

# SPECTRUM

Virginia Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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Special Invitation  
Everyone is invited to  
check out the university's  
new homepage at  
[www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu).

## Tyson's modeling of cell division earns \$450,000 award

By Sally Harris

Cancer is a group of diseases involving misregulation of cell growth and division. The more we know about how cells grow and divide under normal circumstances, the better we will understand how things go awry in cancer cells.

For this reason, John Tyson, university distinguished professor of biology at Virginia Tech, and Bela Novak, professor of biotechnology at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, are developing mathematical models of the molecular mechanisms that control the way yeast cells grow and assume various shapes.

Their work is being supported by a \$450,000 grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation of St. Louis, Mo. "Division and shape are important to yeasts because, by growing in specific directions, they are able to seek out viable environments and potential mates," Tyson said. "Understanding how yeast cells control these processes is important

to us not only because of the cancer connection, but also because we are still very much in the dark about how genes regulate behavior in the broadest sense."

"While the genome project has provided a parts list of the cell, scientists need a schematic diagram of how all those parts hook together," Tyson said. "From the schematic diagram, we can write equations that govern the behavior of the control system, much like an electrical engineer can write equations for a circuit diagram. With these equations we can predict how a cell will behave under many different conditions."

Although a human cell is more evolved than a yeast cell, a human cell is made of the same sorts of parts that behave in the same way. It was found that "the molecular constituents of the cell cycle control system are functionally interchangeable between yeast and humans," Tyson said. "What we learn about cell division in yeast can be carried over to

humans." From what they learn about the molecular mechanism of yeast cell growth and division, Tyson and Novak will attempt to extrapolate the mathematical model to humans.

The McDonnell Foundation funds come from its 21st Century Science Initiative, which provides private funds "to support and encourage researchers pursuing difficult, important projects where results might be more likely to advance our current state of knowledge."

The initiative covers three topics: studying complex systems, brain cancer research, and bridging brain, mind, and behavior. Studying complex systems, the area in which Tyson's work falls, emphasizes the development and application of theoretical models used in research fields such as biology, biodiversity, energy, and climate.

The project being conducted by Tyson and Novak is called "Spatial Patterns of Yeast Cell Growth and Division: Molecular Mechanisms and Mathematical Models."

## CASE recognizes McCord, Simpson's contributions

By Liz Crumbley

Virginia Tech employees Marshall "Mac" McCord of Christiansburg and Marty Simpson of Blacksburg have received 2002 Employee Recognition Awards from the College Association for Staff in Engineering (CASE) for their outstanding contributions and service to the college.

As the mechanical technician for the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics (ESM) and the Materials Response Group (MRG), McCord is "an instrument maker par excellence, a laboratory manager, a teacher, and a research assistant," said ESM Professor Ken Reifsnider. "But what he does only starts with that. Mac has contributed so many new ideas, clever solutions, and unique devices to our research effort that we routinely call him 'the magician.'"

McCord joined ESM in 1989 and has worked with faculty members and students on a wide range of projects—training people to use equipment, helping with the design of experimental fixtures and procedures, and fabricating materials for testing. An expert on non-destructive evaluation of materials, McCord has taught labs and provided technical support for courses and research in that field of experimentation. He also helps students with senior design projects and assists faculty members with short courses.

"Whether he is assisting students on a complex research lab set-up, collaborating with faculty members on research projects, or hosting a last-minute tour of the lab, Mac is always calm, cool, and collected," said Sheila Collins, administrative assistant for the MRG. "He is never shaken by tight deadlines or schedules. It would be hard to envision our group functioning without his ca-

(See CASE on 4)

## Select freshman engineering students to begin year in Europe

By Karen Gilbert

Freshman engineering students enrolled at Virginia Tech now have the opportunity to add a European educational experience to their resume. Two courses will be combined into one with an added international flair and will be offered to academically advanced freshman engineering students this summer. "The students selected for this program are ready for a challenge that is intense and offers a global perspective," said Pamela Kurstedt, assistant dean of enrichment and international programs in the College of Engineering.

