

SPECTRUM



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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TODAY'S EDITION
See page 4 for
restructuring chart.

Academic restructuring plan approved by board

By Jean Elliott

The university restructuring plan for academic colleges was approved by the Board of Visitors on Monday, authorizing President Charles Steger to approve the implementation plan developed by the University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark McNamee.

"We see this re-organization effort as a natural progression creating logical alliances that will enable departments and disciplines to achieve the world class status that we seek," McNamee said.

The plan includes the restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences into two colleges (tentatively called the College of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences and the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences) and re-aligns depart-

ments within the two new colleges as well as existing colleges. The college currently includes 28 academic departments, more than 7,000 students, and is the largest college within the university.

The plan includes the establishment of two consortia, a concept that allows the university to take advantage of commonalities already in existence between colleges. A consortium for the natural sciences would consist of four colleges (College of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine). Likewise, a consortium for the arts, humanities, social sciences, education, and human resources would consist of two colleges (College of Human Resources and Education, and the College of

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences).

While the Pamplin College of Business, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, and the College of Engineering will not formally belong to a consortium, it is expected that interactions with appropriate consortia will facilitate inter-collegiate activities. Engineering will have participants in each consortium as well as in the School of Biomedical Engineering and the School of Computer Science and Information Technology. The College of Veterinary medicine will also have participants in the biomedical engineering school. A School of Education will be formed from the departments of Teaching and Learning, and Educational Leadership and Policy Studies to help focus the university's activities in education. The School of the Arts and the School of Public and International Af-

(See *ACADEMIC* on 4)

Parking master plan endorsed by board

By Sarah Newbill

The Board of Visitors Building and Grounds Committee has made an official resolution to endorse the concepts presented in the parking master plan developed by the architecture firm of Hayes, Seay, Mattern, and Mattern (HSMM), which has been in the works since last fall.

HSMM's Director of Design Mike Brennan, and Paul Anderson, head of the firm's traffic and transportation division, presented their recommended concepts from the final plan, which include phased construction of three parking decks to be located at the B-lot, upper quad area, and I-lot (the Cage); roadway additions and improvements, including the re-routing of Duck Pond Drive to the backside of the I-lot; reducing parking around the drill field area to promote a safer, more visually pleasing pedestrian environment; and an enhanced transit-system service, which the board would like to see prioritized.

Parking and traffic surveys were the two primary components of the detailed report. The parking survey took into account parking lots with five spaces or more, which included 55 of the 71 total lots on campus. HSMM reported that 26 lots exceeded their effective capacity. "The issue is convenience," said Steve Mouras, the university's director of transportation, who said there are approximately 600 unused parking spaces on any given day, but these spaces are remote and inconvenient.

The traffic survey studied 22 intersections at peak hours, and calculated the delay times using a factor of 40 seconds or more as an unacceptable delay. Twenty-five percent of the morning intersections failed, with delay times being over 40 seconds, and 45 percent of the intersections during the afternoon peak hours failed.

Although many intersections are currently manned by university police officers, HSMM's proposal suggests using traffic lights at the higher capacity areas, with none being located within the central campus area.

Vice President for Administration Ray Smoot said he has been resistant to traffic lights and parking decks, which he said "contribute to the urbanization of a non-urban campus," but stated that these will most likely be necessary as the university grows, and as "traffic and parking issues loom ever larger."

A public component was an important part of the information-gathering process that helped shape the draft and final versions of the parking plans. HSMM coordinated a transportation fair in the fall encouraging input and reaction to parking proposals from students, faculty and staff members. In

(See *BOARD* on 2)

BOV passes budget, faculty bonus program

By Jean Elliott

The Board of Visitors approved the 2002-2003 budget for \$691 million at its meeting Monday.

The board also passed the following resolutions:

Criteria for Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor

There was an implicit understanding that for promotion to professor, a faculty member must excel in two of the university missions: instruction, research, and outreach. A new paragraph emphasizing this will be added to the written guidelines:

"Faculty members must demonstrate excellence in at least two of the three aspects of the university's mission, one of which must be research, scholarship or creative achievement broadly defined as appropriate for the various disciplines, and reflecting the

faculty member's assignment. Promotion to the rank of professor is contingent upon national or international recognition as an outstanding scholar and educator."

