

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION
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additional campus
news coverage

Pamplin's MBA program ranked in world top 100

By Sookhan Ho

Virginia Tech's MBA program has been ranked for the first time in the *Financial Times* 2002 MBA Rankings of the top 100 graduate business schools around the world.

The graduate business program in the Pamplin College of Business was ranked 60th overall—and seventh in the “Best in Information Technology—Alumni Recommendations” category. Among the U.S. public universities that made the listing, the Pamplin MBA program tied for 19th.

The college's overall ranking is the highest for a debut by a U.S. school this year. The top three schools were the University of

Pennsylvania's Wharton School, Harvard Business School, and Columbia University's graduate business school.

“It's a good start. We did very well to be included for the first time,” said Pamplin Dean Richard E. Sorensen. Two years ago, the college completed an extensive renovation of its MBA program that included changes in admission requirements, core courses, concentrations, and course scheduling.

“We have made many improvements to strengthen the program's quality and national reputation, and these efforts seem to be reflected in the *Financial Times* ranking,”

Sorensen said. He added that the ranking also reflected, to some extent, the college's commitment to diversity in recruiting faculty members, students, and advisory-board members.

The rankings were based on 21 factors, including weighted salary, value for money, career progress, placement success, alumni recommendation, international experience, and faculty publication.

This is the fourth year the London, England-based newspaper has published rankings of MBA schools world-wide. The list includes schools from Canada, Europe, China, Singapore, Brazil, and Mexico.

Finalists for Graduate School dean position to interview

The Search Committee for the Dean of the Graduate School has announced that four finalists for the position will be interviewed on campus from February 5 through February 28. Brief biographies of each candidate follow in the order that they will be visiting campus:

Jack L. Haar, professor of anatomy at the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, will interview February 5 through 8. Haar served as dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) from 1995 to 2001.

During his 30 years at VCU, Haar has been involved in graduate education at the program, interdepartmental, national, and international levels. As graduate dean, Haar oversaw graduate recruitment, retention, admission, student-support services, faculty hiring, program review/approval, and budget management. Haar earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Capital University, his master's degree in zoology from the University of Arizona, and his doctoral degree in anatomy from Ohio State University.

John H. Yopp, vice president for graduate and professional education at the Educational Testing Services (ETS), will interview February 11 to 14. Yopp works with the nation's graduate deans and admissions officers on the GRE and TOEFL boards to computerize and deliver world-wide, the GRE, GMAT, and TOEFL tests. Yopp assumed his current position in 1997 after serving for 11 years as associate vice president for academic affairs and research and dean of the Graduate School at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Yopp earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Georgetown University, his doctoral degree in biology from the University of Louisville, and was a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at NASA's Ames Research Center.

Joseph S. Merola, acting dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech, will interview February 19 to 22. Since his appointment as acting dean in January 2001, Merola has managed the re-organization of the Graduate School and worked to align the Graduate School with the university's strategic plan. Merola came to Virginia Tech's Department of Chemistry in 1987

and earned the rank of full professor in 1995.

Previous administrative experience includes serving as associate dean for research and outreach in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Merola earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Carnegie-Mellon University and his doctoral degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Karen P. DePauw, dean of the Graduate School at Washington State University (WSU), will interview February 25 to 28. She is responsible for graduate education at a multi-campus and geographically dispersed university. During her 21 years at WSU, DePauw's administrative experience has included serving as interim dean of the Graduate School, interim vice provost for academic affairs, associate vice provost for academic affairs, and associate dean of the Graduate School.

DePauw earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Whittier College, her master's degree in special education from California State University, and her doctoral degree in kinesiology from Texas Woman's University.

(See *FINALISTS* on 4)

Administrative coordinating councils reviewing initiatives

By Clara B. Cox

Provost Mark McNamee has appointed chairs for the three new administrative coordinating councils, which have already begun working on research initiatives for the university.

McNamee formed the councils to provide a forum to discuss and evaluate initiatives, with an emphasis on resource commitments, and to initiate planning activities in areas deemed important for the university. The councils have the authority to take action within approved university procedures. “In light of the impending budget problem, the role of the councils will be even more important in helping to set priorities and maintain focus,” he said.