The combined course will allow students to complete the two required Engineer-

ing Fundamentals courses before their arrival at Virginia Tech in the fall, giving them a head start on their freshman year. The new course will be delivered in an enhanced and compressed fashion over a four-week period and will be taught by Engineering Fundamentals faculty members. The first two weeks will be conducted on campus.

The last two weeks of the course will be held at the Virginia Tech Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. Other universities the students will visit in Europe are *Politecnico di Milano*, Italy and *Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne* in Switzerland. The course will cover topics such as design, graphics, computer

applications, ethics and problems solving. "A successful engineering career requires skills beyond understanding the fundamentals of math, science and technology. Engineers must have a broad view of how their work affects people and cultures," Kurstedt said. Students will also have the opportunity to visit a local industry in Milan.

The international component of the course will be added through study at CESA in Switzerland and will introduce students to the global aspects of the engineering profession. Students will study issues that affect engineering practice both in the United States and Europe. "We know most of our engineering graduates will

(See FRESHMAN on 3)

## AF's Hanna earns on-line M.A.

By Sally Harris

John Hanna woke up a hotel manager in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Arab United Emirates, early one morning to use the business office's computer to e-mail his assignment to Virginia Tech.

In Tunis, Tunisia, Hanna did not have an Internet connection in his room. After finishing his assignments during the day, he would walk around the city by night to find an open Internet café to e-mail to his professors the homework he'd saved on a disk.

Hanna, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force now stationed at the 426 Information Operations Squadron in Vogelweh, Germany, was a member of Virginia Tech's first official entering class in the on-line M.A. degree program in political science, although the department had been offering individual on-line classes for a few semesters before that.

He became the first of the class's students to finish his course work and then research, write, and defend his M.A. thesis, thus earning his on-line masters in December

2001.

"The program's second graduate, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander John Carter, is serving in the Navy and has found a new assignment at the U.S. Naval Academy teaching political science on the strength of M.A. work with us," said Tim Luke, university distinguished professor of political science and director of Graduate Studies in Political Science. "He also is starting a Ph.D. program in political science at Catholic University."

After graduation from Penn State, Hanna went to Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Tex., for officer/job training. He spent eight months in Texas, where he decided to pursue a master's degree in some field related to international studies, since that was the area in which he would be working. He decided on an on-line degree because he knew he would be traveling a great deal with the Air Force. He applied for admission to Virginia Tech in the fall of 1999.

The On-Line Masters of Arts program in Political Science, or OLMA/PSCI, is an

(See HANNA on 2)

## VMRCVM research symposium emphasizes growing program

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

A VMRCVM alumnus who works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta outlined her agency's stepped-up role in helping the United States prepare itself against the threat of bio-terrorism during the VMRCVM's Fourteenth Annual Research Symposium.

Jennifer McQuiston, a veterinary epidemiologist, explained how the CDC has been tasked by the Department of Health and Human Services to lead efforts aimed at upgrading the national public-health system's ability to deal with the threat of biological and chemical terrorism.

As part of her presentation, she outlined threats posed by Category A bio-terrorism agents such as smallpox, anthrax, and plague, and Category B agents such as brucellosis and assorted viral agents that cause a variety of

zoonotic encephalitic disorders.

McQuiston also discussed the CDC's role in helping the nation deal with the World Trade Center disaster and the subsequent spate of anthrax contaminated mail.

Her talk was the alumni keynote for the college's symposium, which showcases faculty research activities and features a graduate-student research competition.

Oliver Smithies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provided other keynote remarks during a presentation entitled "Mouse Solutions to Human Problems."