Faculty Bonus Program

Based on the language approved by the General Assembly and employment-eligibility dates issued by the Department of Human Resource Management, the university has developed an implementation plan for the faculty salary bonus program:

- All salaried faculty members (both full-time and part-time) and graduate students on assistantships will be eligible to participate in the bonus program if they were hired before May 1, 2002 and are actively employed on Aug. 30, 2002.

- Faculty members whose performance is deemed to be below acceptable standards will not receive a bonus; otherwise, bonus pay-

ments will be administered uniformly, that is, an across-the-board payment of 2.5 percent of annual salary will be made.

- Bonus payments will be included in the Aug. 30, 2002 payroll checks.

- In the event that the state provides funds in excess of what is needed for the bonus payments, these excess bonus funds will be used to fund faculty travel to conferences, special equipment purchases, or other "non-monetary incentives and awards" as deemed appropriate by the president, university provost and academic vice president, and executive vice president and chief operating officer for the retention of teaching and research faculty members.

- Bonus payments to faculty members or GRA's on sponsored-program funding will be dependent on the availability of funding in the grant or contract.

Tech's Gardner receives Guggenheim Fellowship

By Sally Harris

As simple as Emily Dickinson's poetry seems on superficial reading, her deceptively rich works continue to bring up religious and philosophical questions for modern writers. Thomas Gardner, professor of English at Virginia Tech, has received a Guggenheim Fellowship to complete a book on this 19th-century poet's influence on themes addressed by today's poets and novelists.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation offers fellowships "to further the development of scholars and artists by assisting them to engage in research in any field of knowledge and creation in any of the arts." The fellowships go to people who have "already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts" and who show promise of further outstanding work.

Gardner is not only a poet in his own right, but has published several books about

poetry, including *Discovering Ourselves in Whitman: The Contemporary American Long Poem* and *Regions of Unlikeness: Explaining Contemporary Poetry*. The book Gardner is writing now explores the influence of Emily Dickinson's "fallen poetics" on contemporary works of such poets as Jorie Graham, Charles Wright, and Susan Howe and novelist Marilynne Robinson.

The term "fallen poetics" comes from Elisa New at Harvard, Gardner said, and is "the idea that poetry most fully demonstrates who we are as human beings by calling attention to our distance from wholeness or perfection or full insight." In other words, "we are fallen from paradise," Gardner said. "As our language changes to acknowledge that fact, Dickinson shows, we become much more responsive to the world around us. We inhabit the world more fully when we acknowledge its difference from the limited terms and models and expectations we approach it with." In his book, Gardner will

explore the ways contemporary writers have been expanding and testing this idea.

For example, Gardner realized after reading Wright's long poem "A Journal of the Year of the Ox" that the poem's central image is a beam of light in the afternoon, an image from Dickinson's poem "There's a certain Slant of light." The phrase brought up a series of religious and philosophical questions that Wright dealt with in his poem, Gardner said.

Gardner's book, *Emily Dickinson and Contemporary Writers*, will examine the way writers such as Robinson have returned to the works of Dickinson, "powerfully responding to and extending her investigations of the link between an acknowledgement of human limits and the opening out of human responsiveness to a world beyond our capacity to master or possess."

Robinson, in an earlier interview, had lamented that the ideas brought up by earlier

(See *GARDNER* on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 7

SOTA Exhibit, Armory Art Gallery: "Fine Artists from Rockbridge" (through 6-21).

SOTA Exhibit, Squires Perspective Gallery: "Diversity in White" (through 6-28).

SOTA Event, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Swing music.

Monday, 10

Last Day to Resign.

Tuesday, 11

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

Wednesday, 12

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

Thursday, 13

TA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theater: "The Bald Soprano" (through 6-15).

Friday, 14

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

SOTA Event, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Folk-Rock music.

Wednesday, 19

"With Good Reason," 7 p.m., WVTF: "Old is Not a Bad Word," including Toni Calasanti.

Thursday, 20

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton-Reaves.

Friday, 21

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

BULLETINS

Free ISO 9000 networks seminar offered

"ISO 9001: 2000—Assessing Quality in E-Commerce," a free, one-day program, is being held today in Roanoke from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the offices of American Electric Power at 40 Franklin Road. The seminar will be repeated in Blacksburg on Friday, June 14, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center conference room located at 1715 Pratt Drive.

