

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for
Commencement
information.

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 33 FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002

McNamee to address Northern Virginia graduates

By Joan Ziembra

Provost Mark G. McNamee will address nearly 400 graduate students as they participate in Virginia Tech's 22nd Commencement ceremony in Northern Virginia on Sunday, May 12, at 2 p.m. in the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria.

McNamee has been provost of the university for less than a year. He joined Virginia Tech not long after President Charles Steger established a university goal to move

into the ranks of the top-30 research institutions in the nation. "Serving Northern Virginia is essential to our role as a land-grant university but as important are our relationships in Northern Virginia, which are essential to the success of our strategic plan," McNamee said.

Former dean of the division of biological sciences at the University of California, Davis, McNamee brought to Virginia Tech his experience as a researcher and administrator of the UC-Davis biotechnology program, life-sciences informatics program, and centers in neuro-

science, animal behavior, molecular biology, and genomic and genetics development—areas in which Virginia Tech is taking a lead in the state and in the nation. He received his bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Stanford University.

The students receiving degrees during Commencement have studied in the more than 45 graduate programs at the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church and at the Washington-Alexandria Center in Alexandria.

Graduate program offered in macromolecular science

By Sally Harris

A new degree program in Macromolecular Science and Engineering (MACR) offers an intercollegiate and interdepartmental major in polymer science and engineering, thanks to a \$2.7-million National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) grant.

Approved by the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) in May 2001, the new MACR program offers masters and doctoral degrees. Seven departments crossing the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the College of Natural Resources are participating initially, with additional departments probably to be added within the next year, said Judy Riffle, associate professor of chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences and the principal investigator for the NSF grant.

Students will be able to choose from nine areas of concentration in the program. The first four are fundamentals of synthesis, mechanics, structure, and processing of polymeric materials. The others are composites and structures, civil infrastructure, macromolecular life sciences (proteins, DNA), adhesives and interfaces, and opto- and micro-electronics. The broad and interdisciplinary nature of these concentrations requires this interdepartmental approach to graduate education, Riffle said.

The IGERT grant offers fellowships to outstanding students interested in areas such as adhesives, coatings, polymer composites, interfaces, environmental durability, or the implementation of polymeric components in buildings or civil structures. "The vision is to train scientists, engineers, and business leaders with an interdisciplinary perspective allowing them to 'bridge the gap' between the polymer, structural, and civil engineering and business communities and to create and understand new

materials," Riffle said. "The vision also is to design and maintain a durable, safe, and cost-effective U.S. civil infrastructure."

Doing that requires an interdisciplinary approach that allows students to move among several colleges, departments, and disciplines, Riffle said. The program will allow engineering students to learn more about new polymeric materials and will allow chemistry students to learn the materials needs of structural and civil designers, she said.

Besides courses in departments at Virginia Tech, students will have the advantage of distance-learning courses with Virginia Tech's partner institution, North Carolina State University. In addition, internships will be developed with national labs, key industrial groups, international infrastructure centers, and congressional offices to enable students to gain experience in specialized topics, develop leadership skills, and obtain a global perspective

(See PROGRAM on 4)

University reaps NCC Tech Nite awards in Roanoke

By Larry Hincker

Virginia Tech and Blacksburg were well represented at the annual New Century Council Tech Nite awards program May 2 in Roanoke.

Tracy Wilkins, the Alphonse and Maria Stroobant professor and director of the Fralin Biotechnology Center, was awarded the High Tech Entrepreneur Award in recognition of his business success. Wilkins owns Tech Lab, Inc. which has spawned annual growth of more than 25 percent for the last three years. This company, spun off from work in Wilkins university labs, uses recombinant DNA technology to produce medical diagnostic kits. Wilkins also created another successful company, TransPharm, which later merged with PPL Therapeutics, an internationally recognized Scotland-based biotech company.

Massimiliano Di Ventra, assistant professor of physics, was awarded the Egg Factory Innovation award for his work. Di Ventra invented a transistor that uses single organic molecules to amplify electrical current. It has been heralded as a key component of the emerging field of molecular electronics, which could replace silicon-based microelectronics within 10 years. Di Ventra

also received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation.