In general remarks made before the symposium, Dean Peter Eyre said this would likely be the last time the VMRCVM research symposium focused solely on veterinary-college research because of the college's growing involvement with the university's

(See RESEARCH on 2)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Wednesday, 3

#### Last Day to Add.

Art, Armory Gallery: A Pilgrimage of Images" (through 7-20).

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

TA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theater: "Fuddy Meers."

### Thursday, 4

Holiday for Faculty and Staff Members.

### Friday, 5

Holiday for Faculty and Staff Members.

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Scott Perry, Blues singer and guitarist.

TA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theater: "Fuddy Meers" (through 7-6).

Meers" (through 7-6).

### Tuesday, 9

Art, Squires Perspective Gallery: "Portraits" (through 8-8).

### Wednesday, 10

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

TA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theater: "The Bald Soprano" (through 7-13).

### Thursday, 11

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

### Friday, 12

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge.

Last Day to Drop.

### Tuesday, 16

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

### Wednesday, 17

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

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

### Thursday, 18

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

### Friday, 19

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Dixie Power Trio.

## BULLETINS

### Service-Learning Center offers kids activities

The Service-Learning Center is organizing informal half-day activities for children who come to work with their parents. Activities are supervised by a service-learning student and include bowling at Breakzone in Squires, outdoor games, tours

around campus, and more. The cost is \$5 a day per child. For more information, contact Michele James-Deramo at [deramo@vt.edu](mailto:deramo@vt.edu).

### Employees request leave donations

Employees in Physical Plant, Purchasing, and Telecommu-

nications Auxiliary 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.

## Southern Piedmont to host field day

By Netta Benton

The Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SPAREC) in Blackstone will hold its annual bramble and blueberry field day Thursday, July 11, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The event is designed for current small-fruits producers as well as for those interested in starting such production.

Pre-registration is requested by July 6. A registration fee of \$10 per participant is requested to defray costs of lunch and meeting materials.

The field day will include updates on pest management, breeding, and other small-fruits work presented by Extension specialists and researchers from Virginia Tech and University of Maryland. Participants are encouraged to discuss or ask questions about production practices and situations that apply to their own enterprises.

For more information or directions to the center, call Herb Stiles or Margaret Kenny at 434-292-5331 or fax 434-292-5623.

## RESEARCH

Continued from 1

Natural Sciences Consortium and the emerging School of Biomedical Engineering.

Eyre says the VMRCVM will concentrate fully on developing its research agenda during the first decade of the 21st century, just as it concentrated on establishing excellence in its academic programs in the 1980s and its clinical service programs in the 1990s.

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Gerhardt Schurig said he was pleased with the "multiplicity of research" which was showcased and said that the college is poised for significant growth in a number of research areas.

In the basic sciences component of the graduate-student research event, there were ties for both first and second place in the faculty-adjudicated competition. First place honors were shared by Andrea Contreras for "Generation of a Bivalent Vaccine Strain Able to Simultaneously Protect Against Brucellosis and Paratuberculosis" and Kijona F. Key for "Differentiation of Vaccine or Vaccine-Like Isolates from Field Isolates or Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) Using a Heteroduplex Mobility Assay."

## Limited-submissions program increases funding opportunities

By Susan Trulove

Many funding agencies place limits on the number of proposals or applications that a university may submit in response to a particular announcement. To prevent any potential disqualification of submissions coming from Virginia Tech the Research Division has a limited-submissions program.

Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for a limited-submission program should send a brief letter of intent to [ltsubs@vt.edu](mailto:ltsubs@vt.edu). To expedite the process of planning an internal competition, applicants should send this letter as soon as they know they have an interest in the funding program. The e-mail letter of intent needs to include only the name of the principal investigator, any co-PI's, and the subject or title of the proposed project. The deadline for the

internal letter of intent is indicated in the limited submissions calendar at <http://www.research.vt.edu/limitsubs/limitsubs.html>.

Participants will be notified on the day following the letter of intent deadline about the need for an internal competition to select applications to be sent to the funding agency. If the number of participants does not exceed the number of allowable submissions, no internal competition will be necessary.