"This will be a great opportunity for quality managers to get up to speed on best practices in e-business, while discussing some of the challenges and opportunities posed by e-commerce," said Chad Miller, economic-development specialist for international programs.

The seminar's featured speaker, Roger Beeker, is chairman of the board for Wiley & Wilson and a leading ISO 9000 assessor who has helped more than 60 companies achieve ISO certification.

Virginia Tech Public Service Programs, a division of University Outreach, is sponsoring the seminar in partnership with American Electric Power, Wiley & Wilson Corporation, and the Virginia Department of Business Assistance.

For more information, contact Miller at 1-8324.

Hokie 5K Race and Fun Run set

The Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Blacksburg Striders and the New River Valley Alumni Chapter will hold the Inaugural Hokie 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, June 29, at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center.

Proceeds from the event, which is open to the public, will benefit the New River Valley Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund. The race is open to participants of all ages and there will be a 50-yard Diaper Dash for small children.

A pre-race tailgate party and buffet dinner will be held the evening of Friday, June 28, at the west end stands of Lane Stadium.

The schedule for the Saturday's events is as follows: 6:45 to 7:30 a.m., Race Day Registration and Packet Pick-Up; 8 a.m., 5K Race Start; 8:30 a.m., 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk Start; 9 a.m., Diaper Dash; 9:30 a.m., Awards Ceremony and Post-Race Party.

Details of award categories, registration forms and more information can be found at <http://fbox.vt.edu/alumni/alum/5K.html>.

The race will start in the parking lot at 1715 Pratt Drive, Research Building 12, and will be routed through Corporate Research Center.

For more information, contact Heather Esteban at hsteban@vt.edu or 1-5753.

Employees request leave donations

Employees in Physical Plant, Purchasing, Systems Engineering and Administration have requested leave donations. Donation forms can be downloaded from the Personnel Services web site at <http://www.ps.vt.edu/ps/forms/forms.html>. Return completed forms to Kim Linkous, 0318.

YMCA Race/Fun Walk tomorrow

The Second Annual YMCA 5K Race and One-Mile Fun Walk is tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Clay and Kent Streets. Registration fees include race tee shirt and coupons from the Y and sponsors. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers in various categories. A drawing for prizes will be held after the race for all participants. Register on line at www.vtymca.org, or at the YMCA office during office hours. Call 1-6860 for more information.

Nominations sought for ALE Outstanding Leader Award

The Academy for Leadership Excellence (ALE) announces a call for nominations for the ALE Outstanding Leader Award.

The purpose of this award is to recognize those university employees who have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities through superior job performance, job-related extracurricular activities, (such as participation in university governance) university, college, and departmental committee work; other areas of service to the university, supplemental activities outside the university. (Note: While outside activities that enhance the nominee's overall profile of service to the university and community may be considered, they will be given less weight than university activities.)

Any university employee, on or off campus, may nominate individuals for the award. Nominations will consist of a one-page typed, signed letter outlining the leadership qualities of the nominee. Endorsements of the nomination by supervisors or others are not required. Employees may nominate as many individuals as they wish; however, each nomination must be made separately, and the nominator must sign each.

Eligibility will be limited to employees in classified staff positions or in administrative/

professional (A/P) faculty positions. Tenured and tenure-track faculty members, including those who presently are engaged in administrative functions, are not eligible, since other awards are available to these groups. Self-nominations are ineligible. This award should not be viewed as competing with the President's Award for Excellence.

The ALE Leadership Awards Committee is the reviewing and decision-making body. The committee will consider all eligible letters of nomination and will select three finalists for in-depth review, and will then make a final selection.

The person selected for the award will be honored at the academy's year-end awards luncheon held in July 2002, where a framed certificate of award will be presented. The award will be announced in *Spectrum* and other area newspapers.

Nomination letters should be sent in a sealed envelope to University Leadership Development, 459 Tech Center Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0538.

Questions should be addressed to University Leadership Development at 1-6727 or uld@vt.edu.

Nominations deadline is Monday, June 24.

Bioterrorism, biotechnology conference topics here in July

By Stewart MacInnis

Bioterrorism, the promise of biotechnology to help feed the world, and vaccines created through biotechnology are among topics that will be presented during the 7th Biotechnology Educators' Conference at Virginia Tech July 17 to 20.