“Since the administrative coordinating council concept is new and will require ongoing refinement, McNamee said, “each council is chaired by a ‘senior fellow.’” He

has named Beverly Davenport Sypher, professor of communication studies; Leonard Ferrari, American Electric Power professor and vice provost for special initiatives; and James Bohland, professor of urban affairs and planning and director of the School of Public and International Affairs, to chair, respectively, the councils for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Physical Sciences, and Information Sciences and Technology; and Biomedical, Health, and Life Sciences.

The councils are in various stages of reviewing initiatives and giving advice to the provost on priorities in research.

The arts, humanities, and social sciences council is in the process of organizing, although two projects are already on the agenda: a Center for Metropolitan Studies and a Center for Mediterranean Studies. Sypher said that in addition to research priorities, she anticipates some degree proposals to come before the

council.

Joining Sypher on the council are Lay Nam Chang, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Paul L. Knox, dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies; Richard E. Sorensen, dean of the Pamplin College of Business; Janet M. Johnson, dean of the College of Human Resources and Education; David R. Ford, vice provost for academic affairs; Joseph S. Merola, interim dean of the Graduate School; Earving L. Blythe, vice president for information systems; and Leonard K. Peters, vice provost for research.

According to Ferrari, the engineering, physical sciences, and information sciences and technology council has started its work by reviewing and trying to prioritize a number of relatively new university initiatives: the Virginia Tech Institute for Critical Technologies; International Institute for Information

(See *ADMINISTRATIVE* on 2)

President Addresses Budget-Reduction Issues

Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware, our country is in a recession, which has led to revenue shortfalls for the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a sector of state government, Virginia Tech is not immune to these difficulties. Revenue collections for the current year have been less than projected. Collections for the fiscal year beginning July 1 will be significantly less than earlier projections.

Accordingly, the state is rescinding (taking back) funds already appropriated this year—\$5.6 million from the University Division and \$1.8 million for the Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Experiment Station Division (CE/AES)—for a total reduction of \$7.4 million in the current year's budget. In view of the economic downturn, these shortfalls were not entirely unexpected and we began designing contingency plans last year. Thus, for the University Division, these plans will enable us to absorb rescissions in the current year's budget centrally without impacting college or division budgets. However, the CE/AES Division does not have that flexibility and will require adjustments to its operating budgets this fiscal year.

The longer-range picture is mixed. While we expect further reductions in

(See *BUDGET REDUCTION* on 3)

Transportation, Parking Master Plan proposal posted

By Steve Mouras, Transportation director

The university is in the final stages of completing a Transportation and Parking Master Plan. This plan is intended to lay the groundwork for the development of future transportation and parking projects as the campus grows over the next 10 years.

In particular, the plan will propose solutions to address the changing demand for parking spaces, reduction of vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, and enhance the efficiency of traffic flow. The final draft proposal, from Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc., the firm preparing the plan, is scheduled to be posted on line for public comments today at <http://www.ot.vt.edu/masterplan>

Comments will be organized by representatives from the major stakeholders groups (i.e. faculty, staff, graduate students, undergraduate students, town of Blacksburg, others) who sit on the University's Transportation and Parking Committee. The committee will then prepare a set of recommendations based upon the public comments. Everyone is invited to participate in the review process.

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Leadership Development Workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., DBHCC conference rooms D and E.

Meet-the-Artists Reception, 4 to 6 p.m., Armory Gallery.

Saturday, 2

Black History Month Event, 1 to 3 p.m., Squires Colonial Hall.

Sunday, 3

YMCA Hike, 1:30 p.m., YMCA parking lot.

Men's Basketball, 2 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: St. Johns.

Monday, 4

University Council, 3 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

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

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom.

Tuesday, 5

Hispanic Heritage Month Steering Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Squires Multicultural Center.

Black History Month Event, 6 to 9 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center.

Women's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Miami.

Wednesday, 6

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

VTU Event, 7:30 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Porgy and Bess.

Men's Basketball, 7 p.m., Cassell Coliseum: Boston College.

Thursday, 7

Art Gallery Exhibit Opening (Through 3-1).

STS Lunch Discussion, noon to 1:30 p.m., Squires Cardinal Room.

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Squires Black Cultural Center.

SEMINARS

Friday, 1

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Craig E. Barnes, University of Tennessee.

MCBB, 10:30 a.m., 315 Cheatham Hall: Nelson Lafon.

Geological Sciences, 2:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Glenn Goodfriend, George Washington University.

Monday, 4

STS, 4 to 5:15 p.m., 3001 Pamplin: Vernon Smith, George Mason University.