If there are more potential applicants than the agency's limit allows, an internal competition will be held to select the proposals that will go forward. In this case, a two- to three-page pre-proposal will be required. It should summarize the proposed project and describe briefly why the applicants think they might be successful. These pre-proposals should be sent as e-

mail attachments to Limited Submissions ([ltsubs@vt.edu](mailto:ltsubs@vt.edu)). A committee will meet to discuss the submissions. Applicants will be notified in approximately one week of the results.

Upcoming limited-submission program internal deadlines include July 9: Clinical Scientist Awards in Translational Research; Burroughs Wellcome Fund; July 25: Sustainable Forestry; Laird Norton Endowment Foundation; August 14: Career Awards in the Biomedical Sciences; Burroughs Wellcome Fund; and August 20: Computer and Information Science and Engineering Research Infrastructure Program; NSF.

To be added to the Opportunity Update e-mail list, send an e-mail to [lizacker@vt.edu](mailto:lizacker@vt.edu).

## HANNA

Continued from 1

experiment in graduate education started at Virginia Tech in 1998. It is identical in course content, requirement, and work load to the residential M.A. degree program offered since 1969. The faculty members are among the nation's most professionally active political scientists.

Through the instructional capabilities that are available with VTOonline, NET.WORK.VIRGINIA, and the Internet, the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences began offering its undergraduate and graduate courses on line in 1996. "We built this program to serve, in large part, those graduate students who have careers with the military, the federal government, not-for-profit private organizations, state and local governments as well as large companies," Luke said. "Many of these organizations are based in the greater D.C. area, and we should be serving their employees. Quite a few of these workers, like John Hanna, must travel around the world constantly for their careers. With our excellent on-line courses and student services, Virginia Tech can be there for them, wherever and whenever they go."

"Because of his Air Force duties in a time of war, we conducted his thesis defense on NET.WORK.VIRGINIA as a teleconference among sites in Germany, Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia campus, and Blacksburg," Luke said.



**CVC LEADERSHIP GIFT** President Charles Steger awards a pewter cup to Extension Environmental Horticulture Professor Diane Relf and her husband David Angle. The cup represents membership in the "Virginia Club" for contributions of \$3,000 or more to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC). Steger thanked them for their generosity and underscored the importance of charitable giving, especially in times like these. Relf said that their gift was designated to more than one charity, including a donation to Doctors without Borders. The Leadership Giving Program is in its second year. This is the first time a Virginia Tech contributor was eligible for the Virginia Club level since the program began. (M. Kiernan)

## ACHIEVERS

Faculty members from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in the College of Natural Resources and the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine had the first-ever major review article on horseshoe crabs published in the journal, *Review in Fisheries Science* journal. **Elizabeth A. Walls**, while a graduate student in fisheries and wildlife sciences; **Jim Berkson**, assistant professor in fisheries and wildlife sciences; and **Stephen A. Smith**, professor in biomedical sciences; reviewed the general biology, ecology, and life history of the horseshoe crab in the article "The Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus polyphemus*: 200 Million Years of Existence, 100 Years of Study."

The review article discusses the various economic stakeholders involved with the horseshoe crab, including eco-tourism groups associated with bird-watching, commercial fishermen using the horseshoe crab as bait, and the biomedical industry with its increasing demand for horseshoe crab blood for endotoxin testing.

Publications created by University Relations staff members have received honors in the 2001-02 ADDY awards competition sponsored by the Advertising Federation of the Roanoke Valley.

*Off the Shelf*, a new University Libraries newsletter, received the Gold ADDY in the newsletter category. This top award recognized the work of **Craig Berry**, art director; **Berry** and **Meg Nugent**, designers; **Clara B. Cox**, editor/writer; **Christina D. French**, assistant editor/writer; and **Rick Griffiths**, **John McCormick**, and **Bob Veltri**, photographers.

