

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

See page 4 for  
additional campus  
news.

## Minority-intern program completes another successful summer

By Stewart MacInnis

Thirty-five minority and women students from colleges and universities across the Continental United States and Puerto Rico finished their summer research internships here Thursday as part of the university's Minority Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP).

"This is a dynamic group of interns who have had a terrific summer here," said Randy Grayson, director of the program. "The caliber of the students continues to increase. I am very pleased with the young people participating this year. The interest and involvement of the faculty members participating in this program makes this an exciting experience for these students."

During the summer program the interns

spent the last 10 weeks on campus, working 40 hours a week on original research projects supervised by faculty advisers. The research is on a subject of the students' choice within one of the university's six colleges that are part of the program.

The six colleges involved in the MAOP program are the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Natural Resources, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Human Resources and Education, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Deanna Conquest, a resident of Virginia's Eastern Shore and a senior at Delaware State University, worked with Craig Nessler, professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology,

Physiology, and Weed Science.

"This was my first internship and I really got a hands-on experience of what graduate school is like," she said. "I plan on attending graduate school when I finish at Delaware State."

The intensive program ended August 1 with poster presentations by the students describing their research projects, and presentations by Myra Gordon, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Andy Swiger, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The basic requirements for program participants are that students should be in the first generation of their families who will graduate from college; or they must be studying in fields under-represented by minority members

(See *MINORITY-INTERN* on 2)

## VMRCVM'S Eyre elected AAVMC president

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM), has been elected president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

He will serve one year as president-elect, then assume leadership of the Washington D.C.-based professional association for all North American colleges of veterinary medicine in July, 2003.

"I'm pleased by this honor, and very excited about serving," Eyre said. "This election reflects well upon our college and our university. More important, it positions our college to play an even larger role at the national level than we are already playing."

The AAVMC, the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association have been collaborating for the past five years on programs designed to address the economic challenges facing the veterinary profession.

They sponsored the KPMG MegaStudy, an assessment of the profession of veterinary medicine which has provided a platform for change and created a major national dialogue on how the profession of veterinary medicine can best meet the 21st century needs of society.

Those three organizations also created the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI), a Chicago-based organization that is coordinating a number of programs designed to improve the business operations of community-based veterinary practices around the nation and drive curricular change in veterinary academia that will produce practitioners who are better-versed in business and communication.

The VMRCVM is playing a significant role in several of those initiatives. One of those is a major research effort coordinated by Minneapolis-based management consulting firm Personnel Dynamics, Inc. (PDI). PDI, which held a major symposium on the VMRCVM's College Park, Maryland campus in January, is using empirical techniques to identify personality characteristics and traits that are associated with success in veterinary medicine. Once established, those criteria can be factored into the veterinary admissions process and career tracking.

Eyre has made numerous presentations on curricular change at a number of state and national veterinary-association meetings. Most recently, he made a major address on curricular tracking at a meeting of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. In it, he suggested that veterinary medicine may eventually follow the path to sub-specialization that engineering did as it split into individual

(See *VMRCVM* on 2)

## Governor's School for Agriculture students graduate

By Stewart MacInnis

Eighty-five students from throughout Virginia will graduate tomorrow from the month-long Governor's School for Agriculture held on campus.

At the graduation ceremony, the juniors and seniors from high schools across the state will receive certificates of completion from the intensive, science-oriented program. The ceremony marks the end of the second summer the school has been offered.

"The school ran very smoothly this year," said Bill Camp, professor of agricultural and Extension education and director of the school. "Last year—the first year of the program—was a wild ride. The experience of one year gave us a tremendous advantage, and I expect having two years' experience under our belts will make next summer's program just that much better."

(See *GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL* on 2)

## International Travel Requirements

(Editor's note: The following memo regarding international travel requirements has been provided by Executive Vice President Minnis E. Ridenour.)

On July 23, 2002, the Governor's Office issued guidelines related to international travel by state employees. The Governor's Office reiterated that employees traveling on official business should ensure that economy, prudence, and necessity govern all decisions with regard to travel funded from state resources. In addition to continuing to comply with the state and university travel policies currently in place, effective immediately, additional approval will be required for international travel. Please note that these guidelines apply to travel using state, overhead, sponsored, or auxiliary funding; travel that will be fully charged to a Virginia Tech Foundation account does not need to adhere to the guidelines provided below.