Krisnan Ramu, a professor in electrical and computer engineering, was a finalist for the Egg Innovation Award. In addition to Wilkins, three Blacksburg entrepreneurs with connections to Virginia Tech were finalists, Brett Malone, Phoenix Integration; Mary Miller, Interaction Design and Development; and Bob Summers, nanoCom Corporation. Five of the seven finalist companies for the High Tech Company Award are located in Blacksburg or Christiansburg. Comprehensive Computer

Solutions

Virginia Tech was singled out for excellence in economic development by the keynote speaker, Patrick Von Bargen, executive director of the National Commission for Entrepreneurship. He credited Virginia Tech for developing an infrastructure conducive to entrepreneurs. He also noted a recent report by Southern Growth Policies Board that identified Virginia Tech as one of 12 universities from across the nation with exemplary practices for economic development. (See story in May 3 Spectrum, page 1)

Seniors receive Cooke foundation scholarships

By Liz Crumbley

Seniors Sara Hupp and Rebecca Weber are among a group of 50 students selected to receive the first Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarships, each worth as much as \$50,000 per year for up to six years of graduate study.

The 50 scholars were chosen from a roster of 675 applicants from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The late Jack Kent Cooke, who built a media empire and owned the Los Angeles Lakers and Washington Redskins, set aside the bulk of his estate to establish a foundation to support educational endeavors.

The foundation has set aside about \$10 million for the next six years to fund this first class of 50 scholars.

"I find technology, such as aircraft, to be very beautiful in the way it depends on natural phenomena to perform," said Hupp, who majors in mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech and will use her Cooke Foundation scholarship to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Hupp is an honors student at the university and has received several scholarships as an undergraduate. She is a member of

(See SENIORS on 4)

Alumni center campaign enters final stages

By Larry Hincker

The campaign to fund a new alumni and conference center on the campus of Virginia Tech has entered the final stage as university officials announced that they had raised more than \$12 million towards the \$16.2-million goal that will help meet construction costs.

Betsy Flanagan, vice president for University Relations and Development, said, "With the continued support of our generous alumni, Virginia Tech is on track to complete the campaign by late summer or early fall. This will be a signature facility for the entire campus."

Plans for the 191,360-gross-square-foot alumni and conference center were first made public in October, 2000. The facility will feature a new alumni center, a high-tech conference center, and a 150-room hotel. The center will be located at the corner of Campus Drive and Prices Fork Road.

In announcing the progress on the new facility, President Charles Steger said that it would be named the Holtzman Alumni Center in honor of Bill Holtzman of Edinburg, who generously supported the center. Holtzman, who earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech in 1959 and his master's degree from Cornell in 1961, is president and founder of Holtzman Oil Corp., the second largest employer in the Shenandoah Valley.

Steger also announced that the conference center will be named the Skelton Conference Center in honor of Bill and Peggy Skelton of Blacksburg. "Bill and Peggy are the dynamic duo of Virginia Tech," said Steger. "Their ties to the university stretch back seven decades. Throughout those years, the Skelton's unqualified support of and dedicated service to the land-grant mission of Virginia Tech has been unmatched."

Bill Skelton served as director and dean of Extension. Peggy Skelton was a faculty member and director of the Cooperative Extension Family Resource Program in the College of Home Economics (now Human Resources and Education.) Since their retirement both have continued to serve the university in many ways.

University officials said they hope to begin construction on the facility in spring 2003, with completion scheduled for spring 2005.

Employee Bonus Payments, Leave Program Information

Governor Mark Warner and the General Assembly have approved a program of bonus payments or leave to be granted in fiscal year 2002-2003 to all salaried classified employees. Employees must make a selection and notify Personnel Services of their choice before 5 p.m., May 31.

Employees who fail to submit the re-
(See EMPLOYEE on 2)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 10

Senior Day.

Horticulture Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Greenhouses.

International Graduation Reception, 11 a.m., Cranwell Center.

VTCC Ceremony, 3 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

Graduate School Ceremony, 4:30 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.

