

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 18 FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2002

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for
Personnel Services
information

Session Begins; Legislators Face Difficult Decisions

By Ralph Byers, director of government relations

The 2002 General Assembly began its work on January 9, facing the worst revenue shortfall in 10 years. While prospects are favorable for the passage of a large capital-outlay package for higher education, at the same time, deep cuts in operating budgets seem inevitable given the state's fiscal situation.

Outgoing Governor James Gilmore proposed General Fund cuts to all state agencies of 2 percent for the remainder of FY2002, and 6-percent cuts for the 2002-2004 biennium. Gilmore also proposed additional cuts to higher education that could be offset to some extent by tuition increases. In addition, the allocations for

the Equipment Trust Fund and Maintenance Reserve Fund were cut in half, and funding was also reduced for the Eminent Scholars program

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

and Virtual Library of Virginia.

In his State of the Commonwealth address January 14, new Governor Mark Warner proposed General Fund cuts of 3 percent, 7 percent, and 8 percent, respectively, for the three years in question. How possible tuition increases might be treated was not discussed in the speech, and

details of Warner's budget proposals will not be available until January 23.

In the meantime, the leadership of the House of Delegates and Senate has agreed on a historically large capital-outlay package for higher education. This package provides considerably more than the previous proposal by Gilmore, which was reported in the December 21 issue of *Spectrum*. Warner has indicated he will wait for more information on revenue and debt service costs before deciding whether to support the General Assembly package in its entirety. (See accompanying chart for specific projects.)

Details of the new budget proposals will be reported in *Spectrum* and on line as they become available.

University braces for budget reductions

Some good news for building projects

By Larry Hincker

As the new year began, state agencies, including colleges and universities, were preparing for budget reductions. State revenues are less than forecast for the current year and the revenue picture will demand further reductions in the budget of the new biennium beginning July 1, 2002.

The state had directed agencies, including Virginia Tech, to return 2 percent of the current-year budget. For Virginia Tech that totals approximately \$4.95 million. However, Governor Mark Warner said on Monday when addressing the 2002 General Assembly that he will request a 3-percent recession (give-back).

"These are serious concerns and the overall impact on the university as we incorporate current and future-year reductions obviously will affect operations. In light of the governor's new directions, we are evaluating our options and will communicate with the university community as soon as possible," President Charles Steger said.

The university had begun planning efforts to absorb a 6-percent reduction of state funding in fiscal year 02-03. However, Warner indicated on Monday that he will request 7-percent and 8-percent reductions in FY02-03 and FY 03-04 respectively. The state also had proposed reductions in the equipment trust fund and the maintenance reserve fund.

There may be some good news in the revenue mix. As reported in last week's

(See BUDGET on 4)

Presidents' scholarship to benefit employees' dependents

By Terry McGuire

President Charles W. Steger has joined with three past university presidents and the widow of a fourth, to establish a \$25,000 endowed scholarship that will benefit the dependents and spouses of full-time Virginia Tech employees who enter the university as freshman or transfer students. The first Presidential Dependent Endowed Scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2002.

In addition to Steger, T. Marshall Hahn, William Lavery, Paul Torgersen, and Adele McComas-White, widow James McComas, have provided funding for the scholarship.

"Virginia Tech's well-earned reputation for excellence can be directly attributed to the quality of its staff and faculty members," Steger said. "And this scholarship is one way to recognize their dedication and professionalism."

The scholarship will help strengthen the continuing efforts of the university to attract and retain top staff and faculty members. During the past two years, a scholarship committee composed of university volunteers has worked with Tech's Office of University Development to develop a program to attract contributions from university employees for dependent-scholarship awards. In 1999 and 2000, six \$500 scholarships

were given, while nearly 12 scholarships already have been funded during the current academic year.

"The establishment of the Presidential Dependent Endowed Scholarship is really a vote of confidence from university leadership. It ensures the future of the program," said Tom McAvoy, a founding member of the Employees' Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Committee. "The need for this type of scholarship is growing, and we hope to continue building upon the solid foundation provided by the generosity of current and past leaders of Virginia Tech."

Meat science programs ranked seventh in nation

By Angela Correa

Meat & Poultry Magazine, a leading journal for the meat and poultry industries, has ranked Virginia Tech seventh in the nation for its meat and poultry programs.