Specifically, the president must approve all international travel before employees make travel arrangements and incur expenses. Additionally, the university must seek approval from the secretary of education when international conference, convention, or meeting travel involves more than three employees. We have worked to revise the procedures that were used in prior years; these guidelines are similar to those the university followed in the mid-1990s.

For all international travel requests, each person must submit a travel-approval form (available on the controller's web site at <http://www.co.vt.edu/forms>) for review and action by their dean, vice president, or vice provost. Where more than three persons are traveling to the same international function, the request must be coordinated to the extent possible. If approval is granted by the dean, vice provost or vice president, the travel request should be forwarded to the President's Office to the attention of Lisa Wilkes for review and action by the President's Office. The request with the appropriate actions will be returned to the employee. Please note that the approved travel request form must be attached to the travel-reimbursement form when submitted to the Controller's Office for processing.

(See *TRAVEL* on 3)

## Playful therapy garments for children receive patent

By Susan Trulove

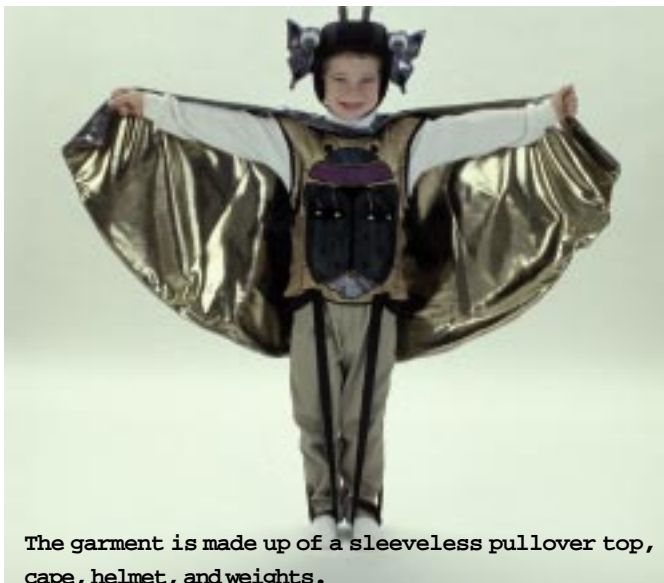
Approximately 15 percent of all children experience some type of sensory-integration problem. Now, a functional, yet enjoyable garment has been developed to help meet the therapeutic and play needs of preschool children with sensory-integration dysfunction.

Sherry Haar, assistant professor of apparel and textiles at Kansas State University, and Joann Boles, retired professor of clothing and textiles at Virginia Tech, have received a patent for "Therapy Apparel for Children Diagnosed with Sensory Integration Dysfunction" (Patent No. 6,401,249, June 11, 2002).

Haar used the clothing-design process developed by Boles to develop a theme-decorated therapy garment for pre-school children for use during occupational therapy. It was the first study of the clothing-related therapy needs of preschool children with sensory-integration dysfunction.

These dysfunctions occur in the sense of touch (tactile), sense of balance (vestibular), and sense of body awareness (proprioception). Children with sensory-integration dysfunction may have difficulty maintaining balance and have difficulty with tasks that require

(See *PLAYFUL* on 4)



The garment is made up of a sleeveless pullover top, cape, helmet, and weights.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

**Monday, 5**

International-Student Orientation (Through 8-25).

**Wednesday, 7**

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

**Thursday, 8**

Classes End.

**Friday, 9**

Exams Begin.

**Saturday, 10**

Exams End.

**Wednesday, 14**

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

**Thursday, 15**

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

**Friday, 16**

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

## BULLETINS

### Water Resource Symposium scheduled

The Virginia Water Resources Research Center and the Powell River Project will sponsor the Regional Coalfield Water Resource Symposium on September 4 at the University of Virginia's College at Wise. Virginia Senator William Wampler will be the keynote speaker.

For registration information contact the Water Center (1-5624; [water@vt.edu](mailto:water@vt.edu)).

### 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.

The 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](mailto:cmngs@vt.edu).

