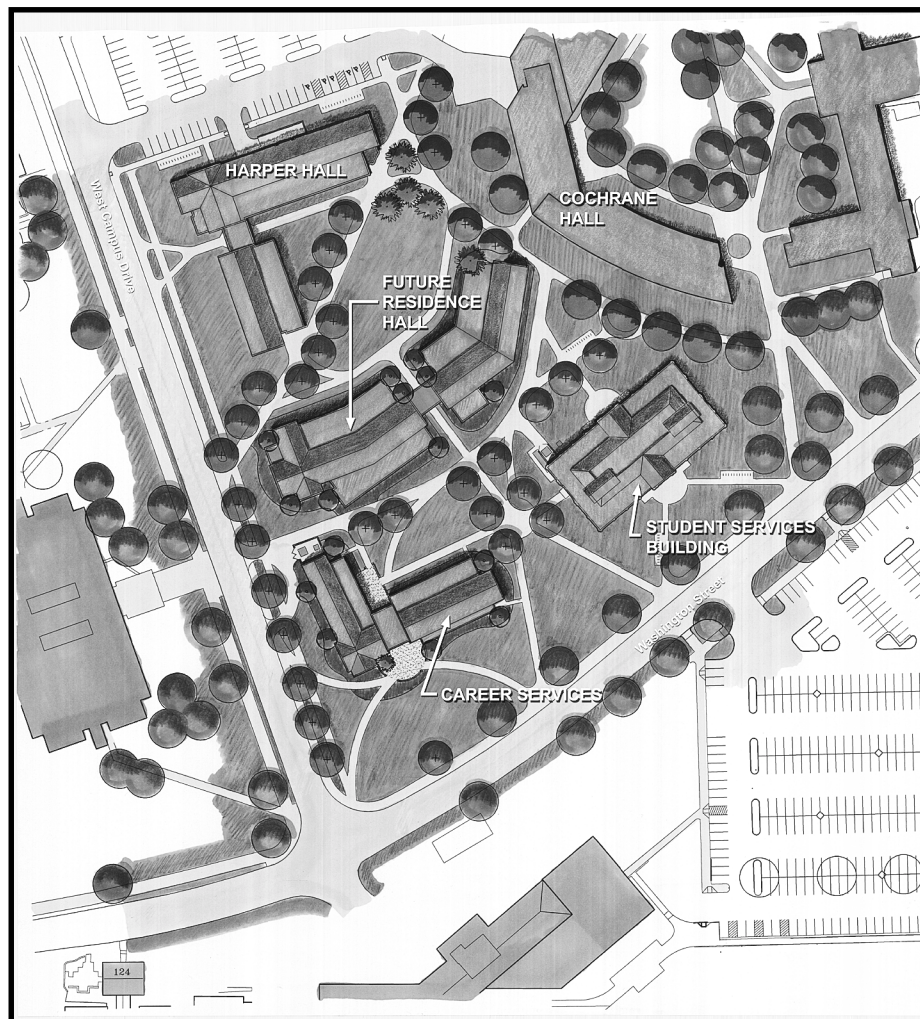
### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**VCE. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development.** #FA824, Goochland Co. Contact: Robert Ray Meadows, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Jan. 4.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Family/Consumer Sciences (re-advertised).** #FA628, Surry Co. Contact: Eleanor Schlenker, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Jan. 4.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Family/Consumer Sciences (re-advertised).** #112358, Fairfax Co. Contact: Eleanor Schlenker, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Jan. 9.

**Geological Sciences. Research Associate.** Contact: Patricia Dove, 4068 Derring (0420). Open until filled.



Site map of the Student Services/Career Services building project on Washington Street.

## CONSTRUCTION

*Continued from 1*

traditional gothic detail, much like Burruss Hall, but on a smaller scale," said Capital Design and Construction Project Manager J.W. Wood. Project engineers say the \$6.68-million project is set for completion January 2003.

The new building will also free space in Burruss Hall for academic programs.

By spring 2002, construction should also be under way for the Career Services Building

that will be located next to the Student Services Building.

The 21,000-gross-square-foot Career Services Building, will be the sole home for the career and placement-services programs. The two-story collegiate gothic building is scheduled for completion the following year. Total cost for the project is \$4.6 million.

The quadrant is also the future site for a new residence hall.

## NEW

*Continued from 1*

for the Social Assessment of Information Technology.

VTIMR will also complement and augment aspects of the research of the Alexandria Research Institute, the World Institute for Disaster Risk Management, the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, the Northern Virginia arm of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Civil and Environmental Engineering's Occoquan Laboratory, and the VT Institute for Information Technology. VTIMR researchers will collaborate with faculty members from several Virginia Tech graduate academic programs in Northern Virginia as well, including architecture, geography, civil and environmental engineering, electrical and computer engineering, landscape architecture, natural resources, public administration and policy, public and international affairs, and urban and regional planning.