A Silver ADDY in the four-color annual report category was awarded to *Turning Up the Lamp of Knowledge: President's Report 2000-2001*. Created for the Office of the President, the publication was designed by creative director/art director **Michele Moldenhauer**; compiled and edited by **David C. Lotts**, **Allan Miller**, and **Richard Lovegrove**; and featured the work of photographers **Griffiths**, **Michael Kiernan**, **McCormick**, and **Jeff Grenough**.

The ADDYs are awarded annually to

recognize creativity and effectiveness in communications in a variety of media.

The Virginia Tech Dairy Management Consulting Team took one of two champion positions in competition among teams from 14 universities in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge in April.

Coaches for the team were faculty members **Ron Pearson**, **Mike McGilliard**, and **Dave Winston**.

In joining the University of Minnesota in one of the two top positions in the Dairy Challenge, the Virginia Tech team placed ahead of teams from such schools as Iowa State, Michigan State, Penn State, Ohio State, and Wisconsin.

The *Elegies* volume of the *Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne* (Indiana University Press) has earned the South Central Modern Language Association Prize for the best scholarly or critical book published by a member or members of SCMLA during 2000. **Ernest W. Sullivan II**, the Edward S. Diggs professor of English, was one of the editors of the volume.

**David G.I. Kingston** of chemistry was the Fifth Annual "Humanities in Medicine" lecturer at Texas A&M University Medical School, where he gave three lectures. His lectures were entitled "Science and Religion; Is There a Conflict?" "Green Medicine: Drug Discovery and Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar and Suriname," and "Yew and Me: Studies on the Chemistry of Taxol, the World's Best-Selling Anticancer Drug."

The composition *Remembrance: For Those Whose Lives Were Taken*, September 11, 2001, a piece for solo piano by **Kent Holliday** of the music department, can be heard on the National Public Radio web site (<http://www.npr.org>) under All Songs Considered, special features, Music Inspired by September 11th.

**James McGrath** of the Department of Chemistry has been elected to the third class of PMSE (Division of Polymeric Materials Science

and Engineering) fellows in recognition of his high qualifications as a polymer scientist. The induction ceremony was held at the National American Chemical Society meeting.

At the recent annual convention of the Mid-South Sociological Association in Mobile, Ala., **Clifton D. Bryant**, professor of sociology, received the 2001 Distinguished Book Award in recognition of his four-volume *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior*, published in November 2000. The award carried the special citation "For Most Distinguished Contribution to the Literature of Sociology." Bryant served as editor-in-chief of the reference work, which consisted of 500 original essays written by leading scholars in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and Hong Kong. The encyclopedia addressed the entire area of criminology and deviant behavior and sought to represent the state of knowledge in this field for the 20th century.

**Tim Long** of the chemistry department gave a seminar at the National Science Foundation entitled "The Impact of NSF CRIF Instrumentation on Investigations of Macromolecular Functionality and Architecture."

**John M. Carroll**, professor in computer science and director of the Center for Human-Computer Interaction was an invited participant at the international memorial conference for Herbert Simon, "*Les Sciences de la Conception*," held in Lyon, France. The purpose of the conference was to critically assess progress towards Simon's concept of a science of design. Carroll presented a paper entitled "Dimensions of Participation—Elaborating Herbert Simon's 'Science of Design'" and participated in a debate on the allocation of power in participatory design.

**Jim McGrath's** paper entitled "Chemistry-Morphology-Property Relationships of Novel Proton Exchange Membranes for Direct Methanol Fuel Cells" and co-authored by **M.A. Hickner**, F. Wang, Y. Kim, B. Pivovar and T. Zawodzinski" has

been awarded the Richard A. Glenn Award for the best pre-print and oral presentation at the Chicago 2001 meeting of the ACS Division of Fuel Chemistry. During the Orlando ACS meeting, a plaque and check for \$500 were presented at the Fuel Division dinner. Hickner presented the paper and is a Department of Chemistry graduate student at Los Alamos National Laboratories.

