

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech

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TODAY'S EDITION
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History Month
information

Tech, Hopkins invest \$10 million to combat diseases

By Neysa Call, VBI

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) at Virginia Tech and the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) Bloomberg School of Public Health announced today a \$10-million bioinformatics research collaboration to target human infectious diseases.

Each university will invest a minimum of \$1 million per year for five years to better understand tuberculosis, AIDS, malaria, measles, and other deadly illnesses. Worldwide, more than 17 million people each year succumb to these and other infectious diseases.

This collaboration will provide much-needed information to discern how infectious pathogens spread, how pathogen genomes change over time because of various environmental factors, and how humans respond to pathogens on the molecular, cellular, and organismal level. Technologies for rapid detection, identification, and remediation will be developed as part of this

research. VBI and JHU will also pursue significant additional extramural funding for this effort.

"This effort will significantly advance our understanding of interactions between infectious-disease pathogens, hosts, and their environments, VBI Director Bruno Sobral said. "With this partnership, we will be able to compare gene regulation across different organisms and evaluate human immune responses to numerous pathogens simultaneously. This enormous amount of data will then be compiled into an integrated pathogen database to form a common asset against these global maladies," Sobral said.

The bioinformatics capabilities at VBI will allow comparisons of multiple human responses to different pathogens as opposed to traditional models that looked at only a single response for one disease. Experiments that were traditionally conducted on a single pathogen in a petri dish will now be performed on supercomputers housed in VBI's core comput-

ing facility. The new technology will complement the wealth of medical and molecular biology research being conducted by the Bloomberg School.

"We have burning scientific questions we are trying to answer about the nature of many infectious diseases," said Diane Griffin, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Bloomberg School. "This technology will enable us to explore new approaches to find these answers and expand our knowledge of parasites and microorganisms," Griffin said.

"The world has seen infectious-disease outbreaks that have decimated millions of people and little progress is being made to eradicate some of the world's most serious diseases. It is vital that experts in public health and bioinformatics work together to develop tools to react to epidemic problems and to, more importantly, eradicate them. This collaboration will be a crucial component to the well-being of

(See *TECH* on 3)

Tech-led group to build CITIDEL

By Sally Harris

A consortium of universities led by Virginia Tech has received nearly \$1 million in grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to build the Computing and Information Technology Interactive Digital Educational Library (CITIDEL).

The CITIDEL will be built as part of the National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Digital Library (NSDL) under construction with funding from the NSF. According to its web site, the NSDL "will offer, via the Internet, high-quality materials for science, mathematics, engineering and technology education." The NSDL, to be released in the fall of 2002, "is likely to be the largest and most heterogeneous digital library yet built."

"The accessibility of its collections and range of services will enable the NSDL to enhance education in all disciplines across the nation," according to the web site. "In the words of NSF program staff, the NSDL 'will strongly affect education at all levels, including pre-K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and life-long learning, by providing anytime, anywhere access to a rich array of authoritative and reliable interactive materials and learning environments.'"

The consortium, of which Virginia Tech is a part, will establish, operate, and maintain CITIDEL, the part of the NSDL that will "serve the computing-education community in all its diversity and at all levels." Topics for the consortium include "computer engineering, computer science, information science, information systems, information technology, software engineering, and all

(See *CITIDEL* on 4)

Parasitologist developing test for equine disease

By Jeffrey Douglas

Work is under way in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine to develop an improved test for equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM), a neurological disorder caused by the parasite *Sarcosystis neurona* that is considered one of the most serious disease threats in the horse industry.

Under the leadership of David Lindsay, associate professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, a research team is attempting to perfect a direct agglutination test for the presence of the parasite that could lead to improved specificity and sensitivity for EPM testing.

EPM causes gait abnormalities, loss of balance, muscle wasting, weakness, paralysis, seizures and even behavioral disorders in its victims.

Initially recognized about 35 years ago, the disorder has received considerable attention among horse owners, veterinarians and equine researchers since a diagnostic test for *S. neurona* became available about

10 years ago.

EPM is considered the most significant parasitic disease affecting horses in the Americas, according to Lindsay.

Most cases are diagnosed in the summer and fall, according to a major study undertaken by USDA-APHIS's "Equine '98" National Animal Health Monitoring System study.