These presentations by nationally recognized experts will cap the East Coast's premier biotechnology conference for teachers. In addition to discussion of recent developments in biotechnology, the conference, which is sponsored by the university's Fralin Biotechnology Center, features hands-on workshops for high-school teachers and college science professors to help them teach biotechnology concepts and skills. The workshops are held on the afternoons of July 18 and 19 following the presentations and all day July 20.

Speakers scheduled for the morning of July 18 are C.S. Prakash of Tuskegee University, giving a presentation entitled, "Genes, Crops, and Food: Can Biotechnology Innovations Help Food Security?"; Fran Ligler of the Naval

Research Labs, giving a presentation entitled, "Innovation in the Cracks Between Disciplines: Biosensor R&D," and Carole Cramer of Virginia Tech, giving a presentation entitled, "Next Generation Vaccines: Taking the Pain out of Prevention."

Speakers scheduled for the morning of July 19 are Jonathan Richmond of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Health and Safety Information Systems, giving a presentation entitled, "Bioterrorism, Biosafety, and Preparedness"; Kim McAllister of the University of California at Davis, giving a presentation entitled, "Neuronal Growth and Synapse Formation in the Developing Brain," and Bruno Sobral of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, giving a presentation entitled, "From Microscope to Kaleidoscope: Bioinformatics—A New View for Biology."

More information about the conference is available at the Fralin Biotechnology Center's web site (www.biotech.vt.edu) or by contacting Erin Dolan at 1-2692 or by e-mail at edolan@vt.edu.

BOARD

Continued from 1

January and February, a public comment period also gave an opportunity for these groups to express their concerns to the Office of Transportation on HSM's final report which is posted at <http://www.ot.vt.edu/masterplan>.

The BOV committee stressed that attention be given to measures that reduce parking in the

central campus area, and provide incentives and encouragement for transportation alternatives such as bicycle riding, car pooling, and mass-transit use. Parking Services currently provides a student carpool program and frequently promotes bicycle and Blacksburg transit use. Students currently have unlimited access on the Blacksburg Transit (covered by a one-time fee included in the student comprehensive fee) and faculty and staff

members can ride free; however only 18 percent of these potential users take advantage of this resource.

The committee also heard a report by Spencer Hall, assistant vice president for facilities, who has been working with Town of Blacksburg officials and the Montgomery County School Board to maximize parking spaces during football games. A total of 1,066

spaces from three off-campus sites (Kipps Elementary School, Blacksburg High School, and the old Blacksburg Middle School) could be added to the list of public places to park during football weekends. These schools would charge a minimal fee per space, and the town would provide shuttle service. Details are currently being worked out and will be publicized later this summer.

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-time food-service positions available.

Assistant Video Coordinator, 007671J, PB 3, Athletics.

Budget Analyst, 003995J, PB 4, Research Administration.

Communications Officer, 000657Y, PB 3, Police.

Computer Systems Engineer, 000180B, PB 5, CS.

Controller, CCCCCC, PB 0, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Dry Rendering Facility Engineer, 007951M, PB 4, CVM.

Employee Relations Counselor/Program Coordinator, 001073D, PB 5, Personnel Services.

General Counsel, CCCCCC, PB 0, Virginia Tech Foundation.

Laboratory Specialist, 007810M, PB 3,

PPWS.

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

Motor Vehicle Operator B, 002862F, PB 2, Physical Plant.

Pharmacy Assistant, 002617M, PB 2, VTH.

Public Relations/Marketing Specialist, 007949J, PB 4, WSFP.

Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.

Sous Chef, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

Technical Writer, 007837S, PB 4, University Development.

PART TIME

Executive Secretary, W022993J, PB 3, CAUS.

Graphic Artist, W022443Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.

Office Services Assistant, W020838M, PB 2, VTH.

Office Services Specialist, W023422J, PB 2, CHRE.

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

Quality Assurance Agent, W023015Y, PB 3, AIS.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, PB 3, VTH.

Receptionist, W020038G, PB 2, Alumni Relations.

Storage Facility Assistant, W023420G, PB 2, Library.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

OFF CAMPUS

Area Efnep/Scnep Program Support Technician, 006950M, PB 3, VCE—Northeast District.

Director of Nursing, 002178M, PB 4, CVM.