Tuesday, 5

Geological Sciences, 4 p.m., 4069 Derring: John Suter, Conoco

Friday, 8

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Tom Smith, Xerox Corp.

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Jack Meeks, UC-Davis.

Geological Sciences, 2:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Lisa Kennedy.

STS, 3 p.m., 225 Major Williams: Richard Burian.

BULLETINS

New faculty award available

The January 18 Opportunity Update (www.rgs.vt.edu/funding/ou/update.html) contains information on an early career award—the Camille and Henry Dreyfus New Faculty Awards Program for faculty members in the chemical sciences. The internal letter of intent is due in March.

There is a February 28 internal deadline for other limited-submission programs, previously announced. Details are still available on the OU.

The site is a service of the Research Division. E-mail lizacker@vt.edu for automatic notifications.

Gallery extends hours for special exhibit

The Wallace Hall Gallery, located on the first floor of

Wallace Hall, has extended its hours to include a weekend viewing for Saturday and Sunday, February 2 through 3 for the exhibit "Aging In Place: Life Transitions."

The gallery will be open Saturday, Feb. 2 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and on Sunday, Feb. 3, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Access to the gallery that weekend will be at the rear of the building. The gallery is located in the atrium.

Aging adults want most to remain independent in familiar, safe and comfortable surroundings. Accomplishing this goal can be challenging, especially in the face of age-related changes, illness and even injury. This exhibit helps families and individuals learn to make adjustments so that maximum independence can be maintained.

The display is courtesy of Virginia Tech Adult Day Services with support from the Center for Gerontology and Department of Human Development.

Hispanic Heritage Month Committee to meet

The Hispanic Heritage Month 2002 Steering Committee will meet Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m. in the Multicultural Cultural Center, 140 Squires.

For more information, contact Edwin Larroy at 1-8584 or the Dean of Students Office at 1-3787.

To find out more about multicultural events, visit the Multicultural Programs web site at <http://www.mcp.vt.edu/>.

'Big Event' sponsors seek faculty, staff participants

The Student Government Association (SGA) of Virginia Tech is sponsoring and planning "The Big Event" on April 6, 2002, as a "Hokie" way of giving back to the local community. This event will show appreciation to the Blacksburg and Christiansburg communities for their support of Virginia Tech.

Started at Texas A&M in 1982, "The Big Event" has spread to almost 30 universities across the country and is a day set aside for service projects to be completed by members of the university in their surrounding communities. The slogan of the event is "A few hands and

a few hours can make a huge difference." According to Christina Coukos, event director and SGA vice-president, "an estimated 2,000 students, faculty and staff members will participate in completing over 400 service projects."

To offset the costs associated with this event, the community interest committee is already working to raise funds. "Our goal is to raise more than enough money to fund "The Big Event" this year so that we can start a fund to ensure that it will become a permanent institution at Virginia Tech," said Charles Humkey, chair of the Community Interest Committee.

Humkey is looking for major sponsors in return for various ways of recognition. Sponsors and donors will be recognized at the kick-off event and the concert. Private donations are also encouraged.

"Obviously, enlisting students, faculty, and staff members to participate is an important part of the event," said Scott Robidoux, chair of the Student Involvement Committee. "We are asking for people to just help out for a few hours on one day. It is not too much to ask of people and we will accomplish so much."

The activities will start with mandatory

registration for participants. Andrew Shue, an actor from television's *Melrose Place*, will be the keynote speaker for the kick-off event on the Drillfield at 8 a.m.

Following the kick-off speech, participants will disperse to pre-assigned job sites. Projects will include painting, washing windows, yard work, trash removal, organizing and storing supplies, building, digging, general cleaning, and more.

For more information, contact the SGA in 321 Squires at 1-9879, e-mail bigevent@vt.edu, or visit the web site at www.sga.vt.edu/bigevent.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Continued from 1

Technology; Microelectronics, Optoelectronics, and Nanotechnology Center; eCorridors Project; Institute for Advanced Learning; School of Biomedical Engineering (joint with the Life Sciences Council); Alexandria Research Institute; initiatives in anti-terrorism; master's in information-technology degree program; and software-engineering master's program.

"Many of these initiatives have significant overlaps. We will be appointing two faculty advisory committees, one in engineering and physical sciences and one in information technology. We have had some preliminary discussions on resources for these initiatives," Ferrari said.