Some seroprevalence testing in states such as California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and others has suggested that as many as 30 to 60 percent of horses have been exposed to the parasite, yet researchers do not fully understand why some develop clinical signs of EPM and others do not.

Researchers do know that opossums are the definitive host for *S. neurona*, and that the parasite is ingested as horses graze on infected pastures. The parasite eventually moves to the horse's central nervous system.

The disease is best treated with a combination of antimicrobial/antiparasitic drugs, and anti-inflammatory drugs and nutritional supplements are often used as supportive therapy. But it is expensive to treat, can cause lingering

problems that can impair athletic performance, and can affect a horse so severely it must be euthanized.

Improving the existing diagnostic tests can help veterinarians begin treatment earlier, and help them better gauge the progress of their therapeutic interventions.

Currently, the diagnostic test for EPM is a Western Blot that tests cerebrospinal fluid for the presence of antibodies to *S. neurona*.

The agglutination test under development in college laboratories actually quantifies the level of antibodies present as they clump around a foreign agent.

The test promises to be more accurate, less expensive, and will not require specialized laboratory equipment. Validation testing among horses is under way with the co-operation of Anne Cook, Sharon Witosky and Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, all with the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences.

While promising, the research will require another two years to complete, so commercial application of the new diagnostic test is likely years away.

New donor-recognition society established

By Terry McGuire

A select group of longtime supporters of Virginia Tech has been honored as charter members of a newly established donor-recognition society.

The supporters, whose lifetime giving to the university totals between \$50,000 and \$100,000, are the first to qualify for the Caldwell Society, which carries the name of the first student to enroll at Virginia Tech, William Addison Caldwell. The university's oldest donor-recognition organization, the *Ut Prosim* Society, was founded in 1987

and will now include donors whose lifetime giving totals \$100,000 or more.

"The Caldwell Society will give recognition to many of the university's most loyal supporters," said Elizabeth Flanagan, vice president of Development and University Relations. "These are individuals who have contributed significantly to the quality of this institution and to the strength of its faculty and programs. They have made it possible for many young men and women to pursue their educational goals."

Society members will be encouraged to attend occasional events and activities on cam-

pus and will receive university news of interest throughout the year. Members will also receive a specially designed certificate of membership signed by President Charles Steger.

To qualify for membership, an individual's contributions during his or her lifetime must total between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and must have been received by the university. Contributions in the form of outright gifts, payments on pledges, received matching gifts, the deductible value of deferred gifts, and the adjusted value of in-kind gifts are credited toward membership.

Police officers attend training classes

By Sherri Box

The Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD) constantly strives to provide a safe environment to work, live and study for faculty and staff members and students.

To help further that goal, 17 Virginia Tech Police Department officers were in "school" recently learning the importance of working together as a team, learning supervision skills, decision-making, standards of conduct and ethics.

The classes were sponsored by Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem, who contracted with the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) to provide this training.

IPTM was established in 1980 to provide

(See *POLICE* on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 25

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

Saturday, 26

Science Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon, VTMNH.
Chamber Music, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.
Women's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At Notre Dame.
Men's Basketball, 7 p.m.: At Syracuse.

Sunday, 27

Chamber Music, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon.
YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA parking lot.

Tuesday, 29

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Connecticut.
CommonHealth Program, 12:10 to 12:55 p.m., DBHCC conference room A.

Black History Month Event, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: "Mahalia."

Wednesday, 30

Men's Basketball, 7:30 p.m.: At Villanova.
Black History Month Event, 6 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center.

Thursday, 31

Black History Month Begins. Contact Dean of Students Office for information.
STS Lunch Discussion Series, noon to 1:30 p.m., Squires Cardinal Room.
Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., 219 Squires.
Leadership Development Workshop, 1 to 5 p.m., DBHCC Executive Conference Rooms.

Friday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members
Meet-the-Artists Reception, 4 to 6 p.m., Armory Art Gallery.
Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., DBHCC conference rooms D and E.

SEMINARS

Friday, 25

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Yri Kazakezich, Seton Hall.
MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Sue Emerson, NIAID/NIH.
STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane: Joel Hagen, Radford University.

Friday, 1

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Craig E. Barnes, Tennessee.
MCBB, 10:30 a.m., 315 Cheatham: Nelson Lafon.

BULLETINS

Center for Innovation in Learning offers grants

The Center for Innovation in Learning (CIL) aims to develop on-line courses and provide related infrastructure, technical support and assessment of results in targeted curricular areas.