The institute is currently headed by interim director, Ted Koebel, director of the Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech. A search is currently in process to find a full-time director. An associate director, Peter Taylor, will be joining the institute in 2002 and will head the Globalization and Comparative Metropolitan Research for the institute.

Taylor joins VTIMR from Loughborough University in England where he serves as professor of geography and associate dean for research in social sciences and humanities.

## EO/AA

*Continued from 1*

multicultural affairs.

The two advisory groups will meet again on December 18 to put the final touches on the proposal, which will then go to the Faculty and Staff senates for approval before going to University Council. If approved by the council, the proposal must go to the Board of Visitors for final approval.

Plans are under way to print the proposal in *Spectrum* in January.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Food and Nutrition symposium convened

By Charlie Stott

Federal, state and local health care expenditures have skyrocketed 79-fold over the past 40 years to almost \$523 billion annually in direct outlays of public funds. As the baby-boom generation ages, the costs associated with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer are expected to increase much more.

Industry professionals, academic researchers, and government policy makers interested in food, nutrition, and health issues convened for a special Food and Nutrition for Health Symposium on December 6 in Falls Church.

The forum provided an opportunity to explore the economic value and overall impact that food and nutrition research could have—through improved disease prevention and food safety—on health, on treatment costs, and on our quality of life. Speakers provided a view of the critical and emerging issues that will affect progress towards improved health and lower costs through better food consumption.

Invited speakers included Claude Allen, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Joseph A. Levitt, director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Elsa Murano, under secretary of food safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Donald W. Upson, Virginia secretary of technology; Louis Rossiter, Virginia secretary of health and human resources; John Milner, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health; and Lester Crawford, Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, Virginia Tech.

## Binmore presents James Buchanan lectures

By Sally Harris

Last week, the Department of Economics hosted the world-renowned game theorist Ken G. Binmore, who delivered the 2001 James M. Buchanan Lectures in Economics on the topic of Game Theory and the Social Contract.

The James Buchanan Lectures are an annual event in the Department of Economics. James Buchanan, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 1986, is a professor emeritus of economics and philosophy at Virginia Tech. He provides support for the lectures, enabling the department to bring in prominent scholars in economics to speak to the university community. More than 100 faculty members and students from departments throughout the university attended the lectures.

Binmore is professor of economics at the University College London and director of the ESRC Center for Economic Learning and Social Evolution. He served as a professor at the London School of Economics in the early 1980s. He was instrumental in designing a market to auction the mobile-phone spectrum in Britain, which netted over \$35 billion for the British government.

Binmore's lectures presented a game-theoretic perspective on social justice and the evolution of social norms. He argued that evolved fairness norms act as a coordination (or equilibrium selection) device, helping societies to cooperate successfully.

### **STUDENT DEATH NOTICE**

Beatrice T. Woods, graduate student in the College of Human Resources and Education.

## New streamside video now available

By Lynn Davis

The educational video, *Saving America's Streams and Streamside Lands*, is now available to the public. Louis Helfrich, fisheries professor and Extension specialist in the fisheries and wildlife sciences department in the College of Natural resources, was executive producer and writer of the 28-minute-long tape.

Highlighting what interested individuals can do to protect natural habitats along rivers and streamside lands for future generations, the video (Extension Publication 275-140), along with three others—*Saving America's Non-game Fishes*, *Freshwater Mussels*, and *Crayfishes*—and companion posters can be viewed at <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/extension/fiw/fisheries/postersvideos/index.html>. They are available at a nominal fee of \$10 per video and \$7 per poster through the Virginia Cooperative Extension at 1-1325, or by contacting [monteh@vt.edu](mailto:monteh@vt.edu).

Streamside lands are among the most important remaining natural habitats in the nation. Streamside forests and grasslands protect water quality, slow soil runoff, reduce flooding, and provide good fish and wildlife habitat. Lush streamside vegetation provides food shelter, nursery areas, and travel corridors for migratory birds and wildlife. Streamside trees and grasses keep water temperatures cool, and they

supply insects and other food for fish, crayfish, snails, salamanders, and freshwater mussels. Streamside plants filter out excess nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen and harmful substances such as livestock wastes, soil, acids, pesticides, and sediments.

City parks along waterways provide popular open spaces, which are often used for fishing, picnicking, hiking, wildlife watching, and family outings. In many environments, however, house construction, land development, and water pollution continue to threaten the health of streams. Good farming practices such as leaving a natural buffer strip and fencing livestock help protect aquatic life and water quality.