Army Commissioning, 5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

VMRCVM Ceremony, 7 p.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

New Virginians, 8 p.m., Squires Haymarket Theatre.

Saturday, 11

University Commencement, 9 a.m., Lane Stadium.

Horticulture Plant Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Greenhouses.

Sunday, 12

Mother's Day Buffet, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., DBHCC.

Wednesday, 15

Staff Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rector Field House.

Thursday, 16

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Staff Senate, noon, Veterinary Medicine Heritage Room.

Saturday, 18

YMCA Hike, 9 a.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

Monday, 20

First Summer Classes Begin.

Tuesday, 21

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

Wednesday, 22

Last Day to Add Classes.

BULLETINS

New Campus Guides available

Copies of updated "Campus Guides," brochures that target visitors to campus, are now available from the Publications and Outreach Communications unit of University Relations.

The guide includes a map of campus as well as information on how to get to campus, campus tours, parking, shuttle service, selected campus telephone numbers, and on-campus dining. It also provides information on the area's museums and galleries, points of interest, hotel and motel accommodations, and bed-and-breakfast facilities.

Departments can request up to 25 guides free from Phyllis Olinger at 1-6867 or phylo@vt.edu. Copies exceeding 25 will cost 28 cents each.

Flood victims need workers, cleanup supplies

Flood victims in Hurley are getting help from the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in Buchanan County and the Buchanan County Health Department. A 24-hour assistance center has been established at the Hurley Middle School where tetanus shots are being administered. Persons with first-aid experience are needed to assist in the effort.

They also need supplies, including bandages (specifically any type of ankle support), all types of cleaning supplies (specifically bleach), cleaning equipment (mops, brooms, shovels), waterless hand sanitizer, latex or plastic gloves, and paper towels.

Members of the Virginia Tech community can take their donated items to the Extension Distribution Center at 112 Lansdowne St., Blacksburg. (From campus: take South Main Street to the second street past the Gables Shopping Center traffic signal and turn left. The center is the large building on the right with a loading dock and outdoor stairs.) The drop-off box will be available from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. week days through Thursday, May 16, at 1 p.m. The items will be delivered to Buchanan County the next day.

For more information on volunteering, call the Buchanan County Extension office at (276) 935-6254 or contact the Unit Coordinator Flo Stewart at fstewart@vt.edu.

Habitat-evaluation workshop scheduled for May

By Lynn Davis

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in the College of Natural Resources will present a five-day workshop on habitat-evaluation procedures (HEP), May 13-17 in Falls Church.

The Habitat Evaluation Procedures are an approach to evaluating wildlife-habitat quality, developing wildlife-habitat management plans, assessing potential impacts of projects to wildlife, and developing ways to compensate for wildlife-habitat losses associated with project impacts. The class schedule will consist of an introduction to accepted models, spatial

concepts, community modeling, baseline and impact on habitat units, predicting futures, computer analysis, habitat-management evaluation methods, HEP software use, as well as some field exercises and case studies.

Dean Stauffer, associate professor of wildlife science, and Richard Stiehl, senior wildlife scientist at Duke Engineering and Services in Bellingham, Wash., will instruct the HEP classes. Stauffer has been conducting research in the area of wildlife-habitat relationships for more than 20 years and has a special interest in habitat assessment and impact evaluation. He has been teaching HEP classes

EMPLOYEE

Continued from 1

quired form by 5 p.m. May 31 will not be eligible to receive the bonus or leave. Employees may use the selection form mailed to them by Personnel Services; or employees with a PID and password may make their selections by completing the on-line Classified Employee Bonus Payment/Leave Selection Form available on the Personnel Services web site (<http://www.ps.vt.edu>).

Each classified salaried employee who is eligible to receive the bonus or leave will receive a letter from Personnel Services this week. An example of this letter is available on the Personnel Services web site.

Several of the most important questions about the Bonus Payment and Leave Program are answered below. More information is provided in the employee letters and memos to deans, directors, and department heads.

What are the choices available to classified employees?