Faculty members are invited to submit proposals for grants to use in course development to integrate technology into teaching in four curricular areas: Distance-learning programs for graduate and professional students (two to three awards); core-curriculum courses with high student demand such as Area Six (five to seven awards); upper-level undergraduate and professional courses with high student demand (two to four awards); and multiple-use courses that could be used for graduate and professional continuing education such as course modules, certificate programs, etc. (two to three awards).

Information about submitting proposals is available at http://www.edtech.vt.edu/cil/Call_for_proposals.html. An application form is available at http://www.edtech.vt.edu/cil/CIL_Grant_Appl.pdf. Proposals are due to the center by February 11.

Nominees sought for XCaliber Award

To recognize the outstanding contributions to learning that faculty members and teams of faculty and staff members make as they develop courseware using technology, the Center for Innovation in Learning has developed the XCaliber Award (shorthand for exceptional, high-caliber work). This award at once celebrates and illustrates innovative approaches to teaching using technology.

The center invites nominations of faculty members or teams of faculty and staff members who have made outstanding contributions in courseware development in the last two years. Information about the process is available at <http://www.edtech.vt.edu/cil/xcaliber.html>. Nominations are due March 1.

Off-campus Housing Fair scheduled

An Off-campus Housing Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Faculty and staff members seeking housing in the New River Valley area can receive free information at the fair.

For more details, call 1-3466 or visit <http://www.vtoch.uusa.vt.edu>.

VTMNH offering Saturday Science

The Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History is offering Saturday Science tomorrow from 11 a.m. to noon for K-3 graders and their parents.

Saturday Science is offered on the fourth Saturday of every month. The theme for this month is "Bear-ing the Cold." The activity is free; pre-registration is requested. Call 1-3001 to pre-register and for any additional information.

RDP seeks Baird Award nominees

The Department of Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) is seeking nominations for the 2001-2002 A. Alan Baird Award.

The award honors the student who has contributed the most to the residence-hall program during or culminating in the current academic year. All students are eligible for the award, including those not affiliated with RDP. Additionally, students' past contributions will be taken into account.

Nominations can be submitted on line at www.rdp.vt.edu/baird. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Hard-copy attachments (letters and other supporting information) are to be turned in to 43 Owens Hall, c/o Lori Greiner (mail code 0223). For more information, contact Greiner at 1-8068 or e-mail at lgreiner@vt.edu.

University to participate in V-Day movement

By Denise Collins, Women's Center

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at Squires Haymarket Theatre on February 8 and 9, at 7:30 p.m. and February 10, at 2 p.m.

The ground-breaking, Obie Award-winning play will be performed as part of the V-Day 2002 College Campaign.

The benefit production is sponsored by the V-Day Initiative, a student organization at Virginia Tech, with support from the Women's Center and the Department of Theatre Arts.

V-Day is a world-wide movement to stop violence against women and girls and to proclaim Valentine's Day as the day to celebrate women and demand the end of abuse. Inspired by the world premiere of "The Vagina Monologues" at HERE, an off-Broadway theatre in New York City, the first V-Day was held in 1998.

Virginia Tech joins 547 other college campuses across the United States and around the world mounting productions of "The Vagina

(See UNIVERSITY on 4)

Black History Month celebration highlighted

By Clara B. Cox

Virginia Tech's annual celebration of Black History Month, which began January 21 and ends February 28, provides a wide spectrum of activities, from speeches, forums, and lectures to music, movies, and pageants. Most of the events are open to the public free of charge.

Johnnetta B. Cole, presidential distinguished professor of anthropology, women's studies, and African American Studies at Emory University, will be the keynote speaker for Black History Month. Cole, who was president of Spelman College from 1987-97 and led it to a number-one rating, unprecedented for a historically black college, (in the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual college issue) will deliver the keynote address on Wednesday, February 27, beginning at 7 p.m., in Squires Colonial Hall. For additional information, call Kim Philpott at 1-3787.

Remaining events during Black History Month include the following:

January 29—Musical "Mahalia," 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium, a gospel musical play about the life of the gospel singer. For information, call 1-5661 or 1-6076.

January 30—"Unity in the Black Community," 6 p.m. Black Cultural Center,

Squires, a panel discussion exploring diversity and prejudice in our culture. For information, call 1-8220.

