

SPECTRUM

TODAY'S EDITION
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news.

Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 24 NUMBER 38 FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2002



The university will recognize African American pioneers Irving L. Peddrew III and Charlie L. Yates by new Residence West (foreground) as Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall in their honor. (R. Griffiths)

(See UNIVERSITY on 2)

Team's new biography examines Lawrence, von Richthofen

By Sally Harris

Husband-and-wife team Michael Squires and Lynn K. Talbot spent six years researching the lives of husband and wife D.H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthofen to write the biography *Living at the Edge*.

As a result, the book "offers eye-opening new perspectives on Lawrence's writings as it chronicles the troubled but passionate union of this fascinating couple..." according to Dennis Jackson, past editor of the *D.H. Lawrence Review*.

Lawrence, an English writer of often controversial novels, and von Richthofen had a vital but stormy relationship. They also

clashed philosophically with the industrial world around them, giving their lives a turbulence that found its way into his works.

Squires, a professor of English at Virginia Tech, and Talbot, professor of Spanish at Roanoke College, researched a great many original, unpublished sources, particularly von Richthofen's letters, and interviewed people who knew the couple to produce a biography that adds new insight into their lives.

The biographers use an unusual technique in their book: They write separate biographies of Lawrence and von Richthofen until the two meet in 1912 and then a dual biography as the couple moves about the world—to Italy,

Cornwall, Australia, Mexico, and New Mexico—to escape the conformist society in which they live.

Lawrence, author of such novels as *The Rainbow*, *Women in Love*, and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, used his writings to work out the issues in his life, particularly difficult relationships—between mothers and sons, husbands and wives, people and their societies.

Squires and Talbot "reveal the extreme care with which he rewrote his personal experience to satisfy his deepest needs, and they introduce the many influential people who entered the Lawrences' lives and work," according to the publisher, the University of

(See TEAM on 2)

London next stop for Virginia Tech Fulbright student

By Stewart MacInnis

J. Michael Schmidt's association with Virginia Tech began in high school, and it has helped propel him to a Fulbright Scholarship to study environmental policy at University College London.

Schmidt, who earned two bachelor's degrees and one master's degree at Virginia Tech, will be working toward a second master's in public understanding of environmental change during his year in London.

"I've always been very interested in protecting the environment," Schmidt said. "I want to work to bring more scientific knowledge into the environmental decision-making process. It seems that many decisions are now made based upon only public opinion and special-interest-group pressure. Only by integrating scientific principles into the

policy-making process can we really cope with environmental problems that are approaching crisis proportions."

Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State and awards about 900 grants annually to students from the United States to study in 140 countries. The U.S. Student Fulbright Program is designed to give aspiring academics, young professionals, and artists opportunities for personal development and international experience. The program promotes cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding.

The Fulbright Program sending students to the United Kingdom is especially competitive, with fewer than 5 percent of those applying being awarded grants.

The rigorous science education Schmidt received from Virginia Tech's Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences and its

Department of Biology has given him an insight into the complex chemical, biological, and geological interactions of natural processes and human activities in the environment. Now, he wants to round off that education with an understanding of how social and political activities also affect the environment.

While still a student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Schmidt undertook a research project mentored by Lee Daniels, a Virginia Tech soils scientist. In the project Schmidt investigated the optimal ratio of municipal biosolids and sawdust to prevent contamination of groundwater.

The research produced interesting results, not all of them scientific. For one, he was the subject of a television network-news interview broadcast nationally. Another result was

(See LONDON on 3)

(See KENNELLY on 2)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 19

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

Tuesday, 23

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

Wednesday, 24

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

Thursday, 25

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

Friday, 26

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Summer Musical Enterprises.

Wednesday, 31

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

Thursday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.

BULLETINS

Workshop set for engineering faculty members

A free faculty workshop, "Integrating Ethics into the Engineering Classroom," will be offered at Virginia Tech in August. The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology guidelines state that professionalism and ethics should be integrated as fully as possible into the engineering curriculum. This multi-media workshop will instruct faculty members in where and how to include ethical components in coursework. Faculty members also will learn about related resources, lesson plans and discipline-specific guidelines. The workshop will be held in 1010 Torgersen and will be offered twice: Wednesday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to noon; and Thursday, August 22, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Missy Cummings at cmngs@vt.edu.