**John M. McCann**, co-director of the Institute for Cultural Policy and Practice (ICPP) and director of the MFA program in arts administration, recently delivered the keynote address for the annual Arts Management Institute of the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies (MACAA). His address, "A Time for Vision...A Call for Values," stressed the necessity of vision and values within an organization. Following the keynote, McCann led participants through a half-day workshop on building a high-performance culture through the alignment of vision, mission, and strategies. The keynote address and the leadership seminar are part of a larger ICPP project sponsored by MACAA to provide a year-long leadership education initiative for Michigan's community arts and cultural organizations.

**Sharon T. Gentry**, buyer specialist, was recently awarded the certified professional public buyer (CPPB) designation.

CPPB candidates must meet specific rigorous criteria established by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) including current employment, education, training in purchasing related subjects, and public purchasing experience. A comprehensive examination validates the candidate's mastery of the body of knowledge required for public purchasing professionals.

CPPB designation is an honor for individuals in the public purchasing profession.

Virginia Tech members of the Virginia Press Women won several writing, editing, and design awards during the organization's awards dinner April 27.

(See *ACHIEVERS* on 4)

## EMPLOYMENT

(Editor's note: Because of early deadlines for this issue, classified positions will not be published.)

### FACULTY POSITIONS

#### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Pamplin College of Business, Department of Marketing.** Assistant Professor. Contact: Noreen Klein, Department of Marketing (0236).

**Department of Communication Studies.** Instructor. Contact: Marlene Preston, 145 Shanks Hall.

#### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources Environmental Horticulture, Virginia Beach City.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension,

121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VCE. Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development—Restricted position Madison County.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources—Crop/Soil Science, Isle of Wight County.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources—Environmental Horticulture, Fauquier County.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources—Animal Science,**

**Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward Counties.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VCE. Extension Agent, Agriculture/Natural Resources Environmental Horticulture, Chesterfield County.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.

**VMRCVM. Director, Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center/Associate Dean, Leesburg Campus.** Contact: Peter Eyre, VMRCVM, Virginia Tech.

**Office for Equal Opportunity, Office of the President, Equity Manager.** Contact: Fain Rutherford, Assistant Director/Compliance Officer, Office for Equal Opportunity, 336 Burruss Hall.

### FRESHMAN

*Continued from 1*

have an international career. It is our responsibility to prepare them for this reality," said Malcolm McPherson, interim dean of the college of engineering.

After completing the course, students can enroll in sophomore-level engineering courses even though they are first-year students. An-

other attractive feature of the program is that students will receive a travel scholarship to cover most of the travel to Switzerland and related site visits. A large portion of the funding for student travel is being provided by the John B. Greiner Endowed Scholarship.

Virginia Tech engineering students represent a wide-range of pre-college experiences. "We designed a program for those students who

have attended high schools with extraordinary engineering-preparation programs," Kurstedt said.

The program runs from July 1 through 28, with final presentations made by the students in September at Virginia Tech. For more information, contact Carlene Arthur at [carthur@vt.edu](mailto:carthur@vt.edu).



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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# OBITUARY

## George Briggs Collins, 95

By Sally Harris

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus George Briggs Collins, 95, of Blacksburg, died Dec. 15, 2001.

Collins received his only degree, a Ph.D. in physics, from Johns Hopkins. While on the faculty at Notre Dame, he built one of the highest-energy Van de Graaff accelerators for its time. He left Notre Dame in 1941, having attained the rank of professor, to assist in the war effort at MIT's Radiation Laboratory.

Collins joined the Department of Physics at the University of Rochester in 1946 and served as chairman from 1946 to 1950.