The article, which appeared in November, contained the magazine's debut college ranking of the nation's top-10 overall programs. The ranking was based on a combination of a review of eligible programs by the magazine's editorial staff and surveys of professionals working in all segments of the industry.

Virginia Tech's ranking, which puts it ahead of Penn State, Ohio State, and Oklahoma State Universities, reflects the university's established reputation within the meat and poultry industry for supplying a steady stream of quality students and providing low-cost problem-solving services. Texas A&M was the top-ranked program. Virginia Tech is the highest-ranked program east of the Mississippi.

Virginia Tech has a diverse livestock-science program in its Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, as well as a meat-science program in the food-science-and-technology department. The two departments have collaborated on numerous research efforts and provide a complete "farm-to-table" education program for meat and poultry. The departments have a combined enrollment of more than 450 undergraduate and 65 graduate students at the current time.

Survey respondents specifically named two faculty members from the Department of Food Science and Technology, George Flick and Norman Marriott, lauding their efforts in research and Extension.

The annual ranking, which is sponsored by the American Foods Group, will continue to track the esteem and opinions of industry stakeholders in university meat-and-poultry programs nation-wide.

Emergency network demonstrated for officials

By Liz Crumbley

A number of federal agency representatives and Southside Virginia officials recently attended a demonstration in Chatham of a new emergency-wireless-communications network developed by Virginia Tech's Center for Wireless Telecommunications (CWT) and the Virginia Beach offices of SAIC, a high-technology research and engineering company based in San Diego, California.

The unique broadband wireless network can be set up quickly for communications in emergency and disaster response and recovery efforts. The project is sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with additional funding from the National Response Center (NRC).

Communications systems connected by wire and fiber can be destroyed by attacks or natural disasters. The new wireless network can be deployed rapidly in such situations to carry vast amounts of voice and computer informa-

(See EMERGENCY on 4)

Dean to continue leave of absence

By Lynn Nystrom

F. William Stephenson, dean of the College of Engineering since 1994, who has been on a medical leave of absence, will not be resuming his duties as dean this semester as originally planned. Mark McNamee, university provost, has extended Stephenson's leave.

Malcolm McPherson, acting dean for the past three months, will continue in this capacity, McNamee said.

McNamee is meeting with the college leadership to discuss plans.

McNamee cited Stephenson for his many contributions to the college and to the university, and said, "We all share an overriding interest in making sure Bill's immediate and long-term health issues receive high-priority attention."

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 18

Lee-Jackson Holiday for Staff Members.
Last Day to Add.

Saturday, 19

Women's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: St. John's.

Sunday, 20

Men's Basketball, noon: At Boston College.

Monday, 21

Martin Luther King Holiday for Staff Members.
Diversity Summit, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Squires Commonwealth.

University Council: CANCELLED.

Tuesday, 22

Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., DBHCC Executive Conference Rooms.
Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. to noon, Squires Old Dominion

Ballroom.

Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room C.

Faculty Senate, 7 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

Wednesday, 23

Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. to noon, Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

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

Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., DBHCC.

CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC conference room A.

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

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At Syracuse.

Thursday, 24

Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. to noon, Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

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

DBHCC Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., DBHCC: Southwest Roundup.

Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC room F.

CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., Southgate Personnel Classroom.

Black History Month Program, 7 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre.

Friday, 25

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

SEMINARS

Friday, 18

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Charles Winter, Wayne State.

Wednesday, 23

CASS, 3 to 4 p.m., 307 Davidson: Chris White, NIST.

Friday, 25

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Yri Kazakezich, Seton Hall.

Faculty Development workshops scheduled for spring semester

Starting Monday, Jan. 28 and continuing through Thursday, March 14, nearly 60 Faculty Development workshops are scheduled for spring semester, from 10 a.m. to noon or 3 to 5 p.m. FDI workshop topics are organized by themes such as desktop-computing skills, web development, digital-content creation, web-based instruction, web-based research and emerging technologies.

New this semester is Element K, consisting of self-paced, on-line modules for hundreds of popular programs by Adobe, Macromedia, Microsoft and others. Addition-

ally, a three-part series on classroom assessment techniques, will also be offered, with an emphasis on on-line course development.