Annual Turf, Landscape Field Day set

Virginia Tech will host a Turf and Landscape Field Day Tuesday July 30 and Wednesday July 31. The conference, which is co-sponsored by the Virginia Turfgrass Council, will highlight research performed on campus as well as at the university's off-campus Agricultural Research and Extension Centers.

Tuesday's program will offer an opportunity for certifi-

cation and re-certification for professionals who work with turfgrass and landscaping. The re-certification training program will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The certification program will include an optional review session from 10 a.m. to noon, and an exam from 1 to 4 p.m. These sessions will be held at the Blacksburg Four Points Sheraton Hotel.

On Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m., participants will tour the new south end-zone stands, suites, and facilities at Lane Stadium and Worsham Field. While there, they will see the tray drainage system with TifSport Bermudagrass and the Kentucky bluegrass practice fields.

Wednesday's program begins with registration from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Turf Research Center. Shuttle buses will be available in the Litton Reaves parking lot to transport participants to the center.

The field day is designed to provide research updates, demonstrations, and perspective to help meet the educational needs of turf and landscape professionals.

For more information or to receive a registration form, call David Chalmers at 1-9738, or e-mail chalmers@vt.edu.

Habitat-evaluation workshop scheduled

The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in the

College of Natural Resources will present a five-day workshop on habitat-evaluation procedures (HEP), July 29 to August 2 in Sacramento, Cal.

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.

Dean Stauffer, associate professor of wildlife science will be one of the instructors of 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.

The course is designed to benefit personnel responsible for field work and data interpretation of natural-resource projects, permits, license applications, and environmental assessments/impact statements, and persons involved with habitat-management planning.

The session will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Sacramento. The registration fee of \$695 includes workshop materials, software, refreshments, and certificate. Register on line at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/hep/htm> by two weeks before the course beginning; following that date, call 1-5182, or Stauffer at 1-7349 (dstauffe@vt.edu).

Focus on home gardening at Farm and Family Showcase

By Nancy Templeman

The Second Annual Farm and Family Showcase will feature a variety of information for the gardener. Exhibits and demonstrations will explain container gardening, invasive landscape plants, pruning, gardening in deer country, herb gardening, and more. Virginia Cooperative Extension agents and specialists, Virginia master gardeners, and experts from sponsoring businesses will give the presentations

and be available at exhibits to answer questions.

The Showcase will be at Kentland Farm Thursday through Saturday, September 5 through 7. In addition to the gardening exhibits, the family-oriented showcase will have three days of displays, demonstrations, seminars, and family programs for all ages. The showcase will provide technical information for agricultural and natural resource workers, as well as practical information and fun activities for landowners,

homeowners, and families.

Many activities are scheduled for all three days, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see and participate in the wide variety of programs. Exhibitors will present the programs and demonstrations or take part in the trade show which is tailored for a diverse audience.

The farm is located along the New River approximately eight miles west of the Blacksburg campus. The showcase is coordinated by Virginia

Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Human Resources and Education, College of Natural Resources, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Division of Continuing Education.

For more information and a program schedule, visit web site <http://www.farmandfamily.vt.edu>.

KENNELLY

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TEAM

Continued from 1

Wisconsin Press. "The rich materials from Frieda's letters reveal a different Lawrence—more difficult as a man but more interesting as an artist; they also reveal a different Frieda—more vibrant as a woman, more substantial as a companion."

Those letters actually are responsible for the decision by Squires and Talbot to write the biography. "For years we collected Frieda Lawrence's letters—hundreds and hundreds of them," they said in the preface to the book. "Some were laid inside books we found for sale; others were kept in drawers or hidden in libraries

around the world. Few had been published. One day we realized that in many ways Frieda's letters altered the life story of D.H. Lawrence. How, we asked, can readers understand a novelist of towering genius, like Lawrence, without knowing about his wife's personality and influence? How could his novels and stories and poems—many of them strongly autobiographical—be fully fathomed without drawing insight from her character? On that day we began this biography—focused naturally on Lawrence as the major figure, but taking its direction from the rich material in Frieda's letters, which at last count numbered sixteen

hundred."