## GIS course scheduled for August at Northern Virginia Center

By Lynn Davis

Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and the University of Virginia are offering a short course titled "Introduction to Geographic Information Systems for Natural Resources" at the Virginia Tech/University of Virginia Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church. The course will take place August 12-16.

Modern geographic information systems (GIS) provide power for collating and manipulating spatial data, and for

communicating the resulting information to a variety of audiences.

This course is designed to introduce the fundamental concepts of GIS to natural-resource professionals from government agencies and consulting firms. The GIS course will benefit field practitioners, technical staff members, managers, and supervisors with responsibility for natural-resources management, data collection, analysis, or reporting.

Participants will gain hands-on experience using the popular ArcView GIS software,

understand sources and limitations of publicly available GIS data and how to integrate them in an application, develop an appreciation for how spatial data can be manipulated in a GIS, and how the data-collection procedures can impact utility of data. Participants will also learn how to edit, update, and print maps, as well as gain insights into how GIS can be used for resource accounting, analysis, and communication.

Instructor Steve Prisley, associate professor of forest inventory and GIS in the department of forestry at Virginia Tech, has over 20 years of

professional experience applying GIS to natural resource-management problems.

The registration fee is \$850 and includes several CD's of data used during the course, the book *Getting to Know ArcView GIS* (with tutorial CD), and a course notebook with lesson notes and exercises. To register, visit: <http://www.conted.vt.edu/gisintro> and then confirm enrollment by phone with the conference registrar at 1-5182. For more information, contact Prisley at 1-7674, or [prisley@vt.edu](mailto:prisley@vt.edu).

## 'Crazy for the Hokies' scholarship sweepstakes launched

The child who wins the "Crazy for the Hokies" Sweepstakes will receive a \$5,000 investment in a Virginia Education Savings Trust (VEST) account—a prize that could grow to more than \$20,000 by the time the winner goes to college.

The sweepstakes was launched Tuesday at Montgomery Regional Hospital (MRH) by Virginia Tech's Office of Licensing and Trademarks. A new Virginia Tech logo of a baby Hokiebird was also unveiled.

Unlike last year's "Crazy for the Hokies"

contest in which contestants competed by creatively reproducing Virginia Tech logos, anyone can enter this year's sweepstakes. Entries will be photographs of children up to 12 years of age who are wearing or holding a Virginia Tech product, such as a hat, tee shirt or stuffed Hokie Bird. Each photograph must be entered by a relative. Entries can be dropped off through November 25 at sponsor locations including Montgomery Regional Hospital (MRH), Wal-Mart stores in the New River and Roanoke valleys, University Bookstore and Volume II,

or by mail to Virginia Tech's Licensing and Trademark Office.

VEST, a program established by the state of Virginia, enables parents to open tax-deferred savings accounts for their children's college education. "If a newborn wins the \$5,000 first prize provided by MRH," said Locke White, director of licensing and trademarks, "the investment could be worth more than \$20,000 by the time the child needs money for college."

Other prizes will include 50 shares of Wal-Mart stock, donated by the company, with

an estimated value of \$3,000; a \$1,000 gift certificate from the University Bookstore, and 20 Michael Vick limited-edition autographed prints from the licensing and trademark office.

The winners will be chosen by a random drawing and will be announced at halftime during the Virginia Tech-University of Virginia football game on November 30. Winning photographs will be shown on the JumboTron.

For more information, go to [www.CrazyForTheHokies.vt.edu](http://www.CrazyForTheHokies.vt.edu).

### MINORITY-INTERN

*Continued from 1*

or women; and they must demonstrate financial need.

The program works to increase the academic competitiveness of the students, resulting in their scores on the Graduate Record Examination improving by an average of 200 points.

"Many universities offer summer research programs," said Soyna Olivia Gomes of Queens, N.Y. and a junior at Penn State. "I chose Virginia Tech because MAOP included the GRE test prep course."

Jasmine Jones, of Atlantic City, N.J., and a junior at Norfolk State University, agreed that the GRE class was an important bonus, but she also saw the internship as an opportunity to meet other students who shared her goal of furthering her education. "This is an excellent program that provides opportunity for minority students," she said. "I recommend it to all undergraduate students."