Bambach research finds unexpectedly stable ocean ecosystems

By Susan Trulove

Marine life had to re-evolve after two major extinctions for shrimp and whales and other sea life as we know it to come into being. But what is remarkable, according to an article published in the May 14, 2002 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS), is not that marine life recovered from two mass extinctions, but that marine ecosystems have maintained very stable structure over the last 450 million years and only changed noticeably in the recovery from these two great extinctions.

Previous studies claim five mass extinctions decreased the diversity of ocean life. But the PNAS article, "Anatomical and Ecological Constraints on Phanerozoic Animal Diversity in the Marine Realm," by Richard Bambach, professor emeritus of geological sciences from Virginia Tech; Andrew H. Knoll of Harvard, and the late J. John Sepkoski Jr. of the University of Chicago, reports and analyzes

evidence that only two of these mass extinctions led to major change in global ecosystem structure. These were the extinctions 251 million years ago, at the end of the Permian period, and 65 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period.

The Permian extinction was massive. It is believed to have wiped out 95 percent of all species, possibly as a result of increased levels of dissolved CO₂ in the oceans triggered by a comet or meteorite impact. (Inclusions in Permian rocks containing gases known only to exist in outer space were discovered only last year.) The Cretaceous extinction, also triggered by a large impact, was not as thorough, but is the one we are all familiar with because it killed the dinosaurs. Although it also devastated marine life, the pattern of extinction at the end of the Cretaceous was quite different than in the Permian, suggesting a different immediate cause of death than in the Permian event.

However, the change in ecosystems was not produced by the killing events, the article emphasizes, but by the way life evolved afterwards. "What we think happened was that only these two big extinction events were severe enough to so empty the world that the basic structure of the ecosystem itself had to be re-established," Bambach said. "That took time, and as things evolved, the pattern of ecologic relationship between different adaptive types of organisms developed differently."

The analysis treats several very general modes of life and how they relate to total global diversity. A similar pattern of change is seen in each analysis. In one analysis, the authors simply compare the proportion of the marine fauna that is motile, or capable of moving around, versus the proportion that is sedentary or attached and doesn't move. "The difference is important for several reasons," Bambach said. "For instance, non-mobile organisms all need to get food

brought to them in water currents whereas motile organisms can feed in many ways.

"Before the end-Permian extinction, about two-thirds of the different kinds of marine animals were immobile," Bambach said. "After the recovery from that extinction, the ratio between motile and non-motile was nearly one to one until the end Cretaceous extinction. Then, as marine life recovered from that event, motile organisms became about two-thirds of the different kinds of life, the reverse of the ratio before the Permian extinction. And that ratio has persisted to the present."

While the standard ideas of the severity of extinctions has been called into doubt by differences in the quality of the geologic record, the results of the work by Knoll, Sepkoski, and Bambach, published in PNAS, demonstrate that the end Permian and end Cretaceous events did affect life in general in very important ways.

CHRE sponsors women's leadership conference

In a gathering that mixed traditional lines of power, women administrators, faculty and staff members met at Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center May 16-17 to discuss leadership in a workshop sponsored by the College of Human Resources and Education.

The conference, entitled "Leading with Voice and Collaboration," was the second two-day conference facilitated by the Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI), a collective which is sponsored by an endowment specifically to support women's leadership. The gift was made by Jeanette Poole, an alumnae of CHRE, who also gave the keynote address at the opening luncheon. Poole, who is the founder, sole owner and president of J Poole Associates Realtors Inc., a Miami-area real-estate firm employing over 100 independent real-estate agents and last year had property sales valued in excess of \$170 million, discussed the importance of mentors.

The 48 conference participants, who were selected by their deans or nominated by the WLI advisory committee, represented every college at Virginia Tech, as well as the Northern Virginia and Richmond campuses.

The opening session focused on Myers-Briggs interpretations as it relates to leadership, which was presented by Judith Jones, associate director of Virginia Cooperative Extension. An

afternoon session was devoted to collaboration and teamwork, where participants learned about the dynamics of group decision-making and the facilitating skills needed to accomplish steps to consensus. Judy Burtner, a consultant who works with local and state government agencies and non-profit organizations, led the session.