Other members of the council headed by

Ferrari include Malcolm J. McPherson, acting dean of the College of Engineering; Sorensen; Blythe; C. Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach; Merola; and Peters.

The biomedical, health, and life sciences council has formed two working committees to help define research and graduate priorities. "They have conducted an environmental scan of the university to see who's doing what. They're making decisions about whether new resources should be directed to certain areas," Bohland said.

Members of the council are Bohland; Kriton Hatzios, director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station; Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; McPherson; Johnson; Gregory N. Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources; Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College

of Veterinary Medicine; Peters; and Merola.

Chairs of the council's working committees are Neal Castagnoli, the Harvey W. Peters chair in chemistry, heading the Biomedical Research Committee and Bohland, who heads the Health Research Committee.

Members of the Health Research Committee are Bohland; Karen Roberto, Center for Gerontology; Dick Winett, psychology; Tom Ollendick, psychology; Bruno Sobral, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute; Bill Knocke, civil and environmental engineering; Janet Rankin, human nutrition, foods, and exercise; Sandra Stith, family and child development; Oliver Schabenberger, statistics; Fred Krimgold, disaster risk management; Doris Zallen, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies; Craig Thatcher, large-animal clinical sciences; Jeff Wilcke, biomedical sciences and pathobiology; Charles

Good, geography; and Lenwood McCoy (ex officio), special initiatives.

The Biomedical Research Committee is comprised of Castagnoli; David Kingston, chemistry; Craig Nessler, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science; Elaine Scott, mechanical engineering; John Tyson, biology; Malcolm Potts, biochemistry; Gerhardt Shurig, veterinary medicine; James Blair, Research Division; Jill Sible, biology; Nancy Love, civil and environmental engineering; Jim Wolfe, chemistry; Hatzios; Sobral; Carol Cramer, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science; and McCoy (ex officio).

"We're trying to get as much input as possible, and I urge people not on a committee to contact members to give them their viewpoints," Bohland said.

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

FULL TIME

Administrative Staff Assistant, 001771Y, PB 3, VP—Administration/Treasurer.
Assistant Manager, 001209H, PB 3, RDP.
Electrician Supervisor, 002038F, PB 4, FES.
Electronics Specialist, 001030B, PB 5, AOE.
Fiscal Coordinator, 006544S, PB 3, University Relations.
One full-time food-service position available.
Laboratory Specialist, 007860M, PB 3, CVM.
Logistical Services/Accounts Payable Assistant, 000857S, PB 3, ME.
Medical Technologist, 002596M, PB 4, VTH.
Office Services Specialist, 003963J, PB 2, Management.
Office Services Specialist, 003080S, PB 2, ISE.
Operations Manager, 007121H, PB 4, RDP.
Plumber Steamfitter, 001606F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Pre-prep Supervisor, 000394H, PB 2, RDP.
Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.
Sales And Marketing Manager Duplicate, 000478H, PB 3, RDP.
Sous Chef, 000940H, PB 3, RDP.
Sous Chef, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W022563M, PB 1, VTH.
Assistant Computer Systems Administrator, W023369F, PB 4, OT.
ICU Veterinary Technologist Large Animal, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.
Laboratory Specialist, W023305M, PB 3, APS.
Laboratory Specialist, W023366M, PB 3, Biochemistry.
Laboratory Specialist, W023362J, PB 3, FW.

Mason/Plasterer, W023368F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Office Assistant, W022228R, PB 3, Provost.
Office Services Specialist, W020467M, PB 2, VTH.
Program Support Technician, 004570M, PB 3, CSES.
Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, PB 3, VTH.
Research Assistant, W023351M, PB 3, AAE.
Research Specialist, W023365M, PB 4,

CVM.
Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

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.

Geographic Data Developer, 007913M, PB 4, BSE.
Program Support Technician, 002209R, PB 3, Graduate School.
Radio Announcer, W020800S, PB 3, University Relations/WVTF Radio.
Youth Program Assistant, 007464J, PB 2, HNEF.
Youth Program Assistant, 007233J, PB 2, HNEF.
Youth Program Assistant, 005889J, PB 2, HNEF.

BUDGET REDUCTION

Continued from 1

operating budgets in each year of the biennial budget, we also expect significant funding for new construction and renovation projects.