Collins was called to Brookhaven in 1950 to serve as chairman of the Cosmotron Department, which was responsible for the construction and operation of the first accelerator to achieve energies in excess of 1,000 MeV.

From the mid 50s to the end of the 60s, Collins was a council member and chairman (1969-70) for the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook.

In 1971, at the age of 65, joined the Department of Physics at Tech. He led a group that successfully completed one of the first experiments at the recently completed highest-energy accelerator located at Fermilab.

In 1976, Collins formally retired from the university, but continued to teach part time until 1985. In 1981, he chaired the Collins Committee, which was tasked to study establishing a core curriculum at Virginia Tech.

The Collins Committee's Interim Report was distributed for university-wide discussion in 1982. The final report, which established the framework for a University Core Curriculum, was approved in 1985.

## ACHIEVERS

Continued from 3

First-place state awards are automatically entered in the competition sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women, whose awards will be announced later in the year.

**Clara B. Cox**, director of publications and outreach communications, won three awards: first for editing a four-color newsletter for University Libraries, third for a speech she wrote for a university administrator, and third for institutional relations, the university's biomarker project.

**Sally Harris**, public-relations coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences, won seven awards. She won first place in the one-to-three-color newsletter category for Arts & Sciences, an alumni newsletter that she writes, edits, and designs, and another first for a feature news release. She won three second-place awards: one for news reporting, one for special articles on science, and one for a news press release. She won a third place for special articles on history and an honorable mention for special articles on education.

**Lynn Nystrom**, director of news and external relations for the College of Engineering, won two first-place awards and one honorable mention. She received a first for multiple press releases written about nanotechnology, a first for the college's annual report in the four-color brochure category, and an honorable mention for a direct-mail piece for the civil and environmental engineering department.

**C. Gene Haugh**, professor of biological systems engineering, has been named Outstanding Engineering Alumnus by the Penn State College of Engineering.

The annual award is the highest honor conferred by the Penn State College of Engineering. Haugh, a registered professional engineer, graduated from Penn State with a degree in agricultural engineering in 1958. He was appointed head of the agricultural-engineering department at Virginia Tech in 1979. The department has since been renamed as the Department of Biological Systems Engineering.

**William Tranter**, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and an associate director of the Mobile & Portable Radio Research Group, has been elected vice-president of technical activities by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Communications Society. Tranter is an IEEE fellow and a recipient of the Donald McLellan Award for Meritorious Service, the IEEE Centennial Medal, and the IEEE Third Millennium Medal.

**Michael von Spakovsky**, professor of mechanical engineering and director of the Energy Management Institute, has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Before joining the faculty in 1996, von Spakovsky worked at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland, directing research and teaching efforts in several energy-related areas. ASME is non-profit educational and technical organization serving 125,000 members worldwide.

**James Marchman**, professor of aerospace and ocean engineering, is the editor of the *Encyclopedia of Flight*, published in February by Salem Press. The three-volume encyclopedia contains 332 articles providing information on topics ranging from aerodynamic principles and aircraft design to the use of aircraft in world conflicts and social issues in the contemporary airline industry.

**Mario Karfakis**, an associate professor of mining and minerals engineering, has received the President's Award from the International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE). Karfakis was recognized for his work in establishing a student chapter of ISEE at Virginia Tech and for his efforts in helping interested students find careers in the explosives industry. The student ISEE chapter is one of three mining-related organizations that comprise Virginia Tech's award-winning Burkhart Mining Society.

**David Whitehead**, a captain for the Virginia Tech Police Department, recently graduated from the eleventh session of the Police Executive Leadership School in Richmond. The

## CASE

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pabilities and expertise."

For the past six years, Simpson has been the business manager for the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE), overseeing hundreds of accounts and other financial transactions for the department's 25 faculty members.

"The level of responsibility she has for a department of this size, in faculty and research expenditure, is staggering," ISE assistant professor Eileen Van Aken said. "Marty is always there with an answer to a question or with a proactive question of her own to ensure that nothing falls through the cracks."