Use of the unpublished letters enabled the couple to "produce a fresh, fair-minded, richly textured life of the English novelist and his vibrant German wife," wrote Keith Cushman, past president of the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America. "*Living at the Edge* is...exceptionally sensitive to the complex dynamics of the Lawrences' marriage."

Squires is a past president of the D.H. Lawrence Society of America and the author and editor of numerous other books about D.H. Lawrence, including the Penguin edition of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

VIRGINIA TECH RECYCLING

Paper-Recycling Update

By Larry Bechtel

As of this writing, 55 offices have contacted VTR and volunteered to continue paper recycling. In some cases, labor is being provided by solo volunteers, in others, being shared between three or four people, and in a couple of cases, carefully divided up and coordinated through "teams" of classified staff members or graduate students collecting paper from entire departments and buildings.

All volunteer offices should by now have received the requested "stackable" paper-collection bins and nylon tote bags; if this is not the case, please contact VTR. A paper-recycling-guidelines poster, prepared through University

Printing Services, is nearly complete, and when it is, a copy will be sent to each office on the office volunteer roster.

The "Recycling Station" located in the southwest corner of the Overflow Lot is now complete, with directional signs located on Duck Pond Drive and Oak Lane. This station provides large collection bins with labeled compartments for sorted office paper, glossy magazines and catalogs, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, and commingled containers (aluminum, steel, glass, plastic #1 and #2). Contributors should be sure to follow the posted guidelines.

A visual inspection of the sorted office

paper, glossy magazines and catalogs, and newspaper compartments indicates that paper going into these compartments is acceptably sorted, with two exceptions in sorted office paper: yellow sheets and shredded paper. Yellow sheets are admittedly difficult to sort, since the difference between an acceptable pastel yellow and an unacceptable bright yellow is so close. If there is a question, remember the principle of last resort: *When in doubt, throw it out.* In the case of shredded paper, Recycling Center staff members have asked that it remain in plastic bags, rather than being dumped loose into the compartment, to facilitate handling. Therefore, leave shredded paper in the plastic bags when depositing into the sorted office paper compart-

ment. An e-mail message will periodically be sent to volunteer offices with other particulars, and accumulated paper weights.

Finally, a multi-compartment collection bin has been installed at the back of the parking lot of the Garvin Center, near the basketball court, for use by offices in the Corporate Research Center. The bin is divided into compartments for each of the three grades of recyclable paper, and a compartment for commingled containers.

Those who have questions, would like to be added to the volunteer roster, or need additional stackables or tote bags, should contact the VTR office (1-9915 or e-mail lbechtel@vt.edu).

High-school students on campus to participate in 'Inside Architecture'

By Sarah Newbill

Dozens of high-school students from Virginia and beyond recently participated in "Inside Architecture," a week-long summer program hosted by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. For the past five years, middle and high-school students have been invited to participate in this hands-on program to discover what it might be like to study architecture, and in the process, discover themselves.

The program has grown from four students five years ago to 24 students this year. The program has attracted students from North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

"It's a word-of-mouth thing," said Architecture Professor Ed Dorsa. "Most students from out of town know someone who lives in

Blacksburg." Two other architecture professors and two graduate assistants led the group as they toured campus facilities and visited local professors who have built their own houses. Students also worked on different projects during the week and presented them to the other participating students in the Cowgill Hall lobby.

Program tuition is \$370 plus lodging if the student chooses to live on campus. Many Blacksburg students "commute" from home, and out-of-town participants typically stay with friends or relatives in the area. Industrial Design Professor Robert Dunay said the program has been a springboard for several students who are currently enrolled as full-time architecture students at Virginia Tech.

For more information, contact Dunay at 1-9935.

CDAC unveils new CI model

By Sarah Newbill

The Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) at Virginia Tech has finished piecing together a bit of history in a collaborative effort to create a five-foot-by-14-foot model of the Christiansburg Institute campus and buildings the way it appeared in the mid-40s. The model, "Christiansburg Institute: A Model of African American History," is available for viewing in the main lobby of the new Montgomery County government complex on Roanoke Street in Christiansburg.