Grayson started the program to provide the tools minority students need to pursue advanced degrees. "The interns are part of a mechanism to bring about change—to get minority students into the mainstream of scientific and technological society," he said. "This program is flourishing because the faculty members here take a very active interest, serving as advisers to these talented young people."

### VMRCVM

*Continued from 1*

academic disciplines such as electrical, civil, and mechanical engineering.

Eyre was named dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. During his tenure as dean, Virginia-Maryland has emerged as the nation's leading institution for preparing veterinarians to serve society's growing veterinary-medical needs in industry and government.

### GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

*Continued from 1*

The school is one of seven summer residential Governor's Schools offered to gifted students through the Virginia Department of Education. These are in addition to school-year Governor's Schools in 15 communities statewide.

About half of the students to the Governor's School for Agriculture are from urban school divisions, with 28 from Northern Virginia. More than half of the students are females.

"These are very bright students who are very focused on their education," Camp said. "They came here because they felt that what we had to offer would first of all satisfy an urge they had to learn about something they think is important, but also because it will make them more competitive when they graduate from high school and start their higher-education career."

The residential school was conducted on campus from July 7 to August 3. Instruction was provided by professors from the university's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,

College of Natural Resources, College of Human Resources and Education, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, agricultural education teachers from school divisions around the state are members of the school's faculty.

The curriculum was designed specifically to provide a balanced and diverse learning experience for gifted learners, Camp said. Each student chose among sets of classes concentrating in animal science, veterinary science, natural resources, plant science, and agricultural economics.

"The faculty members teaching the classes have been very impressed with these students," Camp said. "The instruction is really college-level material that is being delivered by the people who are doing research in these areas. For example, the dean of the veterinary college taught them a class in pharmacology. That is an experience I bet no other high-school students in America are getting this summer."



# RESEARCH DIVISION OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

## Research-Funding Programs Deadlines Approaching

By Susan Trulove

The Research Division Opportunity Update has announced several important research-funding programs with approaching deadlines, particularly the Nanoscale Science and Engineering (NSE) programs.

NSE programs are limited-submission programs, requiring an internal decision as to which proposals will be forwarded since the NSF will only accept a limited number of proposals per institution. The Virginia Tech deadline for letters of intent is August 28. Funding is available in four areas: Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Teams, Nanoscale Exploratory Research, a Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, and Nanotechnology

Undergraduate Education funding. More information about each of these programs and the related limited submission schedule is available at [www.research.vt.edu/funding/ou/prev/ou0712.html#nano](http://www.research.vt.edu/funding/ou/prev/ou0712.html#nano).

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund's Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease program provides new opportunities for accomplished investigators still early in their careers to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and pathogen biology. More information is available at [www.research.vt.edu/funding/ou/prev/ou0712.html#patho](http://www.research.vt.edu/funding/ou/prev/ou0712.html#patho). The internal deadline for a letter of intent is September 6.

Another funding opportunity that could be an important resource for achieving Virginia

Tech's goals is the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program. IGERT is an NSF endeavor involving the directorates for Biological Sciences, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Education and Human Resources, Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, the Office of Polar Programs, and the Office of International Science and Engineering. The IGERT program has been developed to meet the challenges of educating U.S. Ph.D. scientists, engineers, and educators with the interdisciplinary backgrounds, deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, and technical, professional, and personal skills.

Proposals must be innovative research-based graduate education and training activities in emerging areas of science and engineering. They must be organized around an interdisciplinary research theme and involve a diverse group of faculty members and other investigators with appropriate expertise in research and teaching. The pre-proposal deadline is October 2. More information is available at [www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf02145](http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf02145).

Contact Liz Ackermann at [lizacker@vt.edu](mailto:lizacker@vt.edu) to receive e-mail notifications of the Opportunity Update or to receive OU as an attachment. The site contains information about many other funding opportunities and limited-submission programs.

## TRAVEL

Continued from 1

For international air travel, employees should use coach fares. Exceptions may be approved by the president, provided that business class travel: (1) does not cost more than the lowest-available coach fare; (2) travel is to western Europe and the business meeting is conducted within three hours of landing; (3) the transoceanic, intercontinental trip is more than eight hours; or, (4) the traveler pays the difference. Reimbursement for first-class travel is prohibited. Employees seeking an exception should forward their request to the dean, vice provost or vice president for action and as appropriate for submission to Lisa Wilkes, Office of the Executive Vice President, for processing and action by the president.