While working full time in a previous position with the Virginia Productivity Center, Simpson completed a degree in accounting at

Radford University. Two years ago she was inducted as a fellow of the Virginia Tech Academy of Leadership Excellence after completing all of the academy's training seminars.

Simpson also has taken the time to help others with career development. In 2000, she became one of 15 Virginia Tech staff members to volunteer for the Mentoring Program for Minority Classified Employees and served as a mentor for Terri Tishman, administrative assistant in University Leadership Development (ULD).

"Marty possesses all the qualities of a great mentor," said Tishman, who, with Simpson's encouragement, began taking courses for college credit. Simpson also helped ULD find a way to obtain a full-time position for Tishman. "Marty has touched not only my life, but my husband's and two small children's lives as well," Tishman said.

Architecture Assistant Professors **Marcia Feuerstein** and **Paul Emmons** have essays published in *Body & Building: Essays on the Changing Relations of the Body to Architecture*, MIT Press, 2002.

CAUS Dean **Paul Knox's** book *Human Geography* has been recently published in a German edition.

CAUS shop technician **Tim Castine** received an honorable mention in 2002 Industrial Design Magazine's Annual Design Review which was featured in the August issue of ID Magazine.

Architecture Associate Professor **Shelly Martin** has served on the state design committee of the Virginia Society of the AIA for the past four years. She has helped plan their bi-annual Design Forum, and helps yearly to select national jurors to award state level VSAIA awards to projects of architects in Virginia firms. CAUS Associate Dean **Robert Dunay** has served on the VSAIA Design Committee for the past three years.

**Hud Croasdale**, director of strategic initiatives for information technology, has been invited to join the EDUCAUSE Committee on Evolving Technologies. The committee identifies leading-edge and experimental technologies that may be expected to make a difference in higher education, and brings information regarding these developments to the members of EDUCAUSE, as well as the broader community of higher education. The committee will meet at the EDUCAUSE annual conference in October in Atlanta.

**WVTF** has won this year's "Fourth Estate Award" from the American Legion. Only one broadcast and one print award are given each year. The award is for coverage of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford. The WVTF entry included examples of in-depth reporting, an Evening Edition show, newscast stories, the dedication ceremony "live" broadcast, and follow-up stories.

The award is from the "world's largest veterans organization." For this award, judges selected a single winner in each area (broadcast and print) by examining entries from all over the country. They selected winners based on the "exceptional level of journalism" with a demonstrated impact on the audience and readers. Subject matter had to deal with a topic or issue of national interest or concern.

class is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Management Institute at the University of Richmond. The class consisted of three weeks and topics included were history of leadership, media relations, leadership and the law, cultural and religious diversity, and ethics.

Officer **Keith Weaver** and police dog Hokie graduated in April from a 12-week school sponsored by the Roanoke City Policy Academy Canine School.

Officer **Andy Wilburn** graduated in May from the Division of Forensic Science Evidence Technician School in Richmond. This was a 10-week school focusing on all aspects of evidence collection and crime-scene investigation.

**Humberto Rodríguez-Camilloni**, professor of architecture and director of the Henry H. Wiss Center for Theory and History of Art and Architecture, published "*Manuel de Amat y Junyent and the Navona of Lima: An Example of Baroque Urban Design of the 18th Century in the Viceroyalty of Peru*" in the journal *Anales del Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*. He also presented the paper "The Rural Churches of the Jesuit Haciendas in the Southern Peruvian Coast" at the international conference The Jesuits II: Cultures, Sciences, and the Arts, 1540-1773 held recently at Boston College.

Architecture Professor **Joe Wang** and landscape architecture faculty members **Terry Clements** and **Brian Katen** wrote entries for *The Encyclopedia of Gardens: History and Design*, a three-volume set distributed by the Chicago Botanic Garden detailing the history and design of gardens all over the world.