Governor Mark Warner has submitted a budget to the General Assembly that would reduce our base General Fund budget by 7 percent in FY 02-03 and 8 percent FY 03-04. We must also return an additional 3.5 percent and 5.8 percent respectively, which can be recouped through a tuition increase (about \$6.5 million in the first year and \$13 million in the second year). Further, there are some other recommended reductions to the Equipment Trust Fund and Maintenance Reserve Program that would result in appropriations of about one-half last year's level. Thus, the total net impact on the university's budget will be about \$25 million in each year of the biennium. (This assumes that we are able to raise tuition to the proposed levels.) While General Assembly actions may adjust these figures, we expect our final reduction targets to be of a similar magnitude.

As you can see, these are significant reductions that will test our abilities. Putting this in perspective, the base budget for the College of Arts and Sciences is \$57 million. The Col-

lege of Engineering is about \$36 million. For the library, it is \$12 million.

Provost Mark McNamee, Executive Vice President Minnis Ridenour, and I have briefed the vice presidents, vice provosts, deans and the University Advisory Council. I have asked Mr. Ridenour and Dr. McNamee to work with these groups in preparing guidelines for senior resource managers (deans, vice presidents, department heads, etc.) to implement the reductions when we receive final targets at the conclusion of the General Assembly session in March. However, the governor's office has requested that top-level plans be submitted for both years of the biennium by February 7.

We can find some measure of hope for the future in the capital plans that have been put forth by former Governor James Gilmore and by members of both houses of the General Assembly. Both announcements were focused on capital needs for higher education and both bills contain significant new funding for Virginia Tech. Governor Gilmore's budget contained \$111.3 million in renovations and new construction for Virginia Tech, while the joint package introduced by Senator John H. Chichester and Delegate Vincent F. Callahan Jr. contains \$143.8 million for Virginia Tech facilities. Governor Mark Warner has in the past also affirmed his support for a major capital

package for higher education. This is good news because it provides funding for 16 projects on our campus and perhaps more important it is a re-affirmation of support for Higher Education by the leadership of the commonwealth.

We realize that these reductions will require sacrifice. Indeed, all sectors of the university including auxiliaries and affiliated corporations will be asked to share in the reduction strategies. Most importantly, we want to assure you that our actions and directives will seek to preserve our core missions and recognize university priorities. We are Virginia's leading research university educating more students and more Virginians than any other university in Virginia. We will continue to do what we are charged to do. Together, we must remain focused on institutional priorities, continue building support and funding strategies for strategic initiatives, and position ourselves to rebuild institutional base support.

I thank you in advance for your commitment to our students and the university and appreciate your understanding as the university enters what may be several difficult years.

Sincerely,
Charles W. Steger, president
 Jan. 28, 2002

(Editors' note: See chart below)

VIRGINIA TECH PROPOSED GENERAL FUND REDUCTION SUMMARY

	(in millions)	
UNIVERSITY DIVISION	2002-03	2003-04
Reduction from FY02 base (a)	-\$13.060	-\$14.926
GF Reduction Related to Tuition Policy	-\$6.506	-\$10.744
Tuition Offset	\$6.506	\$13.286
Net GF Reductions for Univ. Div.	-\$13.060	-\$12.384
CE/AES DIVISION		
Reduction from FY02 base (a)	-\$4.261	-\$4.870
Net E&G General Fund Reductions	-\$17.321	-\$17.254
ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS		
Equipment Trust Fund Reductions	-\$3.999	-\$3.999
Maintenance Reserve Reductions	-\$3.805	-\$3.685
NET Grand Total Reductions	-\$25.125	-\$24.938
(a) 2002-03 7% reduction, 2003-04 8% reduction		

VIRGINIA TECH RECYCLING

The large, maroon container for the collection of recyclable paper (sorted office paper, glossy magazines and catalogs, and newspapers) formerly located at the Derring Hall loading dock, has been moved to the west end of the Overflow Parking Lot, due to the Chemistry/Physics construction project.

The Overflow Parking Lot is located west of the Duck Pond, just across Duck Pond Drive and adjacent to Oak Lane. The container will remain at this location for the duration of the construction. For more information, contact the Virginia Tech Recycling Office at 1-9915.

VMRCVM, CAS collaboration nets fellowship

By Jeffrey Douglas

An academic collaboration between a veterinary nutritionist in the VMRCVM and a chemist in the College of Arts and Sciences will provide the academic foundation for a Ph.D. student funded with a \$100,000 fellowship from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation.