Most FDI workshops focus on teaching and learning with technology. The Institute for Distance and Distributed Learning (IDDL) support team will give several workshops on distance teaching. Three workshops will cover topics related to Blackboard, the university's web-course management system.

This year's workshops range from techniques to add narration to Powerpoint presentations for on-line lectures and creating Flash

vector graphic animation to designing effective feedback questions. New versions of several computer programs will also be featured during the spring workshops, such as Adobe's Premiere and Apple's Quicktime. Macromedia FreeHand is a vector-based graphics program designed to simplify the task of vector graphics for print media or web sites. Flash is a vector-based program that can replace or enhance HTML for the creation of dynamic web sites, including simple animations.

Featured in other workshops are updated versions of familiar computer software, such as

Adobe PhotoShop, Real Media, Apple QuickTime VR and Blackboard.

FDI workshops are designed for instructional faculty members, however all workshops are open to staff members and graduate students. Seating is limited per workshop and on-line registration is possible at <http://www.fdi.vt.edu/spring/2002/default.html>

All workshops held in the FDI Classroom (3060 Torgersen) or New Media Center, (1120 Torgersen), unless otherwise indicated.

For more information, contact Ed McPherson at 1-8029, ejay@vt.edu or <http://www.fdi.vt.edu>.

PROPOSED CAPITAL-OUTLAY PACKAGE

Project	HB/SB 29 Frozen*	Jumpstart Package*	General Obligation Bond	Total Capital Package
Bioinformatics Building, Phase II		\$20,436,000		\$20,436,000
Chemistry/Physic Building Renovation	19,139,000			19,139,000
Williams, Agnew Burruss Renovation	5,218,000		4,800,000	10,018,000
Main Campus Chilled Water Central Plant			2,800,000	2,800,000
Fine Arts Center, Renovate Henderson Hall			6,542,000	6,542,000
Virginia Tech Institute for Critical Technologies (Phase I)			13,996,000	13,996,000
Biology Building			14,263,000	14,263,000
New Vivarium Facility			12,000,000	12,000,000
Classroom Improvements, Phase I			4,530,000	4,530,000
Building Construction Facility			2,500,000	2,500,000
Litton Reaves Exterior Structural Repairs			2,500,000	2,500,000
Cowgill Hall HVAC and Power			7,500,000	7,500,000
Replace Dairy Facilities		4,500,000		4,500,000
Burruss Hall Infrastructural Renewal, Phase I			2,500,000	2,500,000
Cooperative Extension/Agriculture Experiment Station Agriculture and Natural Resources Research Laboratory Facility *To be funded by Virginia College Building Authority over next 6 to 8 months.			20,619,856	20,619,856

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

Six full-time food-service positions available.

Administrative Assistant, 000729R, PB 3, President's Office.

Chapel Manager, 000482J, PB 3, UUSA. **Coordinator of Administrative Affairs**, 007879R, PB 4, Exec. VP's Office.

Development Associate, 002102S, PB 3, Development.

Engineering Technician (Survey), 007806F, PB 3, Physical.

Government Documents Assistant, W023251G, PB 2, University Libraries, Technical Services.

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

Housekeeping Worker, 007264J, PB 1, Recreational Sports.

Housekeeping Worker, 007263J, PB 1, Recreational Sports.

III Assistant, 006693G, PB 2, University Libraries.

Immigration Specialist, 000122R, PB 3, Graduate School.

Lab Instrument Maker, 001747G, PB 4, Physics/Chemistry.

Laboratory Specialist, 007860M, PB 3, CVM.

Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.

Office Services Assistant, 000464G, PB 2.

Office Services Specialist, 000041M, PB 2, FST.

Office Services Specialist, 001719R, PB 2, Registrar.

Operations Manager, 007121H, PB 4, RDP.

Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.

Senior Systems Administrator, 000241G, PB 6, Mathematics.

Sous Chef, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP.

PART TIME

Administrative Assistant, W023358J, PB 3, Athletics.

Audio Support Specialist, W023130J, PB 3, UUSA.

Course Developer, W023214R, PB 4, IDDL.

Fiscal Technician, W020810M, PB 3, VTH.

Graphic Artist, W020567H, PB 3, RDP.