Eligible employees may select one of the following options: A 2.5-percent bonus payment on August 30, 2002 or 10 days (80 hours) of bonus leave to be used between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003, or a combination of a 1.25-percent bonus payment and five days (40 hours) of leave

Who is eligible?

All full- and part-time salaried classified employees, hired before May 1, 2002. Employees who were evaluated "contributor" or higher on last evaluation. Note: Wage employees are not eligible for bonus payments or leave under this program.

Are employees funded on grants eligible for the bonus or leave?

All classified employees, who meet the

Hire or Rehire Date

July 1, 2001—September 30, 2001	Full award
October 1, 2001—December 31, 2001	75 percent of full award
January 1, 2002—March 31, 2002	50 percent of full award
April 1, 2002—April 30, 2002	25 percent of full award
May 1, 2002, and later	No award

Percentage of Award Granted

How will the bonus be calculated?

The bonus is based on salary as of July 1, 2002. Changes in salary after July 1 will not affect the amount of the bonus. Only the employee's regular salary will be used to calculate the bonus; overtime pay and temporary or acting pay will not be included in the bonus amount.

Can the department restrict employees' choices?

Departments with critical operations that require staff coverage may not be able to ap-

prove employees to use 10 days of bonus leave before it lapses on June 30, 2003. In these cases, management has the discretion to require employees to select the bonus payment. The state has determined that police officers in VALORS (law-enforcement retirement system) will not be eligible to receive the bonus leave. Employees will not be paid upon leaving employment for any unused balance of bonus leave.

When will eligible employees receive the bonus or the leave?

(See EMPLOYEE on 4)

Faculty Senate Elects Officers

Faculty Senate elections for the upcoming academic year were held in April.

Officers elected were Edd Sewell, president; Diane Zahm, vice president; and Sam Easterling, secretary-treasurer. Sewell is associate professor of communication studies, Zahm is associate professor of urban affairs and planning, and Easterling is associate professor of civil and environmental engineering.

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/A employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME

Two full-time food-service positions available.

Administrative Assistant, 007443S, PB 3, IDDL.
Administrative Assistant, 001854F, PB 3, BFP.
Css/Surgery Technician, 002647M, PB 2, VTH.
Customer Service Analyst, 001533S, PB 3, University Bursar.
Database And Application Development Specialist, 007230J, PB 5, RGS.
Forage Testing Specialist, 003129M, PB 4, Dairy Science.
Human Resources Specialist, 007570D, PB 4, Personnel Services.
Large Animal Veterinary Technician, 001996M, PB 4, VTH.
Program Support Technician, 004443G, PB 3, ICAM.
Project Coordinator, 007469G, PB 3, School of Arts.
Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.
Sales And Catering Manager, 002086Y, PB 3, DBHCC.
Telefund Coordinator, 001450S, PB 3, University Development.

Tv/Media Systems Engineer, 000196A, PB 4, VBS.

PART TIME

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

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.

Program Support Technician, 004570M, PB 3, CSES.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, PB 3, VTH.

Switchboard Operator, W022101A, PB 2, CNS.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

OFF CAMPUS

Administrative Assistant, 007947J, PB 3, CFNP/MI.

Federal Reimbursement Unit Analyst, 007859J, PB 5, IPO.

Federal Reimbursement Unit Analyst, 007858J, PB 5, IPO.

Office Manager, 007796Y, PB 3, IALR.

Project Assistant, 006947J, PB 3, CPAP.

FACULTY POSITIONS

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Agricultural and Extension Education. Project Associate/Agricultural Education Curriculum Specialist. Contact: John Hillison, 268 Litton Reaves (0343). Deadline: May 31.

Department of Biology. Postdoctoral Associate Positions in Molecular Cell Biology and Computational Biology of the Eukaryotic Cell Cycle. Contact: John J. Tyson and Jill C. Sible, 2125 Derring (0406). Blacksburg, VA 24061. Review begins immediately.

Department of Biology. Postdoctoral Associate Positions in Molecular Cell Biology and Computational Biology of the Eukaryotic Cell Cycle. Contact: John J. Tyson and Jill C. Sible, 2125 Derring (0406). Blacksburg, VA 24061. Review begins immediately.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Project Associate/Project Manager II. Contact: Cindy Wilkinson, 3500 Transportation Plaza, Blacksburg VA 24061. Deadline: May 21.