Departments should be sensitive to the need to identify cases in which multiple departments may wish to send employees to an international convention or conference. When such situations arise, the department heads involved should reach a decision on who will be selected to attend the meeting before submitting the travel request to a dean, vice provost, or vice president with responsibility for review and recommendation. If an exception to the more than three-person maximum is deemed necessary, the appropriate dean, vice provost, or vice president is responsible for the submission

of a memo requesting an exception to Lisa Wilkes, Office of the Executive Vice President. The request should clearly state why an exception is needed and provide justification that supports the exception.

As noted above, these new guidelines are effective immediately and include travel for which arrangements have already been made. We are requesting an exemption for international travel funded by grants and contracts, including the use of overhead funds and will share additional information with you as it becomes available. We appreciate your assistance in implementing these guidelines within your unit.

For more information, contact Larry Lawrence (1-8629 or [lawrence@vt.edu](mailto:lawrence@vt.edu)) in the Controller's Office or Lisa Wilkes (1-5706 or [lwilkes@vt.edu](mailto:lwilkes@vt.edu)) in the Office of the Executive Vice President.

## Treadmill evaluation diagnostic unit launched at Equine Medical Center

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center has introduced a new diagnostic service for the regional horse community by opening the James P. Mills Diagnostic Treadmill Building.

New research capabilities made possible by the high-speed treadmill facility is expected to boost the university-affiliated equine hospital's stature as a biomedical research institution.

Similar in concept, if not in scale, to a human treadmill, the high-speed equine diagnostic unit, capable of operating at speeds up to 60 miles per hour, will be used to evaluate a horse's respiratory, cardiovascular and muscu-

loskeletal functions under vigorous exercise. The 2,800-square-foot building is heated and air conditioned so that horses exercise in a controlled environment while diagnostic tools are in use.

While the horse is working on the treadmill, a video endoscope may be used to visually examine the patient's upper airway to diagnose respiratory problems not evident at rest. One of the distinctive design features of the treadmill building is a structural arrangement which will allow up to five video cameras to be positioned around or over the horse. These cameras will be used to document and analyze subtle gait problems. Information re-

(See TREADMILL on 4)

## EMPLOYMENT

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

**Nine full-time food-service positions available.**

**Assistant Manager**, 000561H, PB 3, RDP.

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

**Business Manager**, 007865S, PB 4, IDDL.

**Business Practices Specialist**, 007952F, PB 5, Controller's Office.

**Cashier**, W023451H, PB 1, RDP.

**Communications Officer**, 007318Y, PB 3, Police.

**Customer Service Assistant**, 002235F, PB 2, Physical Plant.

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

**Electrician**, 001691F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

**Engineering Coordinator**, 007133A, PB 5, VBS.

**Fire Protection Technician**, 000192F, PB 4, Physical Plant.

**Fiscal Technician**, 005578M, PB 3, CALS—Extension.

**Front Office Manager**, 001144Y, PB 3, DBHCC.

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

**Housekeeping Leader Senior**, 000552H, PB 1, RDP.

**Parking Enforcement Officer**, 007038S, PB 1, Parking Services.

**Powerline Worker**, 000030F, PB 3, Facilities.

**Sous Chef**, 007881H, PB 3, RDP.

**Stock Clerk**, 007966H, PB 2, RDP.

**Trades Utilities Master Mechanic**, 002274F, PB 4, Physical Plant.

### PART TIME

**Animal Care Technician**, W022190M, PB 2, VTH.

**Animal Care Technician**, W022565M, PB 2, CVM.

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

**Budget Analyst**, W023430F, PB 4, BFP.

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

**Graphic Artist**, W022443Y, PB 3, Continuing Education.

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

**Laboratory Technician Senior**, W020627B, PB 2, Chemistry.

**Managing Editor/Assoc. Managing Editor**, W023042B, PB 3, Sociology.

**Outreach Specialist**, W023452D, PB 4, Personnel Services.

**Parking Enforcement Officer**, W020415S, PB 1, Parking Services.

**Pmm Support Technician**, W022979M, PB 2, VTH.

**Radiologic Technologist**, W022238J, PB 3, Schiffert Center.

### UNIVERSITY ONLY

**Telecom Outside Plant Crew Leader**, U006486A, PB 4, CNS.

### OFF CAMPUS

**Administrative Assistant**, 007986J, PB 3, CAUS.

**Court Specialist**, 007984J, PB 4, CPAP.

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

**Nursing Supervisor**, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.

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

**Statistical Data Analyst**, 007987J, PB 4, IPO.

## FACULTY POSITION

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**VCE, Northampton County. Extension Agent.** Contact: Steve Umberger, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.