The model depicts 160 of the 185 total acres of the institute, and took a team of architecture and industrial design students and faculty members hundreds of hours to complete. "We discussed how it would be nice for people to be able to grasp how much land the Institute had," said CDAC Director Elizabeth Gilboy, who explained why the model depicts so much

of the land surrounding the central campus area.

Site maps were difficult to obtain so some information represented in the model may not be exact. "Parts of the base-map information, from which the model was created, was developed from the written descriptions in the original deed. We also pieced some of the base information together from knowing the locations of remaining structures, looking at old photographs and paintings, and talking with people who went to school there," she said.

Funding for the project was obtained through a \$3,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. The model will be permanently housed in the Edgar A. Long building, the only remaining structure from the original campus, once renovations to this future museum and community center have been completed in 2004.

LONDON

Continued from 1

returning to Thomas Jefferson to mentor the students who carried on the project in the years since he was a student there.

Schmidt credits Daniels with his decision to attend Virginia Tech and guiding him through graduate school. Schmidt has a clear vision of

what he wants his role to be in the future, and he has an intense focus to attain it.

"The program [at University College] will provide me with the background in environmental policy and the skills to be more

effective as a scientist communicating to the public and to environmental decision-makers," he said. "We [scientists] cannot stay cloistered in our laboratories."

Schmidt was named the outstanding

graduate for the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences when he earned his bachelor's degree in 1998, and he received the Outstanding Student Leader Graduate Award while pursuing his graduate studies.

EMPLOYMENT

FULL TIME

Thirteen full-time food-service positions available.

Administrative/Financial Services Associate, 004568Y, PB 4, IRD.

Assistant Manager Senior, 007955H, PB 3, Residential and Dining Programs/West End Market.

Assistant Manager Senior, 000780H, PB 3, RDP.

Business Manager, 007865S, PB 4, IDDL.
Business Practices Specialist, 007952F, PB 5, Controller's Office.

Buyer Specialist, 004497F, PB 4, Purchasing.

Data Warehouse Architect, 006701S, PB 5, IWA.

Division Head, Construction Services, 007597F, PB 6, CDC.

Electrician, 001691F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

Housekeeping Leader Senior, 000575H, PB 1, RDP.

Housekeeping Worker, 007608C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

Laboratory Specialist, 000529Y, PB 3, EHS.

Microarrays Lab Specialist, 007982K, PB 4, VBI.

Office Specialist, 007463H, PB 2, RDP.
Program Support Technician, 007143G,

PB 3, HTM.

Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.

Sous Chef, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

Stock Clerk, 007966H, PB 2, RDP.

Stockroom Clerk, 000577H, PB 2, RDP.

Trades Utilities Senior Worker, 007114F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

Web Documentation Specialist, 007664A, PB 3, CNS.

PART TIME

Animal Care Technician, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.

Benefits Support Assistant, 007888C, PB 2, Personnel Services.

Chapel Assistant/Housekeeper, W020856J, PB 2, UUSA.

Distance Learning Classroom Technician, W020967A, PB 3, VBS.

Fiscal Assistant, W022514M, PB 2, College of Veterinary Medicine.

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

Pharmacy Assistant, W020839M, PB 2, VTH.

Public Relations Assistant, W020078G, PB 3, FWLR.

Radiologic Technologist, W022238J, PB 3, Schiffert Center.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, PB

3, VTH.

Research Site Coordinator, W023441B, PB 3, Psychology.

Security Guard, W020470C, PB 1, Police.

Security Guard (Campus Escort), W023450C, PB 1, Police.

UNIVERSITY ONLY

Administrative Assistant, U001135G, PB 3, HTM.

Enrollment Services Specialist, U007902G, PB 3, Graduate School.

OFF CAMPUS

Distance Learning Support Technician, 001467A, PB 4, VBS.

Nursing Supervisor, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.

Senior Program Administrator, 006436Y, PB 4, Continuing Education.