Gray receives governor's award

Betty Gray, a laboratory and research practitioner IV for the Tidewater AREC in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has received the Governor's Award for Long-Term Quality Service.

The award for long-term quality service is one of several awards designated as part of Virginia Public Service Week. The criteria for nomination include long service and consistent contribution to the agency's mission. The nominated employee may consistently provide long-term quality service over four decades.

Gray's nomination states, "Betty was hired at the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Holland (now Suffolk), as a lab aide B in 1955. During the ensuing 45-plus years, her skills increased and she was re-allocated to a higher classification level. Today she prepares samples for laboratory analysis and records the weather and maintains an extensive data base of weather records. Further, Betty supervises day-to-day operations in the

(See GRAY on 4)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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COMMENCEMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(TICKETS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CEREMONY ONLY)

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2002

Corps of Cadets Graduation Ceremony

Donaldson Brown Center Auditorium

3:00 p.m.

Graduate School Ceremony

Cassell Coliseum

4:30 p.m.

Army Commissioning

Donaldson Brown Center Auditorium

5:00 p.m.

VA-MD Regional College

Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires

7:00 p.m.

of Veterinary Medicine Ceremony

Haymarket Theatre, Squires

8:00 p.m.

New Virginians Commencement Show

The Depot at Dietrick Dining Center

6-9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2002

Commencement Breakfast

Lane Stadium

9:00 a.m.

UNIVERSITY CEREMONY

Burruss Hall Auditorium

11:00 a.m.

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENTAL CEREMONIES

Burruss Hall Auditorium

1:00 p.m.

Agriculture and Life Sciences

Recital Salon, Squires, 2nd floor

1:30 p.m.

Architecture and Urban Studies

Burruss Hall Auditorium

11:00 a.m.

Arts and Sciences

Burruss Hall Auditorium

1:00 p.m.

Art and Art History

Burruss Hall Auditorium

11:00 a.m.

Biochemistry

War Memorial Gym

11:00 a.m.

Biology

Hahn Hall /Chemistry Atrium

11:00 a.m.

Chemistry

Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires

11:00 a.m.

Communication Studies

100 McBryde Hall

11:00 a.m.

Computer Science

Pamplin Hall Atrium

11:00 a.m.

Economics

Shultz Dining Hall

11:00 a.m.

English

100 McBryde Hall

11:00 a.m.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Brush Mountain Room A, Squires

1:30 p.m.

Geography

100 Hancock Hall

11:00 a.m.

Geological Sciences

Haymarket Theatre, Squires

11:00 a.m.

History

Donaldson Brown Center Auditorium

11:00 a.m.

Interdisciplinary Studies

100 McBryde Hall

1:30 p.m.

International Studies

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

10:30 a.m.

Mathematics

Recital Salon, Squires

11:00 a.m.

Music

Major Williams Hall, 2nd Floor Atrium

11:00 a.m.

* Philosophy

Rooms 150, 152, and 154 Squires

11:00 a.m.

Physics

Colonial Hall, Squires

11:00 a.m.

Political Science

Commonwealth Ballroom, Squires

1:00 p.m.

Psychology

L'Arche Bed & Breakfast, 301 Wall Street

12:00 noon

**Science and Technology Studies

McComas Hall, Small Gym

10:30 a.m.

Sociology

Slusher Hall Lobby

11:00 a.m.

Statistics

Studio Theatre, Squires

11:00 a.m.

Theatre Arts

Cassell Coliseum

11:00 a.m.

Pamplin College of Business

Cassell Coliseum

1:30 p.m.

Engineering

Rector Field House

11:00 a.m.

Human Resources and Education

War Memorial Gym

1:30 p.m.

Natural Resources

Colonial Hall, Squires

3:00 p.m.

Air Force Commissioning

Haymarket Theatre, Squires

3:30 p.m.

Naval Commissioning

Schlesinger Concert Hall (Intersection of North

2:00 p.m.