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

Laboratory Specialist, W023305M, PB 3, APS.

Program Support Technician, W023352J, PB 3, HTM.

Research Assistant, W023351M, PB 3, AAE.

Research Specialist, 007465M, PB 3, Horticulture.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Trades Utilities Lead Worker, U006450F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

OFF CAMPUS

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

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

Director of Nursing, 002178M, PB 4, CVM—Equine Medical Center.

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

Fiscal Technician, 007407M, PB 3, VCE—Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center.

Program Support Technician, 007912R, PB 3, Graduate School.

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

Unit Administrative Assistant, 005451M, PB 3, VCE—Northampton County.

Youth Program Assistant, 005889J, PB 2, HNFE.

Youth Program Assistant, 007464J, PB 2, HNFE.

Youth Program Assistant, 007233J, PB 2, HNFE.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Human Development. Program Coordinator/Instructor in Child Development/Early Childhood Education. Contact: Andy Stremmel, 317 Wallace (0416). Deadline: Feb. 1.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Forestry. Superintendent, Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center. Contact: Harold Burkhart, 307 Cheatham (0324). Deadline: Feb. 28 or until filled.

University Development. Director of Development for College of Architecture/Urban Studies. Contact: Rhonda Arsenault, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.

University Development. Director of Annual Giving. Contact: Rhonda Arsenault, 201 Pack Bldg. (0336). Review begins immediately.

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

Public Service Programs. Economic Development Specialist, Outreach Councils. Contact: Chad Miller, 1080 S. Main St. (0162). Review begins Feb. 1.

Judicial Affairs. Assistant Director of Judicial Affairs. Contact: Jennifer Calhoun, 151E Henderson (0277). Deadline: March 22.

PERSONNEL SERVICES INFORMATION

Tax-Sheltered-Annuities and Tax-Reform Legislation Noted

By Douglas D. Martin, senior human-resources manager

Recently enacted federal legislation, Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRRA), changed several rules applicable to tax-sheltered annuities, the state deferred-compensation plan, and tuition waivers. In general, the following changes are applicable at this time:

The contribution limits to the 403(b) tax-sheltered annuities and state 457 deferred-compensation plan has increased from \$10,500 to \$11,000 in 2002. An individual may now use both plans, which would permit an individual to shelter 100 percent of salary up to at least \$11,000 in the 403(b) program and another \$11,000 into the 457 deferred-compensation plan.

Participants who will be age 50 or over by Dec. 31, 2002, may make an additional contribution of \$1,000 in 2002 to their 403(b) tax shelter, thereby sheltering \$12,000 instead of the \$11,000 general limit. As stated above, individuals may now use the

457 deferred-compensation plan in addition to the traditional 403(b) tax-shelter program. The 457 deferred-compensation plan is administered by the Virginia Retirement System and the vendor is Great West.

The Maximum Exclusion Allowance (MEA) calculation for 403(b) plans is eliminated. However, some long-term (over 15 years) employees have used a catch-up provision that allowed for an additional contribution of up to \$3,000 per year. Special calculations provided by vendors are needed to determine if participants are still eligible for the special "catch-up" provision.

Rollover rules have been liberalized. Distributions from qualified retirement plans, 403(b) plans, state and local government 457 plans, and IRA's may be rolled into any one of such plans or into IRA's.

An important change is that faculty or classified staff members will now be able to use 403(b) or 457 funds to purchase approved service credit in VRS. Forms and guidelines are now available that allow participants to do a

"trust-to-trust" transfer from 403(b) or 457 plans directly to the Virginia Retirement System to purchase service credit such as military time, other public service and related service.

Beginning in 2002, tuition waivers will no longer be taxable for graduate-level or professional-level degree programs.

To provide more detailed information and to address specific questions or concerns, general meetings are scheduled for faculty and staff members in Donaldson Brown Continuing Education Center rooms D and E, today from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, from 9 to 11 a.m., and Thursday, Jan. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Registration is not required, and faculty and staff members are encouraged to attend.

Individual questions concerning tax-sheltered annuities or the state deferred-compensation plan may be addressed to Jim Richardson at jhrich@vt.edu or 1-9213; Ella Mae Vaught at emvaught@vt.edu or 1-7774; or Carolyn Pratt at cpratt@vt.edu or 1-7776.