FACULTY POSITION

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products. Assistant Professor in Wood Mechanics/Timber Engineering. Contact: Joseph R. Loferski, Wood Science and Forest Products, College of Natural Resources, 0503.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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NSF funds group to evaluate impact of corrosion on water quality

By Karen Gilbert

Many factors influence the quality of drinking water and a burgeoning new problem is raising concern. Metallic plumbing materials, capable of lasting for centuries, are occasionally corroding at a very fast rate. The deterioration is producing some extraordinary costs and environmental problems to consumers and to industry.

In an attempt to address the resulting health concerns, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a group of interdisciplinary researchers at Virginia Tech a first-of-its-kind grant under a new Biocomplexity in the Environment program. This comprehensive project will aim to evaluate the costly impacts of corrosion on water quality, drinking-water tastes and odors, and home plumbing.

"To my knowledge, no one has funded research to directly protect the consumer's interest in these important issues," said Marc Edwards, a professor of civil and environmental engineering. A nationally recognized expert on copper corrosion and member of the research team, Edwards has also received a Presidential Fellowship from the NSF for corrosion-based studies.

Edwards' Virginia Tech colleagues are Andrea Dietrich, associate professor of CEE; G.V. Loganathan, associate professor of CEE; Susan Duncan, associate professor of food science and technology; Sharon Dwyer, health educator, and Daryl Bosch, professor of agriculture and applied economics.

University honors six outstanding engineers

By Karen Gilbert

Six exceptional engineers were recently inducted into the College of Engineering's Academy of Engineering Excellence. Of the 40,000 living engineering alumni, only 28 other alumni hold this honor.

The academy, founded by the College of Engineering and its Advisory Board, consists of members of its Committee of 100. Membership in this academy is reserved for individuals holding an engineering degree from the College of Engineering who have made sustained and meritorious engineering and/or leadership contributions during their careers. Initiates have reached the pinnacle of their professional achievements and will normally have been alumni for 40 or more years.

The first of the six engineers is Daniel Frederick a former department head of engineering science and mechanics (ESM) at Virginia Tech. Frederick led the department through a period of intense growth from 1970 until 1989.

Leslie Gates is the founder of a civil engineering firm, Gates Engineering Company and is now the chairman of his son's firm, the L.A. Gates Company.

Bob Gibson is the Chairman of Clark Nexsen, one of the nation's top-500 architecture and engineering design firms.

Paul Holloway retired aerospace engineer and NASA administrator, currently works as a consultant in the aerospace industry.

George Keller had a 26-year career with Union Carbide as a scientist and inventor and is the co-founder of NewCarbon, Inc.

The late Hugh Kelly was instrumental in the success of the Telestar project for Bell Labs, a branch of AT&T.

Minimal progress has been made in understanding the chemical and biological factors contributing to corrosion of metal plumbing hardware. Diverse residential systems are particularly complicated to identify and restore. As a result, there is no rational basis for making decisions when problems are identified with potable infrastructures, Edwards said.

"At the forefront of concern for water utilities and consumers are the aesthetic qualities of water, such as taste, odor, and color. Aesthetic problems are the ones consumers notice and which create concern and fear about the potability of the water. Scientific and engineering issues associated with sensory perception and corrosion are complex and not easily unraveled. With this innovative NSF grant, our interdisciplinary team will advance the understanding of both water quality and consumer perception," said Dietrich, who studies the causes of tastes and odors in drinking water.

The American Water Works Association estimates that it will cost U.S. water utilities \$325 billion during the next 20 years to replace losses due to corrosion and the need to upgrade water-distribution systems. Nationally, corrosion of metals is believed to consume 4 percent of the gross domestic product.

Serious health and aesthetic problems can occur from microbial growth or contaminant leaching from metallic, plastic, and concrete plumbing material. The environmental impacts from the deteriorated plumbing include holes in pipes formed through corrosion, which allow the influx of contaminants into drinking-water systems, the loss of the water resource itself, and resultant property damage.

Researchers will focus on the economic, consumer, and biochemical dimensions of potable-water infrastructure corrosion. The findings will especially be of interest to the Environmental Protection Agency,

manufacturers of plumbing materials, and the potable water industry.