Craig Thatcher, department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and Timothy Long, associate professor, Department of Chemistry, will work with Afia Karikari during her five-year fellowship.

The foundation supports graduates of historically black colleges and universities who are admitted to doctoral programs in the

sciences and engineering at any university in the United States.

She will join Thatcher and Long in their work on biodegradable polymers for drug-release vehicles, transdermal nutrient-delivery systems, and biomedical vascular adhesives.

She is pursuing her Ph.D. in chemistry, and her collaborations will involve laboratory efforts in both the VMRCVM and the Department of Chemistry.

"I am particularly excited about fostering stronger research collaborations between the Department of Chemistry and Vet Med," Long said. "I think that the possibilities are infinite, and the synergies will lead to many new frontiers in new biomaterials."



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Coyt T. Wilson, 88

By Stewart MacInnis

Coyt T. Wilson, former director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and former associate dean of Virginia Tech's research division, died Friday at the age of 88.

In the 1960s, Wilson was a member of a small team of scientists that developed a classification system that streamlined agricultural research nation-wide.

"This was a tremendous development," said P. Howard Massey Jr., who served as associate director of the Experiment Station with Wilson. "It accelerated the research effort. Researchers anywhere in the country could tap into this database before they'd start a project and they could see what had been done on that anywhere else. It saved people from plowing the same ground again."

Massey remembered that for more than a year Wilson spent several days a week in Washington, D.C., working to establish the system. He was an excellent administrator and organizer, and he was a delightful person to work with," Massey said. "When he said he'd do something, you didn't need it in writing. You could depend on it."

Wilson, who retired in 1978, headed Virginia Tech's agricultural research effort for 13 years beginning in 1965. He joined the administrative team of the Experiment Station in 1964 after 13 years as assistant dean of agriculture and associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University.

In 1989, the American Peanut Research and Education Society established the Coyt T. Wilson Service Award in honor of Wilson's many years of service and leadership to be given to society members who contributed outstanding service. Virginia Tech plant breeders are preparing to release a new peanut variety bearing Wilson's name.

APS student to study in South Africa

By Stewart MacInnis

Kathleen Washington, a sophomore studying animal and poultry science, will spend the spring semester at the University of Orange Free State in South Africa with a group of classmates to study the agriculture system of that African nation.

Washington is participating in Virginia Tech's exchange program with the university in Bloemfontein, a city of 400,000, in South Africa's Orange Free State.

"This exchange program allows students to experience another culture and to study the agriculture system in another region of the world," said John Crunkilton, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Agriculture is becoming more and more an international industry. Programs such as this prepare our students to be competitive in the global marketplace."

Dixie Watts Reaves, associate professor of agricultural and applied economics, will accompany the Virginia Tech students to South Africa and will help them adjust to studies at the University of Orange Free State.

Students participating in the exchange this semester will experience the South African summer and fall. The term begins in February and ends in June. Selected students from the University of Orange Free State spend the fall semester each year at Virginia Tech.

Outreach faculty members brief Turkish officials

By Jeanne M. Garon

Two Virginia Tech faculty members from University Outreach were tapped by the U.S. government last week to brief a large delegation from Turkey on economic-development and trade practices.

J. Douglas McAlister, executive director of Public Service Programs (PSP), and Chad Miller, PSP's economic-development specialist for international programs, were part of a small team that met in January in Washington, D.C., with approximately 100 Turkish government officials and business leaders after the delegation had met with President George W. Bush.

"Many Virginia Tech academic departments have working relationships with Turkish

universities and government agencies," McAlister said, noting that Miller had played a key role in setting up the relationships and fostering U.S.-Turkey initiatives through the Appalachian Turkish Trade Project (ATTP). McAlister said he foresees additional support for current and future Virginia-Turkey ventures as a result of the briefings. "We were and are happy to do our part to deepen the relationship between the countries," McAlister said.

In an address to the delegation, McAlister gave an overview of economic-development trends and practices for 2002 and beyond, focusing on how comprehensive research and outreach universities such as Virginia Tech can serve as economic engines in the future world economy.

Links between the U.S. and Turkey have assumed greater strategic importance since the events of Sept. 11, when Turkey, a major player in the Middle East region, strengthened its alliance with the U.S.

The briefing McAlister and Miller assisted in was part of a series of meetings that culminated in the U.S. and Turkey announcing the creation of a bilateral economic-partnership commission to negotiate ways to strengthen trade relations, increase investment flows, and support Turkey's economic-reform program.