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.

Editor
John Ashby, 1-6961

Assistant Editor

Production Manager
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager
1-8819

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/>

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination or accessibility regarding the programs described in this newspaper should contact the Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Office: 540-231-7500 (v), 540-231-9460 (TTY).

IEEE honors Trew for national leadership

By Liz Crumbley

Robert Trew, head of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), is being honored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)-USA for his significant contributions while in government service to the field of electrotechnology.

IEEE-USA announced it is presenting the Harry Diamond Memorial Award to Trew "for his technical contributions to the theory and design of microwave power devices using wide bandgap semiconductors, and leadership in

managing DOD'S (U.S. Department of Defense) basic research program."

Trew served for four years as director of research for DOD and for five years as a program manager for the U.S. Army Research Office at North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

As DOD'S director of research from 1997 to 2001, Trew provided scientific leadership and oversight for the agency's annual \$1.3-billion military and defense-research programs. He also managed the \$292-million DOD University Research Initiative, which includes the Multidisciplinary University Research Initia-

tive and the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program.

Trew also served as vice-chair of a national committee of U.S. government agency representatives that led the way in formulating the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI). The NNI provides support for long-range research in nanotechnology, and produced an increase in the annual federal research support for nanotechnology from \$270 million to \$430 million.

In addition to holding government posts, (See *IEEE* on 4)

Jimmy P. Todd, 51

Jimmy P. (JT) Todd, 51, died Friday, Jan. 4, at his residence in Blacksburg. He had been a television systems engineer with Video Broadcast Services since 1991.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fox Cemetery, 9097 Wilson Highway, Independence, VA, 24348.

Tech senior gives speech

Virginia Tech wide receiver André Davis was chosen to respond on behalf of the 2001 class of National College Scholar-Athletes at the annual awards banquet in November. Davis was selected from the 16 award winners to give a short speech to those attending the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's Awards Dinner.

"This is a great accomplishment and I intend to represent myself, my family and Virginia Tech well," Davis said. "It's quite an honor to be chosen from the 16 award winners and I'm proud of this honor. I'll be a little nervous, but I know I can do a good job."

Since 1959, when the first class was selected, 602 scholar-athletes have been awarded this honor based on superior academic performance, outstanding football ability, strong leadership and citizenship. Each scholar-athlete receives an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship and is recognized at the foundation's awards dinner in New York City.

A three-time Academic All-Big East Conference selection, Davis has demonstrated his academic prowess in four-plus years at Virginia Tech. A Dean's List member, Davis is also a member of the Virginia Tech Athletic Director's Honor Roll and the Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society. Davis has already graduated with a degree in residential property management. He is also one of the most successful receivers and punt returners in Tech football history.

Soybean community looks at new marketplace

By Lynn Nystrom

The agricultural community has invested nearly half-a-million dollars at Virginia Tech to determine if polyurethanes could be economically synthesized from soybean oil.

The polyurethane business is huge, as these resins are used in numerous types of chemical-resistant coatings and in adhesives and foams or other similar products. If soybean oil were found to be a feasible ingredient in the manufacturing of polyurethanes, the economic returns to the farming community would be potentially significant.

The Soybean Board, with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided \$488,000 to three Virginia Tech faculty members to conduct this research: Garth Wilkes of chemical engineering, Tim Long of chemistry, and Chip Frazier of wood science. All three are members of the interdisciplinary Polymer Materials and Interfaces Laboratory (PMIL).

The principal goal, Wilkes said, is to lessen the cost of urethane polymers. Although these systems are diverse and flexible, the urethane

market needs a renewable, recyclable, lower-cost polyol (a molecule within the polymer). Some initial work by a firm, Urethane Soy Systems Company, has scored some favorable impressions, he said.

"To increase the attractiveness of these products for the broad urethane market, more data and understanding of how the production and physical properties of these soy-oil products fit the needs of the market is needed," Wilkes said.

Veterinary informatics researcher lands USDA grant

By Jeffrey Douglas

Eric M. Mills, a research associate in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the United States' Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

The grant will support a major instructional-development initiative underway in the college that is being accomplished by a team led by Holly Bender.