Beauregard St. and West Braddock Rd. on the Northern

Virginia Community College/Alexandria Campus)

*Graduate and Undergraduate Ceremony

**Graduate School Ceremony

IN OTHER NEWS**Undergraduate wins Goldwater scholarship**

By Liz Crumbley

Erik Herz, a junior working on undergraduate degrees in materials science and engineering (MSE), economics, and international studies, has been selected to receive a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for the 2002-2003 academic year.

The Goldwater scholarship will provide as much as \$7,500 to Herz during his senior year. The U.S. Congress established the scholarship program in 1986 to honor Sen. Barry Goldwater (now deceased) and to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

Herz became interested in biomaterials during a study-abroad semester at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia in 2000. "I saw how beneficial that field can be," he said. "The biomaterials I'm interested in can be placed into the human body and used as carriers for drug-delivery systems to treat diseases." Another impetus for his interest in this field was the death of his father from cancer in 1993. "Through research, I hope to find new ways to help people," he said.

Seizing opportunities as early as possible, Herz has worked on faculty-directed research projects during all but one of his semesters as a Virginia Tech student. Since September 2001 he has worked in the Virginia Tech Optical Sciences and Engineering Research Center as principal lab technician, fabricating semiconductor quantum-dots. "Researching quantum-dots is essential because of its implications for the study of cancer," he said.

SENIORS

Continued from 1

the Pi Tau Sigma and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor societies.

Hupp is a team leader for the Women in Engineering Support Teams and spent a semester as an intern in Lille, France, at *Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique*, where she developed a computer model of a radiometer. An aircraft design enthusiast, Hupp completed her senior design project as a member of the Morphing Wing Team, working in the university's Center for Intelligent Materials Systems and Structures. She also has worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the Magnetic Bearings Laboratory.

At MIT, Hupp plans to conduct graduate research in the field of fluid mechanics. In the future, she wants to work as a design engineer, contributing to the development of new technologies, and is interested in project leadership roles.

Weber said one of the most rewarding things she has done was visit Kenya, Africa, where she helped clear land for an orphanage for AIDS orphans, helped dig the foundation for a house, worked with children in the school, and organized a team to re-decorate the women and children's wards of the town hospital "to bring a sense of hope to the patients."

A biology major, Weber made the trip as part of a service-learning study-abroad course with the university's Residential Leadership Community. Weber said when she "stepped inside the hospital...and visited all the patients, hearing their stories, my heart broke."

Weber also has traveled with a church medical mission team to Cubulco, Guatemala, where she assisted in medical procedures such as draining a mandibular abscess and cleaning a deep foot wound. She conducted a research project on hereditary deafness and hearing disorders at the University of Iowa. In addition, she

"Erik has distinguished himself as an outstanding undergraduate researcher," said Ron Kander, former professor of MSE and now a department head at James Madison University. Herz was involved in several sponsored-research projects in Kander's polymeric materials laboratory at Virginia Tech.

Economics, his second major, is a subject Herz finds "stimulating—I enjoy learning about the ways businesses and industries operate." He chose international studies as a third major "because I have an international background—my parents came to the U.S. from Switzerland—and I'm interested in travel and learning more about other countries."

Herz spent spring semester 2001 studying classical Roman history and Italian at Virginia Tech's European center in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland.

A member of the Hillcrest Honors Community, Herz has been named to the College of Engineering's Dean's List every semester. He has received numerous scholarships while at the university, including the Paul E. Torgersen Leadership Scholarship, Gilbert and Lucille Seay Scholarship, Honors Community Scholarship, Knobler MSE Book Scholarship, and others.

During his senior year at Virginia Tech, Herz plans to conduct graduate-level research and he will remain at the university to complete his master's degree in MSE.

has volunteered at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV), an experience that opened her eyes to medical opportunities and helped her define her career goals.

Weber will use her Cooke Foundation scholarship to study pediatric medicine at MCV. The field of pediatrics or pediatric oncology, she said, "would give me the opportunity to combine my love for the sciences with my love for children."

Weber has been selected to Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key, Who's Who Among America's College Students and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and she received the German Club's Rising Senior Leadership Award.

