

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## BOV tuition hike helps prevent program cuts, layoffs

By Larry Hincker

Adopting an innovative financial plan, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors has avoided expected large program elimination and massive layoffs. The plan combines internal restructuring and reallocation, higher tuition, and re-investing in areas of strategic growth.

"We are moving ahead and remain focused on quality. We still expect to downsize selected programs and enact associated position elimination, but our approach has been to protect the quality and integrity of our programs while maintaining flexibility for our students. Further deep cuts would have made classes unbearably large, forced the elimination of many degree programs, and made course availability aggravating for students," President Charles Steger said.

Steger said that students and alumni have repeatedly told him over the last several months that Virginia Tech's broad program array, the very nature of a comprehensive university, is one of Tech's most appealing features. "We wanted to preserve the very essence that makes us a university," he said.

Through a tuition increase, program adjustments, and the use of internal reallocations, the university expects to maintain

a similar academic profile without resorting to massive program cuts. But bowing to the gravity of massive losses in state support for education; the Board of Visitors on Monday approved a \$400 tuition increase for the second semester of the 2002-03 academic year.

Tuition for the second semester will rise from \$1,522 to \$1,922. There were no changes for other fees. The board will again look at tuition and fees at its March meeting and may enact another increase for fall 2003. An additional \$800,000 will be set aside for financial aid this year and \$2.3 million in FY 04 to assist students and families.

Tech's tuition is still considerably less than benchmark institutions. Even after the increase, Tech's in-state tuition will be about \$800 less than the public peer group average and rank thirteenth of the 21 schools. Before the increase Virginia Tech was the least expensive school in Virginia, based on total cost for tuition, fees, and room and board. It is expected that Tech will remain one of the least expensive schools in the state.

Minnis Ridenour, chief operating officer and the primary architect of Tech's financial profile, said "Over the years we have attempted to keep the overall cost to attend Virginia Tech very competitive. Even now with this tuition increase, the overall cost of tuition, mandatory

fees, and room and board will be the lowest of any public university in Virginia. Our very low fee structure enables us to raise tuition and protect academic programs while still keeping the overall price at a reasonable level."

Ridenour added that additional tuition revenue puts funds directly into the academic enterprise. "Our 'student social programming' costs have been minimized so we can funnel added revenues right into the classrooms and labs," Ridenour said.

Provost Mark McNamee said, "We will continue to see some more faculty losses and course constriction, though most position eliminations were enacted through the earlier round of budget losses. However, I am pleased that we have set aside funds for retention and re-investment. The plan will ensure academic integrity of the university by retaining faculty members in the classrooms and in the research laboratories while providing for significant investments in program areas, strategic initiatives, and the specialized equipment." McNamee will work with academic deans over the next several months to determine possible program or department mergers, further course elimination, and strategies to minimize student throughput time.

The loss of state support, crucial in keeping

(See BOV on 3)

## BOV approves biomedical engineering programs

By Jean Elliott

Post-graduate degree programs in biomedical engineering were approved by the Board of Visitors and forwarded to the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia.

The recently approved Virginia Tech—Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences currently has over 30 students participating in the graduate-degree option. Nationally, enrollment in bioengineering graduate programs has increased at a much greater rate over the last two decades than graduate enrollment in all engineering fields. With an aging population focused on health issues, employment opportunities in this field are expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2010.

**College of Human Sciences and Education (CHSE)**

Now the new name for the former College of Human Resources and Education, CHSE better reflects the disciplines as identified by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The name "Human Resources" is no longer an accurate portrayal and is often

(See PROGRAMS on 4)

## 'With Good Reason' celebrates tenth anniversary

A one-of-a-kind radio program has given dozens of Virginia Tech professors a chance to tell the state's citizens—and taxpayers—about the important work they do.

"With Good Reason," a half-hour public-affairs program airing on all of Virginia's public radio stations and WAMU-FM in Washington, D.C. is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. The program is produced for the Virginia Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium, of which Virginia Tech is a member, by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. The program airs Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on WVTF-FM.

Other stations and air times are listed on the program's web site at <http://www.virginia.edu/vfh/wgr/>. At the site, listeners can search for and listen to archived programs.

The only state-wide public-radio program of its kind "we think in the country," producer and host Sarah McConnell said. "With Good Reason" is an eclectic blend of timely and engaging features and interviews with faculty members from the state's colleges and universities.

"Each program is a mini-course brought to citizens free of charge," McConnell said.

More than 60 Virginia Tech professors have been featured on the program, and they've found the experience valuable. "This is the only interview I've done with the media that went into the important details surrounding the horseshoe-crab controversy," Fisheries and wildlife sciences Professor Jim Berkson said. "It was a relaxing, pleasant



Virginia Foundation for the Humanities President Rob Vaughan and "With Good Reason" host Sarah McConnell have brought the research and expertise of dozens of Virginia Tech professors to Virginia's state-wide in the program's 10-year existence.

interview because I didn't have to try to force all of the pertinent information in a sentence or two. I could actually tell the whole story. It temporarily restored my faith in the media."