The second day was dedicated to communication. After watching Deborah Tannen's training video, "Talking 9 to 5: Women and Men in the Workplace," the participants broke into small groups to discuss their own experiences when it comes to gender and communication. The final session proved to be a high-energy panel on multi-cultural communication, which was moderated by Lucinda Roy, chair of the English Department. Ozzie Abaye, associate professor in crop and soil science; Kim Beisecker, director of the Cranwell International Center; and Jessie Chen-Yu, assistant professor in clothing and textiles, brought different cultural experiences to the panel. Humorous anecdotes helped to reveal cultural traditions and illustrate that in today's global society, cross-cultural interactions should be made thoughtfully and with a keen awareness of others.

WLI's objectives included enhancing lead-

ership competencies among women staff and faculty members, and administrators; fostering productive working relationships among women of diverse backgrounds; promoting strategies for balancing women's personal and professional lives; and challenging participants' mindsets and philosophies with cutting-edge strategies.

Participants included Karen Akers, Kathryn Albright, Katherine Allen, Cathy Barker, Beisecker, Holly Bender, Barbara Board, Sherri Box, Kimberly Brown, Chen-Yu, Penny Cook, Carolyn Copenheaver, Keohiokalani Council, Melinda Crowder, Susan Eriksson, Laura Fornash, Dorothy Freeman, Sandra Griffith, Sookhan Ho, Michele James-Deramo, Tarajit Kaur, Marilyn Kershaw, Octavia Madison-Colmore, Linda McGraw, Leslie Mitchell, Sarah Newbill, Elaine Scott, Rebecca Shelor, Carol Slusser, Beverly Sypher, Susan Tolliver, Sherri Turner, Bevelee Watford, Dixie Watts, and Debbie Wilson.

Members of the 2001-2002 WLI Steering Committee (who also participated in the conference) are Abaye, Donna Cassell, Jean Elliott, April Few, Dru Forrester, Betty Greene, Carola Haas, Pat Hyer, Janet Johnson, Jones, Peggy Meszaros, Ellen Plummer, and Beth Schroder.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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IN OTHER NEWS

Pamplin management internship program logs more than 11,000 hours

By *Tatiana Aras, University Relations intern*
Over 30 organizations participated this spring semester in an internship program established by the Department of Management at the Pamplin College of Business.

The program was created "to provide management students with opportunities to gain internship and work experience while at the same time providing business assistance to the

local community," internship coordinator Stuart Mease said.

Student interns have logged a total of 11,600 hours for participating employers since the program's inception in December, 2000. These internships allow students to apply classroom skills in a professional environment.

Student interns are required to work 100 hours, attend career-development seminars, and

complete written assignments to receive three academic credits for their work.

"We are very happy with the program's continued momentum," Mease said. "Our students are benefiting, the local organizations are benefiting, and a win-win partnership has been formed between the students in the Department of Management and the local community."

Some of the participating organizations in

the New River and Roanoke Valleys were Montgomery Regional Hospital, Pulaski County Administration, Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, and Virginia Tech Services.

Organization members interested in participating in the program can contact Mease at 1-2397 or at smease@vt.edu for more information.

ACADEMIC

Continued from 1

fairs will continue as vehicles to work across departments and colleges in their respective areas.

"It is important to note that restructuring is not a response to the budget cuts," said Joe Merola, senior administrative fellow for restructuring. "Multiple vacancies in various aca-

dem leadership positions provided the university with an opportunity to ask, 'What should we be doing?'"