The Problem List Generator software technology that has been developed by the

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

Mills will assist in implementing and evaluating the PLG instructional-technology program at partner universities that include the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph in Canada.

Mills, who formerly operated veterinary

practices in the Tidewater area, was the first Ph.D. student recruited to conduct academic work in veterinary informatics by the late Richard B. Talbot.

Talbot, who was founding dean of the VMRCVM and later held several posts in the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine, died in 1994.

Talbot was considered a pioneer in the veterinary-informatics field, which combines veterinary medicine with information technology.

College consolidates information-technology programs

By Jeffrey Douglas

Computer operations in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine have been strategically restructured under the leadership of a recently hired IT professional.

David Sampson, a former information-technology administrator at Appalachian State University, has served in the college's newly created position of director of information technology since late last summer.

He was recruited to integrate, organize and oversee strategic growth for the college's broad-ranging information-technology initiatives.

"Sampson is a seasoned information-technology professional who brings a wealth of important experience to this position," said Grant

Turnwald, associate dean for academic affairs. "He provides that expertise in a thoughtful, facilitative way and we're very pleased with the progress we're making in this area."

Before Sampson's arrival, IT functions such as Veterinary Teaching Hospital business operations, web-based curriculum operations, media and others had been located and supervised in different areas of the college.

The re-organization created a Support Center with trained professionals to provide technical and user support; Applications Development, which provides support for business systems and web development; Systems Administration and Operations, which supports the infrastructure of the entire IT program; Media Services, which includes multi-

media and publications support; and Reprographics, which provides copy, fax, and mail services.

Sampson and the IT group recently presented a two-day, college-wide information-technology retreat which provided a planning forum for faculty and staff members. Discussions held at that event will provide the foundation for an overall strategic-planning document.

"Many exciting things are happening in the information-technology area for faculty and staff members and students," Sampson said. "This is an exciting time for the college and one filled with opportunity. I'm pleased to be a part of it."

EMERGENCY

Continued from 1

tion—including Geographic Information System (GIS) access and audio/video conferencing—among emergency and relief personnel.

When connected to the surviving ends of optical fibers or data cables, the network can provide broadband wireless communications to as many as eight remote stations using the 28 GHz band. The network was successfully demonstrated at Virginia Tech in November 2001 to the Virginia Preparedness and Security Panel.

"The system we are developing is exactly what was needed in New York after September 11," said Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Professor Charles Bostian, co-founder and former director of the CWT and principal investigator for the project. "It took them days to establish the needed broadband connectivity."

Co-principal investigators are ECE Professor Scott Midkiff and Richard Klobuchar of SAIC.

Congressman Virgil H. Goode, Virginia Senator Charles Hawkins, Virginia Delegate Danny Marshal, and a contingent of Southside local government and emergency management officials attended the demonstration, which was organized by the CWT and Virginia Tech's Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville.

"The local emergency-management services and fire-department officials were very

enthusiastic about what we are doing," Bostian said.

Also attending were representatives of agencies with an interest in the potential use of the wireless network during national emergencies—the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, National Response Center and NSF.

The demonstration in Chatham was one of a series of technology presentations being made in conjunction with the "eDan" project, an effort to make the Danville/Pittsylvania County area the first site of the next-generation Internet infrastructure.

BUDGET

Continued from 1

Spectrum, Delegate Vince Callahan and Senator John Chichester have proposed a bond package that would infuse much-needed building funds throughout Virginia's college and university campuses. (See chart on page 2 for details of the proposed projects for Virginia Tech.)

Under Virginia law the governor must submit his proposed amendments by January 22. The university should have further details of proposed reduction scenarios by next week.

IEEE

Continued from 3

Trew was on the faculty of North Carolina State University for 17 years and was chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics at Case Western University from 1993 to 1997. He came to Virginia Tech as ECE's department head and Willis G. Worcester professor in 2001.

As a researcher, Trew has developed important technologies and theories in the areas of semiconductors and microwave computer-aided design. He holds four patents as a result of his research. Among his numerous career honors are the IEEE Third Millennium Award, IEEE's Microwave Theory and Techniques Society's Distinguished Educator Award, and the Alcoa Foundation Distinguished Engineering Research Award.

Non-Profit Organization, Postage Paid
Blacksburg, VA Permit No. 28

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061