February 2—"The Smithfield Plantation: Coming Home," 1 to 3 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall, a community forum conducted by the Virginia Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. For information, call 1-3947.

February 4—"Black and White Women: Does Hostility Exist?" at 7 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom, a panel discussion. For information call 951-1860.

February 5—"Black History Month Quiz," 6-9 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center, a competition comprised of trivia questions from various areas of black history. For information call 553-2156.

February 7—"Reparations: Should African Americans Be Awarded Compensation for the Enslavement of Their Ancestors?" at 7 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center, a forum. For information, call 1-4133.

February 11—"Sisterhood and Brotherhood: Similarities and Differences among Greek Organizations," 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room, a Greek

discussion. For information, call 1-3787.

February 12—"Racism in Review," 6 to 7 p.m., Squires Cardinal Room, a lecture and discussion. For information, call 200-1303.

February 15—"Political and Economic Challenges Facing the Afro and Indo Ethnic Groups of the Caribbean," 5 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center, a discussion. For information, call 962-6340.

February 19—"Racial and Ethnic Tensions and Racial Relations in America and on Virginia Tech's Campus," 7 p.m., Hillcrest dining room, an open NIF-National Issues Forum. For information, call 1-1820.

February 20—"The Black Panthers: Then and Now," 7 p.m., Squires Multicultural Center, a movie and discussion led by Hayward Farrar, associate professor of history. For information, call 951-3166.

February 22—"Social Issues in the New Genetics," 3 p.m., Fralin auditorium, a seminar looking at myths about multiculturalism, led by Troy Duster of the University of California at Berkeley and New York University. For information, call 1-6797.

February 23—Fifth Annual Ebony Affair, 6 p.m.-1 a.m., Owens Banquet Hall, \$15/person,

(See BLACK HISTORY on 4)

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

Seven full food-service positions available.

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

Administrative Staff Assistant, 001771Y, PB 3, VP for Administration/Treasurer.

Electronics Specialist, 001030B, PB 5, AOE.

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

Housekeeping Worker, 007340H, PB 1, RDP.

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

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

Laboratory Specialist, 007860M, PB 3, CVM.

Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.

Operations Manager, 007121H, PB 4, RDP.

Plumber Steamfitter, 001606F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

Program Support Technician Senior, 006715R, PB 3, Graduate School.

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.

Student Services Assistant, 007886R, PB 3, Graduate School.

Website Designer, 006824S, PB 4, WARD.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W020556M, PB 2, CVM.

Animal Care Technician, W022914M, PB 2, CVM.

Computer Support Technician, W023342R, PB 3, VTTI.

Graphic Artist, W020567H, PB 3, RDP.

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

In-vehicle Experimenter, 007788R, PB 2, VTTI.

ISB Program Assistant, W023360M, PB 3, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Specialist, W023305M, PB 3, APS.

Laboratory Specialist, W023361M, PB 3, Biochemistry.

Office Services Specialist, W020596J, PB 2, Schiffert Center.

Research Applications Programmer, W023347R, PB 4, VTTI.

Research Assistant, W023351M, PB 3, AAE.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Research Specialist, U007465M, PB 3, Horticulture.

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.

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

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

Secretary Senior, 002089R, PB 2, Northern Virginia Center.

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

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

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

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

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

Vice President for Administration/Treasurer. Associate Vice President for Administration.

LETTER AND RESPONSE

An open letter to the campus Police Department and Parking Services:

I, for one, am very angry at having someone riding a bicycle whiz past me at speeds exceeding 20 to 30 miles an hour.

Four bicyclists passed me today as I walked from Sandy Hall to Owens Hall, all far exceeding the speed limit automobile drivers must maintain when traveling around the Drill Field. My personal observations have been that the bicyclists who travel the fastest usually are wearing a helmet and knee pads, while the individuals they zoom past have no such protection.

It is time the campus police take some action before someone gets seriously injured or

worse. I have seen first-hand what happens to a pedestrian who has a run-in with a fast-moving bicycle and it is not a pretty sight. Bicycles, skateboards, and roller skates have no place on a sidewalk with pedestrians.

Perhaps, if those of us non-bicyclists write to the campus police and Parking Services, maybe we can get some of their ticket-writing employees to stop issuing summons to faculty and staff members unable to find parking spaces and start taking some dramatic action to stop the illegal and dangerous practice of riding bicycles on sidewalks.