**VCE, Nelson County. Extension Agent.** Contact: Robert Meadows, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.

**VCE, Louisa County. Extension Agent.** Contact: Robert Meadows, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.

**VCE, Henry County. Extension Agent.** Contact: Robert Meadows, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson, 0437.

**Clinical Pathology. Biomedical Sciences. Assistant/Associate Professor.** Contact: Bernard Feldman, VMRCVM.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Soniat's *Alluvial*/finalist for state poetry award

*Alluvial*, a book of poetry by Virginia Tech poet Katherine Soniat, has been named one of three finalists for the Fifth Annual Library of Virginia Literary Award in Poetry.

The Library of Virginia, the Virginia Center for the Book, and the Library of Virginia Foundation co-sponsor the Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors and Friends, which will be held September 21 in Richmond. The awards "recognize Virginia's literary community" and "pay tribute to...Virginia's masters of the written word," according to Nolan T. Yelich of the Library of Virginia.

*Alluvial* is Soniat's fourth collection of poems and was published by Bucknell University Press. "Alluvium" means the

perpetually shifting, settling, and re-shifting sediment deposited in a riverbed that, in turn, by shaping the watercourse, creates "the shallows and rapids, treacherous holes and long placid runs" that define the restless shoreline. *Alluvial* presents an awe-inspired view of things past, present, and future. And yet those time frames include all the submerged, dark moments as well as the glittering bits and pieces.

*Alluvial* is set in the watery landscape of the Chesapeake Bay, the world's largest estuary, and in Louisiana, the land of braided tributaries. Poet Betsy Sholl wrote, "*Alluvial* blends the personal and historical. Soniat doesn't forget the slave block and the ship holds when she looks at her native land." As well as being one woman's voice, Sholl said, the poet's voice is "a

fully expansive and human voice."

David St. John, poet and critic, called *Alluvial* "an inspired collection of poems."

Soniat has published three other volumes of poetry and a chapbook. *A Shared Life* won the Iowa Poetry Prize and a Virginia Prize for Poetry. *Notes of Departure* received the Camden Poetry Prize from the Walt Whitman Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Soniat has received Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowships, the William Faulkner Prize, and an Ann Stanford Prize. Her poems have been published in such literary journals as *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Southern Review*, *Virginia Quarterly*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *TriQuarterly*.

## Smith awarded Fulbright roster candidacy

By Lynn Davis

Robert Smith, Extension specialist and director of the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management in the College of Natural Resources, has been approved for Fulbright Senior Specialists Roster candidacy. The roster contains approved candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions based on the candidate's expertise.

The program works in cooperation with the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB), the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State (ECA), and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) in Washington, D.C. The FSB, ECA, and CIES are dedicated to funding international scholarly exchanges.

As a candidate, Smith will be considered a potential match for program requests that require forest-products expertise. Smith remains on the roster for up to five years, during which time he may have opportunities to be involved in international scholarly exchanges when matches are made.

Smith's expertise includes forest-products marketing and management, treated wood/lumber products, timber bridges, and hardwood lumber. He has given presentations and been involved with projects in Chile, England, Germany, Russia, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Finland, and the U.S.

## RDP captures top honors in national competition

The Department of Residential and Dining Programs (RDP) received the grand prize in the Residence Hall—Special Event category in the National Association of College and University Food Services' 29th annual Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards Contest. The award was presented during the NACUFS national conference held in Orlando, Fla., in July.

The RDP entry, "Hokie Outback Challenge Customer Appreciation Dinner," received the first place award in Residence Hall—Special Event category for the large-school division, and was chosen as the grand prize recipient from all the entries in this category. This is the second time that RDP has received grand prize recognition.