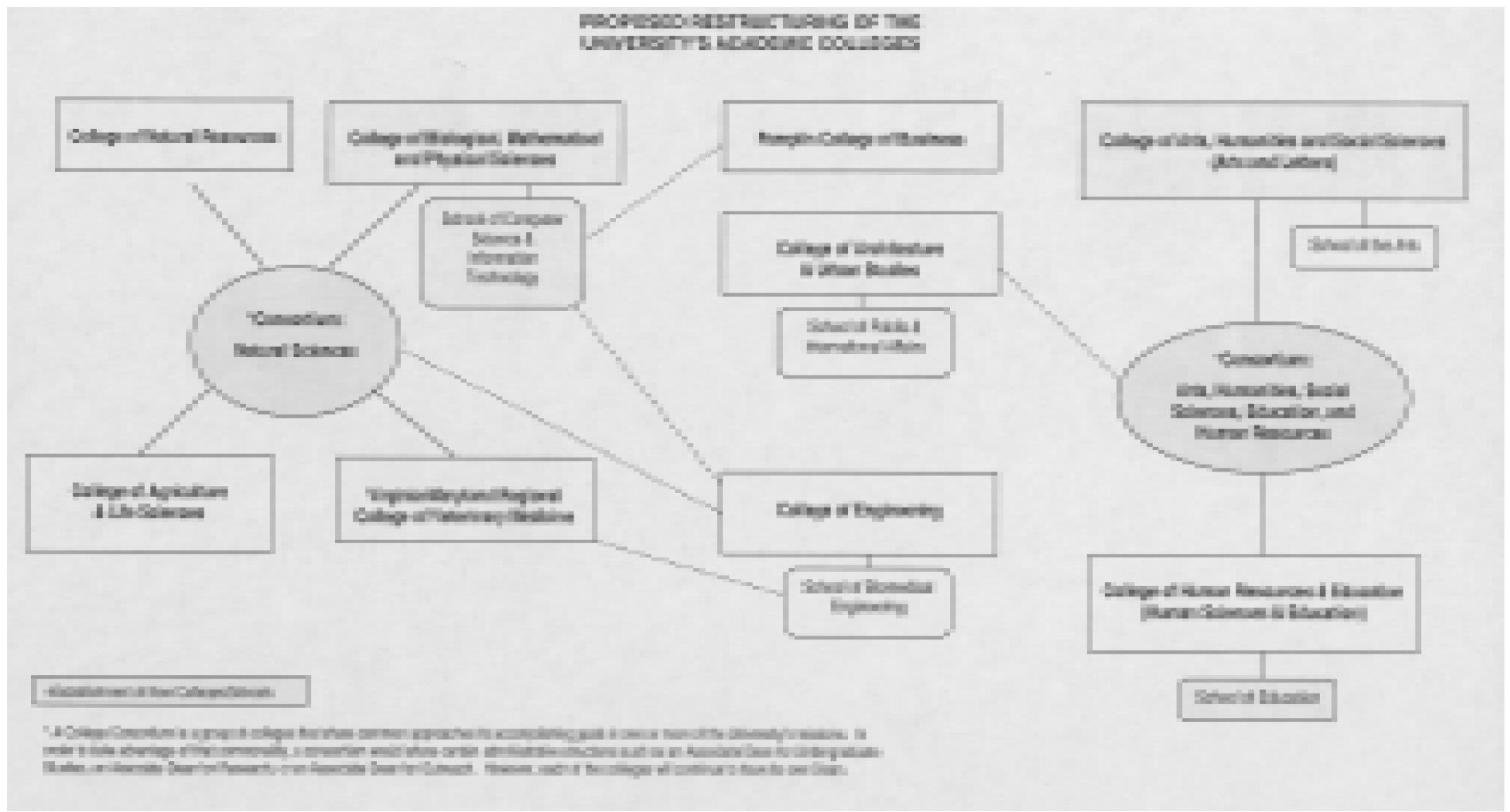
However, Merola said, the new plan holds promise for savings by consolidating various services. "We are asking various colleges to behave as consortia, and these units will share administrative structures below the level of dean," he said. "For example, there probably

will not be four different curriculum committees, or perhaps undergraduate advising might be shared. It is quite likely that graduate programs will be shared across colleges through the consortia. It is an opportunity to streamline and allow colleges to work together."

The process has included intensive discussions with faculty and staff members and administration, keeping in mind the university's

goal of becoming a top-30 research university by 2010.

The details as to where specific departments will ultimately reside will continue to be discussed. How various schools report when participants hail from several colleges, for example, also needs to be addressed. Merola anticipates that these discussions will continue through the summer and fall.



GARDNER

Continued from 1

American writers such as Dickinson, Melville, and Thoreau, were "dropped without being resolved." Gardner will look at the way writers today are picking up the ideas of Dickinson in their own novels, poems, and essays.

The book will consist of Gardner's in-depth essays on works by Robinson, Graham, Wright, and Howe and an introduction that touches on the works of about 10 other writers. In addition, the book will contain interviews of the four writers talking about Dickinson and her influence on their writings.

Gardner has received several Virginia Tech awards for teaching and scholarship, including the Certificate of Teaching Excellence twice, the Alumni Teaching Award, membership in the Academy of Teaching Excellence, the Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, and the Phi Beta Kappa Sturm Award for Outstanding Faculty Research.

The Guggenheim Fellowship will allow Gardner to take the 2002-2003 academic year off to complete the Dickinson book.

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

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summer
publication dates
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