The NSF grant is part of its Biocomplexity in the Environment program housed in the agency's Materials Uses: Science, Engineering and Society Program. Phase I is a planning grant for \$110,000. This year only planning grants were awarded but it is anticipated that future grants for related research will be for several million dollars. The university's diverse cross-disciplinary team includes six different national agencies including the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Global Health Affairs in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the American Water Works Association and its Research Foundation, and the Virginia Water Resource Research Institute which is part of the Department of the Interior.

Water center director retires; Younos interim director

By Susan Trulove

Len Shabman, director of the Virginia Water Resources Research Center since 1995, has stepped down to take a position with Resources for the Future in Washington, D.C. As an emeritus professor of agricultural and applied economics at Virginia Tech, he will continue his research and teaching in resource and environmental economics with the university while based in Northern Virginia.

Tamim Younos, senior research scientist and associate director of the center, has been appointed interim director of the water center, according to Jim Blair, associate provost for research and interdisciplinary programs for the university.

Younos joined Virginia Tech in 1979 and became associate director of the Water Resources Research Center in 1996. He helped form the Virginia Water Monitoring Council, serves on the academic advisory committee for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and helped develop the Total Maximum Daily Load program. Younos also provided leadership to initiate the interdisciplinary watershed-management-certification program at Virginia Tech and to form the Virginia Tech Student Chapter of the American Water Resources Association. He is program director for Service Training for Environmental Progress (STEP), which promotes university-community partnership and service-learning in water-management issues.

His research and outreach address watershed management, alternative drinking water sources for isolated coalfield communities in southwest Virginia and capacity development for Virginia's rural small drinking-water systems. Younos has lectured world-wide and received the "Japan Society for the Promotion of Science" award.

Shabman joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1972. His research and teaching interests have included water supply, water quality, flood-hazard management, fishery management, public-investment analysis, and the role of science in public-policy formulation.

Governor appoints new members to Board of Visitors

Governor Mark R. Warner has appointed four new members to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

A majority of the individuals were reviewed and recommended by the Governor's Advisory Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments. The commission reviews individuals nominated for appointment to college and university boards based upon merit, experience, sound judgment and proven leadership.

"These outstanding men and women share my commitment to ensuring a system of quality higher education is available to all Virginians," Warner said. "Our public colleges and universities face big challenges in the current budget climate, and I'm pleased the members of my

Advisory Commission have brought a bipartisan, merit-based approach to this process. I am pleased to appoint individuals who have shown a real commitment to advance the best interests of higher education in the commonwealth."

Those appointed to the Tech Board of Visitors were:

Ben J. Davenport Jr. of Chatham, chairman of Chatham Oil Company and First Piedmont Corporation. A 1964 graduate of Virginia Tech, Davenport currently serves on the boards of the Virginia Tech Foundation, Averett University, and Hargrave Military Academy;

John R. Lawson II of Newport News, president and CEO of the general contracting firm W.M. Jordan. Lawson, a 1975 graduate of Virginia Tech, is actively involved with the

Advisory Board of the School of Building Construction for Virginia Tech, Stadium Expansion Committee for Virginia Tech, and is a member of the board of the Virginia Tech Foundation;

Thomas L. Robertson of Roanoke, chairman of the Carilion Foundation and Carilion Biomedical Institute. Robertson is a director of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges and the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, and a former member of the Virginia Tech Foundation;

Bruce Smith of Virginia Beach, a defensive end with the NFL's Washington Redskins. Smith, the 1985 Outland Trophy winner, was a consensus First Team All-America choice as a senior at Virginia Tech. Smith was inducted into the Virginia Tech Hall of Fame in 1995, and has been active in raising funds for the university.

OBITUARY

Allen Brock, 53

Allen Brock, a research associate at the Southwest Virginia Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Glade Spring, died June 13. Brock, 53, had been employed by the center for the past 16 years. Before that, he served as an Extension agent in Marion County, W.Va.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Virginia Mission Outreach, Rosdale Baptist Church, 26396 Lee Highway, Abingdon, VA, 24210.

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