Judy Poff, Water Center

Contact: Raymond Smoot, Jr., 312 Burruss (0142). Review begins Feb. 15.

Forestry. Extension Associate—Forestry. Contact: Robert Shaffer, 228 Cheatham (0324). Deadline is March 1.

University Unions/Student Activities. Assistant Director of Student Activities for Programs. Contact: David Ostroth, 225 Squires (0138). Review begins Feb. 15.

University Provost. Fiscal Officer. Contact: Dixon Hanna, 330 Burruss (0132). Review begins Feb. 15.

Virginia Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources (internal search). #FA664, Augusta Co. Contact: Steve Umberger, 121 Hutcheson (0437). Review begins Jan. 25.

Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology. Postdoctoral Associate. Contact: Stephen Boyle, 1410 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060-342. Review begins Jan. 15.

(Editor's note: Following is Police Department Chief Debra Duncan's response to the preceding letter): "Bicyclists on sidewalks/pathways, skateboarding and rollerblading is an issue that the police department will be addressing in the near future. We, in conjunction with other university departments and university legal counsel, are looking into procedures, policies and laws governing the operation of bicycles on campus. Virginia law does not prohibit bicyclists on sidewalks; however we are researching the problems caused by reckless operation of bicycles and discussing possible solutions. I will keep you advised on our progress."

Debra C. Duncan, chief of police

Theatre Arts alumni give workshops in *commedia dell'arte*

By Sally Harris

The bumbling servant who causes complications by doing things such as mixing up letters, but often brings about a happy ending. An old, lecherous, but wealthy, businessman who often fakes a heart attack during times of trouble.

These are a few of the stock characters who make up *commedia dell'arte*, comedy presented by professional actors using stock characters, masks, and vaudeville-type physical movements. Some Virginia Tech theater-arts alumni who have their own production company in Chicago visited campus this fall to present workshops and a symposium on *commedia*.

Brian Loevner, Allison Latta, Noel Williams, and Patricia Austin had all gone to Switzerland as Virginia Tech students to study *commedia dell'arte* with Antonio Fava, the world authority on the subject. "Once we worked with him, we decided we had to do it," Latta said.

The four had gone on to do different theatrical work after leaving Virginia Tech. Loevner, for example, had worked at the Theater Conspiracy, a non-profit theater company in Washington, D.C., and had toured with the National Players, the longest-running classical touring company in the country, before moving to Chicago in 1997. Meanwhile, John Rogers and Troy Fujimura, also Tech alumni, had gone to Chicago, Rogers directly after graduation from Tech, seeing it as a friendly theater town with opportunities. Fujimura went to Chicago after stints at the Heritage Repertory Theatre in Charlottesville and on the road with Big League Theatricals national tour of mime.

Rogers, Fujimura, and Loevner founded TriArts Inc., an ensemble of actors, directors, designers, and writers in Chicago dedicated to producing company-created and existing pieces

of work. The other Tech students eventually migrated to TriArts.

TriArts includes a design studio to design lights, sound, set, costumes, properties, and graphics. The group also produces a workshop capable of supporting set construction, light and sound coordination, special effects, and video production. The TriArts group has been doing workshops in Chicago for a few months as a way to bring people into the theater.

The alumni came back to Virginia Tech, Latta said, "to instill some fervor in students for *commedia* and for what we are doing in Chicago. *Commedia* is not as known as other forms of theater, but it has an exciting place in theater."

The alumni also want to get students interested in interning with TriArts, she said. "Also to open the door," Loevner said. "We love Virginia Tech. Our theater is so based on what we learned here, and we hope to provide professional experience for students and provide us the ability to do workshops and educational programs and then go back and make what we do even better."

TECH

Continued from 1

the global community," said President Charles Steger.

The project will begin in February 2002. During its first phase, researchers will study how disease parasites resuscitate from dormancy, model cellular responses to viruses, collect data from malaria-outbreak sites in cooperation with local medical centers, and develop gene chips to assess virulence factors of pathogens. The second phase will involve computational analysis to understand mechanisms of disease resistance and the development of

The audience is very important in *commedia*. "Usually," said Don Drapeau, head of Virginia Tech's Department of Theatre Arts, "the actors work out situations, a framework or skeleton situation for the characters to be in, but then, during the production, they improvise according to audience reactions. The emphasis is on the physical. *Commedia dell'arte* in its purest form was mime, but they added stock lines and routine lines for entrances and exits. The actors work it through and have certain things to do, but always have spontaneous responses, for example, to something the audience says. If you saw the play two nights in a row, it would be different."