The video offers citizens such suggestions to protect these natural habitats as adopting local streams and becoming a stream watcher.

Paul Lancaster, broadcast media coordinator with University Relations, assisted with writing, producing, and narrating the video. Technical advisors included Richard Neves, professor in the fisheries and wildlife sciences department, and Richard Biggins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tim Fisher-Poff, graphic designer with University Relations, designed the video cover, and Gary Whiting and Jason Hutchens were the videographers.

## Research to fine tune studies of geologic time

By Sally Harris

Research by a Virginia Tech geological-sciences graduate student has more closely defined the environmental effect on organisms over time, a step that will help in such fields as evolutionary biology, paleontology, paleo-ecology, and paleo-environmental interpretation. It can, for example, help oil companies with mapping.

Jennifer Stempien said the basic theory in geobiology is that environmental conditions have a strong influence on the shape and size of organisms. In the past, such studies in geobiology were done over a time range of 2 million years, when changes in fossil shape and size are reasonably detected. "Our study is for one-half million years," she said. "We're trying to see what the shortest time interval is in which we can see change in an organism due to environmental change. We are focusing on a gradual environmental change that occurred in Southeastern Virginia 3.5 million years ago to 3 million years ago due to changes in sea

level and the effect of that change on one species."

Stempien was scheduled to present her work during the Geological Society of America meeting in Boston in November.

Stempien, along with Michal Kowalewski of Virginia Tech's Department of Geological Sciences, is using *Mulinia congesta* (Conrad), a small bottom-dwelling clam, in their research. The clam can be found along the Eastern seaboard, but the study focuses on those collected in Virginia and in rocks that record the environmental change.

Stempien's studies will help fine tune biostratigraphy, or the use of fossils and sedimentary rock layers to figure out geologic time used by oil companies to map areas that, before, they could map with a resolution of only two to three million years. The studies also will help researchers see the amount of variability within a species or population during a shorter time period and the stability of that species as environments change.

## Seiler receives teaching award

By Lynn Davis

John Seiler, professor of forestry in the forestry department in the College of Natural Resources, has received the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching award. Seiler was one of two educators chosen in the southern region and one of eight from across the nation.

Seiler has a distinguished history of teaching excellence. He has twice received the College of Natural Resources' Curriculum Clubs' Outstanding Faculty Award. In 1994, he received a University Certificate of Teaching Excellence, and in 1997 was honored with the William E. Wine Award for his commitment to instruction at the university. In 1998, the Society of American Foresters awarded him the nationally recognized Carl Alwin Schenck Award for excellence in the field of forestry education and devotion to the art of teaching. In September, Seiler, Jeffrey Kirwan, and John Peterson, all from the College of Natural Resources, received the Virginia Tech XCaliber Award in recognition of their teamwork in developing on-line, technologically integrated courses and supporting teaching aids.

President Charles W. Steger said, "We were pleased to learn from the U.S.D.A. about this high honor recognizing John Seiler for his accomplishments and contributions to the university, and to forestry education." Gregory Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources, said "because of his extraordinary teaching excellence over the years, John was recently named the Honorable and Mrs. Shelton H. Short Jr. professor, following retirement of David Smith."

Seiler, a tree physiology and silviculture specialist, has academic interests in environmental-stress effects on woody-plant physiology, including water and pollutant stresses, physiological responses to silvicultural treatments, and carbon sequestration (removing carbon from the atmosphere). His research interests includes characterization and modeling of seasonal gas exchange in fertilized loblolly-pine plantations, development of innovative learning techniques in woody-plant identification and forest biology, and quantifying carbon release rates in managed loblolly-pine plantations.

His two-CD set, *Woody Plants in North America* (Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 2000), was recently highlighted in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and is being used by universities and individuals across North America.

### **TECH**

*Continued from 1*

The Science Coalition web site will feature research by faculty members and students at Virginia Tech on emergency-communication technology, plant life in the Arctic millions of years ago, nanotechnology for new sensors and molecular devices, tracking acid-mine drainage, why there is more matter than antimatter, the history of tap dance, and a web site about housing policies across the country.

The Science Coalition web site can be found at [www.sciencecoalition.org](http://www.sciencecoalition.org). Visitors to the site can find the latest legislative news, browse through the "On-Campus" archives, or read a multitude of science and technology documents in the web site's library.

The Science Coalition comprises more than 400 organizations, including major public and private research universities, businesses, voluntary health organizations, medical groups, health-care providers, scientific societies and individuals, dedicated to sustaining the federal government's historic commitment to federally funded university science research.

After December 17, the Virginia Tech site can be accessed at [www.research.vt.edu/resmag/sc2001\\_2/](http://www.research.vt.edu/resmag/sc2001_2/).

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