During the *Hokie Outback Challenge*

*Customer Appreciation Dinner* students were greeted with a g-day and enjoyed a taste of the Australian Outback. The dinner's theme was a takeoff from the CBS television show, "Survivor."

The Depot at Dietrick and Shultz Dining Center were transformed into the Australian Outback, complete with authentic decorations, a gala buffet, and Hokie-style immunity challenges. Selections included Kangaroo Meatballs, Wilderness Smoked Pork Loin, Outback Seitan Stew, Down Under Prime Rib of Beef, and Shrimp on the Barbie. A variety of desserts including Aussie Kiwi Pie, Tasmanian Devil's Cake and G'day Cake were offered.

"This is a wonderful example of the more

than 25 special meals that Culinary Services provided last year for our customers," said Rick Johnson, director of Culinary Services for RDP. "This event shows our commitment to providing students with excellent food, along with a unique dining experience."

The Loyal E. Horton award, named for a founder and past president of NACUFS, honors the most successful ideas in menus, presentations, special-event planning, and new dining innovations. Judges evaluated the entries for menu selection, presentation, merchandising, marketing, and promotional activities. A total of 131 entries from college and universities across the country competed in six categories.

## PLAYFUL

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coordinated use of opposing muscle groups, such as wringing out a wash cloth or pouring milk from a heavy container. Some children are overly sensitive to touch while others crave tactile input. In addition, these children may also have developmental delay of fine and gross motor skills.

Therapy includes activities that provide enhanced sensory experience. The patented ensemble is a tool to enhance therapy as far as the therapist is concerned and gives the therapy aspects of play as far as the child is concerned.

The outfit is made up of a sleeveless pull-over top, cape, helmet, and weights. The prototype had a bug superhero theme. The top contains a series elastic straps designed for selective placement around the child's arms, knees, and feet to provide proprioceptive and tactile input.

"An unanticipated benefit was that the foot straps decreased toe walking," Haar said. There are pockets for weights, which are designed to look like baby beetles. The weights also provide proprioceptive and tactile input.

"Since dysfunction affects your awareness of your body in space and awareness of movement, you may feel weightless, which is why weights are used—to provide an awareness of muscles and joints," Haar said. "Working against resistance and the use of weights stimulates muscles and joints. Weights and pressure can also have a calming effect. Most people can relate to the comfort provided by a

heavy blanket," she suggests.

There are 15 different textures in the patented garment. The child can rub their hands down the front of the costume or rub the bug wings on their body to feel different types of surfaces.

The cape has handholds so the child can extend it, wing-like, and has pockets with different fastening systems to provide opportunities for fine and perceptual motor skills. The pockets also aid in transition between activities, as the tools for each task can be stored in a different pocket.

The headgear provides low-level protection, but was actually developed at the children's

request to complete the outfit. It allows the child to attach such fanciful attachments as antenna, wings, and ears, which enhances motor-skill development and social interaction.

Boles' design process provided guidelines for problem development, needs assessment, prototype development, and evaluation. Developed in 1982, Boles' framework has been used to identify wearer preferences and garment criteria for female flight attendant uniforms, school uniforms, and kayak paddling jackets.

For more information, visit [http://www.research.vt.edu/resmag/photos/garment/garment\\_patent.html](http://www.research.vt.edu/resmag/photos/garment/garment_patent.html).

## TREADMILL

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lated to heart, respiration, and gait also will provide useful data for clinical research projects.

"This is a magnificent facility," said Peter Eyre, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine during a keynote address at the building's dedication. "Many people have been responsible for getting us to this point."

Money used to construct the new facility was donated by the private sector. The building is named in honor of founding council member James P. Mills, a horseman and breeder who was a leader in achieving early diagnostic advances at the center. Several fund-raising initiatives have been undertaken in recent years to support the treadmill building and equipment.

"Horse owners have worked hard to make this new facility a reality, and I know they will be excited by the opportunities it will create," said G. Frederick Fregin, the Jean Ellen duPont Shehan professor and director of the center. "Opening this service allows us to offer a critical, systematic approach to understanding the pathogenesis, response to treatment, and possible prevention of well documented equine problems faced by the industry."

The Equine Medical Center is located in Leesburg. It offers 24-hour emergency referral service along with surgical, medical and diagnostic services.