Another reason for the alumni's visit to campus was to help prepare students to audition for two Moliere plays that were presented this fall. Moliere's plays require some *commedia dell'arte*, Drapeau said.

Gregory Justice and Susanna Rinehart of Virginia Tech's Department of Theatre Arts each directed one of the two Moliere pieces.

new tools for prevention, diagnosis, and cure.

"AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis are among the great scourges of our planet and are responsible for 25 percent of all deaths worldwide. The recent anthrax attacks have also reminded us all of the global risk posed by infectious disease, regardless of where it arises—and of the growing risk from new infectious agents, natural and potentially man-made," said Alfred Sommer, dean of the Bloomberg School. "We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with VBI in our efforts to find new ways of preventing and eradicating these diseases."



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Mack receives national entomology teaching award

By Stewart MacInnis

Timothy P. Mack, professor of entomology and head of the Department of Entomology, has received the top teaching award for 2001 from the Entomological Society of America.

The society's Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching was presented to Mack in December at the society's annual meeting in San Diego, Calif. Only one teaching award is presented by the 6,500-member society each year.

Mack teaches the largest on-line entomology course in the country from Virginia Tech. The undergraduate course, "Insects in

Human Society," is delivered via the World Wide Web to hundreds of students in North America.

Also considered in the award were the 13 years Mack taught traditional classroom courses at Auburn University before joining the faculty at Virginia Tech in 1994.

In addition to his academic duties, Mack is assistant dean for information technology for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"In many ways this is a departmental accomplishment," Mack said. "Putting on a course like ["Insects in Human Society"] requires the help a number of people."

American Indian religious-freedom documentary on campus today

By Sally Harris

Malinda Maynor will present a free showing of the widely acclaimed film on American Indian religious freedom, *In the Light of Reverence*, today from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium.

The 76-minute documentary focuses on the struggles of the Wintu (California), Hopi (Arizona), and Lakota (South Dakota, Wyoming) to practice their ceremonies and protect their sacred sites amidst threats from rock climbers, miners, and skiers.

'In the Light of Reverence explores American culture's relationship to nature in three places considered sacred by native peoples...'

Maynor is a citizen of the Lumbee Nation, a graduate student in history at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and co-producer of the film. She will visit Virginia Tech for this special screening and will facilitate a question-and-answer session immediately following the film.

"*In the Light of Reverence* explores American culture's relationship to nature in three places considered sacred by native peoples: Mt. Shasta in California, the Colorado Plateau in the Southwest, and Devils Tower in Wyoming," according to the film's web page at www.sacredland.org. "Rich in minerals and timber and beloved by recreational users, these 'holy lands' exert a spiritual gravity that pulls Native Americans into conflicts with mining companies, New Age practitioners, and rock climbers. Ironically, all sides see themselves as besieged. Their battles tell a new story of culture clashes in an ancient landscape."

In the Light of Reverence is narrated by Peter Coyote and Tantoo Cardinal. The film received the Best Documentary Feature Award at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. It was nationally broadcast on the PBS series *P.O.V.*

The event is sponsored by the Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series, the Race and Social Policy Research Center, the Department of History, the Department of Political Science, the American Indian Studies program in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and the Religious Studies program, all at Virginia Tech, and the YMCA Student Programs.

CVC giving sets another record

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) at Virginia Tech has set another record for charitable giving in the 2001 season.

The total amount raised was \$230,988 which exceeded the previous record set the year before at \$222,657. Steve Mouras, chair of the CVC Steering Committee, said he was very grateful for the continued generosity demonstrated by all the participants.

"All the folks who made a pledge should feel good about the support they are providing our charitable organizations," Mouras said.

Contributions to the CVC support nearly 1,000 local, state and national non-profit organizations. Mouras also said the number of faculty and staff members who participate has remained low, with 950 out of over 6,500 eligible employees returning their pledge cards. "This year, only 15 percent of our employees made pledges. We will work to provide a better opportunity to participate in the 2002 campaign."