Other Virginia colleges with Cooke Foundation scholars are George Mason University, Hollins College, James Madison University, Old Dominion University, Sweet Briar College and University of Virginia. The 17 Virginia residents who received scholarships also met with Governor Mark Warner in Richmond on May 2.

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OBITUARY**Joseph Herbert Moore**

By Liz Crumbley

Joseph Herbert ("Herb") Moore, a retired structural engineer and former member of the College of Engineering faculty, died in his home in Blacksburg on Dec. 13, 2001.

Moore earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Citadel in 1943. Returning to school after military service in World War II, he received his M.S. from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Before joining the Virginia Tech faculty, he taught at The Citadel; Penn State, where he was director of the Division of Engineering and Engineering Technology at Capitol Campus;

and Clemson, where he served as head of the Department of Civil Engineering. At Virginia Tech, Moore was director of the former Engineering Technology Program. He subsequently taught and conducted research as a professor in the civil-engineering department until his retirement in 1988. On May 12, 2001, The Citadel awarded Moore an honorary doctorate in for his lifetime achievements in engineering.

Contributions may be made in Moore's name to The Citadel Development Foundation, Attn. The Clark Williams Scholarship, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

Spectrum will resume publication May 24 on the summer schedule. See the University Planning Calendar for publication dates. Deadlines remain Friday at noon on the week preceding publication.

**Don't forget Staff Appreciation Day, May 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Rector Field House.*

GRAY

Continued from 3

plant, soil and water laboratory of the center."

The nomination states that Gray "performs beyond her daily duties by volunteering her time and resources on many weekends and holidays by coming to the center throughout the year to record data as part of the *National Weather Observation Services*. She not only records this information but also collates it into publishable form to be used in support of the research and Extension programs of the center. She also assists in the field by helping with

research plot harvesting with cotton and other crops. Betty always is rated as a most valuable member of the harvest crews with her positive attitude and strong work ethic."

Planning to be present for the awards ceremony in Richmond are Fred Shokes, director of Tidewater AREC; Norris Powell, Gray's supervisor; and Dan Hallock, Gray's former supervisor.

Virginia Public Service Week, May 6 through 12, is an opportunity to reward and recognize employees for their hard work and dedication to the state and raise public awareness of the contributions state employees make every day.

Lynn Davis, public-relations coordinator for the College of Natural Resources, was one of 35 employees from state agencies who was randomly selected by the state's Department of Human Resource Management to participate in the Governor's Award ceremony as employee ambassadors to thank award recipients on behalf of other employees. Davis will travel to Richmond today to help Warner host the state employee awards reception at his home.

PROGRAM

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on science and engineering needs and applications.

"The Macromolecular Science and Engineering degree programs are designed to afford sufficient course-work flexibility for gaining depth in a concentration and breadth in polymeric materials and thereby provide the science and engineering foundations and the leadership training to create and implement safe, durable, and cost-effective materials in the U.S.," Riffle said. The \$2.7 million from NSF will be matched by half a million from the university over five years and will support eight new students per year. The program will start this summer with undergraduate students, and the first graduate students will arrive in August.

"The emphasis of the new degree program will be on team work in the courses and research and also on communication skills in addition to the science and engineering disciplines," Riffle said.

EMPLOYEE

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Bonuses will be included in the August 30, 2002, paycheck. An employee must be on the payroll in an active employment status on August 30, 2002, to receive the bonus.

Can the bonus be tax sheltered?

Employees who elect to receive a bonus payment may contribute some or all of the bonus payment to their tax-shelter plan to avoid paying income tax on the bonuses, as long as the employee does not exceed the annual maximum-deferral amounts. Personnel Services will send additional information about tax shelters to employees who select the bonus in early July. FICA tax must be paid on the amount that is contributed.

Bonus Note to Faculty Members:

Policies for faculty members regarding the bonus program are under discussion and pending Board of Visitors approval in June. None of the deadlines listed above for classified employees apply to faculty members. More information regarding faculty recommendations will be included in an upcoming issue of *Spectrum*.

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Loring Tech