Those interested in learning more about the ATTP and trade with Turkey may visit http://byrd.senate.gov/attp_welcome.html or phone Miller at 1-8324.

University turf expert to receive national award

By Stewart MacInnis

Houston B. Couch, a plant pathologist specializing in turfgrass diseases for nearly a half century, will receive the Distinguished Service Award by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America next week.

A member of Virginia Tech's Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science since 1965, Couch is being recognized by the 22,000-member association as the "go-to" pathologist for the industry. Before joining Virginia Tech's faculty, Couch was on the faculty at Pennsylvania State University at University Park.

"Dr. Couch's ability to pass on information with good humor and the highest integrity, at

times even in the bleakest circumstances, made him a priority source for many of our members over the years," said Peter McDonough, president of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. "Dr. Couch is a true pioneer in the field of turfgrass research and specifically turfgrass disease."

The national association is presenting the award at the its International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Fla. The award has been presented annually since 1932 to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantial, and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf-course superintendent profession.

Couch was recognized for his work with students, his research, and his Extension

activities. He has written two books considered standards in the field, *Diseases in Turfgrass* and *Turfgrass Disease Handbook*.

He was also recognized for his responsiveness to superintendents. In addition to constant telephone consultations, he estimates he has taught more than 4,000 superintendents in education seminars. "If a superintendent calls me, I get right on it," Couch said. "I don't see them as just a golf-course superintendent, I see them as a person under pressure who needs help."

Couch earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville in 1950, and his doctorate from the University of California at Davis in 1954.

Tech helps students study disease spread

By Stewart MacInnis

Students at Galax High School will learn in their science classroom what public-health workers know all too well—diseases can spread among people at an alarming rate.

With help from Virginia Tech's Fralin Biotechnology Center, each student in Faye Littrell's class will use techniques and materials similar to that used by health-care professionals to detect the presence of many diseases. For three weeks, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 5, students will go beyond detection and simulate how easily one "infected" sample can spread through the entire population of the classroom.

"The experiments use harmless materials to stand in for disease agents," said Kristi DeCourcy, coordinator of the Fralin Center's equipment-loan program. In addition to learning about the spread of disease, students will learn about the science of immunology.

The equipment and material being loaned to the school allow the students to conduct a

simulated ELISA. ELISA stands for "enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay." It is a technique for detecting antibodies produced in response to a disease agent. Students will be using technology similar to that used in diagnostic kits in hospitals and in many home detection kits.

The kit provided by the Fralin Center uses a method that depends on the capture of antibodies on a specially treated assay plate that optimizes protein binding. The assay plate is then treated with an agent that reacts to any bound antibodies, causing the spot on the plate with antibodies to change from clear to a robin-egg blue color.

One or two students in the class will be given a "positive" sample. Each student will mix half of his sample with the sample of a partner. Those mixed samples will be mixed again with the mixed sample of another student, and then those twice-shared samples will be mixed a third time.

The students will then prepare their assay

plates, incubate them for a set period, wash them out, and add an "antibody" that will bind with any "antigens" that had bound to the plate. A substance will then be added to provide a color-changing reaction if the "antibody" is present.

"It's a real eye-opener when they see how far through the class a single positive sample will reach," DeCourcy said. "With this experiment students learn about laboratory procedures, immunology, and even some about the spread of diseases through populations."

Virginia Tech's kit is based on a similar kit designed by the University of Arizona and used in that university's Biotech Project that reaches into high schools throughout Arizona.

The Fralin Center loans equipment to high schools and community colleges across the state to present ideas and experiments to which their students would not otherwise be exposed.

FINALISTS

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The curriculum vitae of all candidates and their on-campus itineraries may be found on the Provost's Web Site at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/provost.html>.

At forums open to all faculty and staff members and students, the candidates will make brief presentations, followed by questions/answers: Jack. Haar, Thursday, Feb. 7, 4 p.m., 116 Squires; John Yopp, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m., DBHCC auditorium; Joseph Merola, Thursday, Feb. 21, 4 p.m., 116 Squires; and Karen DePauw, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

The Search Committee will solicit feedback on each candidate during the on-campus visits. Forms will be available at each forum as well as on line at the Provost's Web Site. Contact Susan Magliaro at 1-8338 or sumags@vt.edu, chair of the Search Committee, with questions or comments.

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