Virginia's state employees contributed more than \$3.4 million in 2001, a new record for contributions and a 9-percent increase over last year's totals.

CITIDEL

Continued from 1

other variations of title and substance in these and related fields." The consortium includes Hofstra University, the College of New Jersey, Pennsylvania State University, and Villanova University. Edward A. Fox, professor of computer science at Virginia Tech, serves as director of the project. He also has been named one of 10 members of the inaugural Policy Committee for NSDL.

NSF has funded the consortium at \$800,000, and Fox has two other related grants, each over \$100,000, subcontracts originally from the same NSDL program. The principal investigators on those grants are from the University of Florida and the University of Arizona. CITIDEL will "expand knowledge and skills regarding the creation and use of innovative on-line courseware for computing and information technology education."

The group also will present its work at conferences of computer organizations and will focus especially on "the needs of minority communities."

The group will use a number of existing collections of educational computing materials available in various digital libraries and on web pages and will make them accessible to teachers and learners who would benefit from them if they knew about them.

"We will apply the MARIAN digital library software developed at Virginia Tech, as well as ResearchIndex and niche search-engine technology from Penn State, to develop tailored services for the various parts of our broad user community," Fox said. "Virginia Tech will provide computing and networking support and will cooperate with Penn State on technical issues."

Because many people have signed on to support CITIDEL, "it is clear that CITIDEL will involve diverse groups so that digital library services and content can be most beneficial to aid the education efforts of the computing and information-technology field," Fox said.

POLICE

Continued from 1

management, traffic and specialty training to municipal, county, state and federal law-enforcement officers. Since its establishment, the institute's role in the police community has expanded to include publishing texts and serving as management consultants to police organizations throughout the world. IPTM annually trains more than 12,000 civilian and military law-enforcement personnel from throughout the United States and abroad. IPTM contracts with law-enforcement agencies throughout the country.

The institute's faculty consists of professionals who combine practical law-enforcement technical and management skills with many years of police training experience and the academic backgrounds necessary to effectively train in-service law-enforcement officers. The full time staff is supplemented by a highly qualified adjunct faculty from government, private industry and the academic community. Participants who successfully complete the course of instruction in any IPTM

program will receive an appropriate certificate to recognize their achievement.

One VTPD officer said, "I wish I could have attended sooner, it opened my eyes and made me look at police supervision from different perspectives."

VTPD officers attending the classes were Lieutenants Wendell Flinchum, Joey Albert; Sergeants Bob Baudo, CheChe Miano, Phyllis Testerman, Jim Ramsey, Larry Wooddell; and Officers Curtis Cook, Scott Lau, Morgan Millirons, Daryl Sheppard, Kevin Smith, Jim Spicer, Mike Spicer, Keith Weaver, Andy Wilburn, Jeremy Williams.

Virginia Tech Police Chief Debra Duncan said, "the operational effectiveness of any police agency, regardless of size, is attributed to the abilities of its first-line supervisors. This training school is part of my overall goal in restructuring and shifting the department's focus to a more proactive and problem-solving approach to issues and concerns facing the university community. Officers need to know what is expected of them and we need to give them the training to be able to make good decisions."

UNIVERSITY

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Monologues" between February 8 and March 8.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as "funny" and "poignant" and by the Daily News as "intelligent" and "courageous," "The Vagina Monologues," chronicles the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage and excitement buried in women's experiences.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students (suggested donation) and may be purchased (or reserved) by calling 1-7635. Proceeds from the production will benefit the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley, Sexual Assault Services and Education at Virginia Tech, and RAWA, an Afghan women's organization. Additional information is available at <http://www.vday.org>.

BLACK HISTORY

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a semi-formal dining event that includes a fashion show, cultural performances, and an awards ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences. For information, call 953-0386.

February 26—"Does Racism Still Exist?" at 7:30 p.m., Squires Brush Mountain Room A, a panel discussion. For information, call 552-9216.

February 28—Highlights of significant contributions of pioneer men of Phi Beta Sigma to civil rights and racism, 7 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center, a potluck showcase and coloring book contest display. For information, call Kweku Quansah, 951-8904.

Persons with disabilities who desire assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean of Students, which coordinates Black History Month, at 1-3787 TTY or 1-8718.

A web-based calendar of the events is available at <http://www.mcp.vt.edu/calendars/bhm2002.shtm>.

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