History Professor William C. Davis, author of more than 40 books on the Civil War and a frequent participant on the book-promotion circuit, found "With Good Reason" refreshing.

It "offered that rarity in an author interview, an interviewer who had actually read the book, and carefully. Questions were thoughtful and to

the point, and the interviewer clearly understood and took the approach that the purpose of such a program is to let the audience be informed by the author and the book, and not by interviewer pontification."

Apparel, housing, and resource management Professor Irene Leech said "With Good Reason" breaks the mold of radio programming. "It gave me a chance to talk about energy restructuring," she said, "an issue

(See REASON on 2)

## OIRED to enhance university's global presence

By Susan B. Felker

The extensive global programs formerly operated by the University Office of International Programs, the Office of International Research and Development, and the Office of International Education have merged to form the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED), according to C. Clark Jones, vice provost for University Outreach and International Affairs.

OIRED, which is part of University Outreach and International Affairs (UOIA), will combine in one unit the principal campus-based international activities associated with the three-part land-grant mission of the university: research, education, and service.

The goal of the merger is to maximize efficiency in filling the international needs and aspirations of the university community. This re-organization follows a detailed study by the International Steering Committee, formed by the Provost's Office in the 2001-2002 academic year and chaired by former Dean Robert Bates.

In discussing the merger, Jones said, "Our mission is to share knowledge and experience between Virginia Tech and the global community through teaching, research, and service to realize greater economic opportunity and social well-being for

(See OIRED on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 15

**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.**

**Art Exhibit**, noon to 4 p.m., Armory Gallery.

**International Club Program**, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cranwell Center.

**Theatre Event**, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Riddley Walker* (through 11-17).

### Saturday 16,

**Music Program**, 8 p.m., Squires Old Dominion Ballroom: Ensemble Concert.

### Sunday, 17

**YMCA Hike**, 1:30 p.m., YMCA parking lot.

**Music Event**, 4 p.m., Blacksburg Presbyterian Church: Blacksburg Master Chorale.

### Monday, 18

**University Council**, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

### Tuesday, 19

**Faculty Senate**, 7 p.m., 1060 Torgersen.

**Art Gallery Exhibit**, Armory Art Gallery (through 12-11).

**Leadership Development Workshop**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

DBHCC rooms D, E.

**Thanksgiving Buffet**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., DBHCC.

**Theatre Event**, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Riddley Walker* (through 11-21).

### Wednesday, 20

**YMCA Slide Show**, noon, Cranwell Center: Herman Warren.

**"With Good Reason,"** 7:30 p.m., WVTF.

**Football**, 7 p.m., Lane Stadium: WVU.

### Thursday, 21

**Staff Senate**, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

### Friday, 22

**International Club Program**, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Cranwell Center.

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 15

**Geological Sciences**, 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: John Suppe, Princeton.

**MCBB**, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Bernard Schwetz, FDA.

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: William M. Mullins, Army Research Office.

**STS**, 4 p.m., 225 Williams: Andrew Garnar.

### Saturday, 16

**STS**, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., 1060 Torgersen: Stephan Fuchs, UVa.

**STS Panel Discussion**, 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1060 Torgersen: Daniel Breslau, Tim Luke, Sandra Dika, and Kusum Singh.

### Monday, 18

**Biochemistry**, 4 p.m., 223 Engel: Joseph A. Krzycki, Ohio State.

**Horticulture**, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Gordon Lightbourn.

### Thursday, 21

**Career Services**, noon to 1 p.m., Squires 219.

**Statistics**, 3:45 p.m., 409 Hutcheson: Xiao Yang.

**STS**, 4 p.m., 132 Lane Hall: Mark Russell.

### Friday, 22

**MCBB**, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: Sue Wessler, University of Georgia.

**Geological Sciences**, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Bruce Watson, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: D. Lynn Johnson, Northwestern.

## BULLETINS

### Service-learning course registration under way

Those who plan to use service-learning in a course, research project, or outreach activity during the Spring 2003 Semester should plan to register now by downloading a course-registration form at <http://www.majbill.vt.edu/sl/faculty.html>.

The Service-Learning Center is in the process of identifying site placements and developing resources for spring semester activities.

For more information, contact Michele James-Deramo at [deramo@vt.edu](mailto:deramo@vt.edu) or 1-6947.

### Information-technology forum planned

An Executive Forum in Information Technology is being planned for December 11 at the Williamsburg Community Building, Williamsburg.

"The Last Mile to Virtual Communities—Telecommuni-

cations Issues and Answers" is the fifth seminar in a series outlining issues and potential solutions for going the "last mile" in providing high bandwidth access to localities. In addition to describing in plain language particular broadband-network options—wired and wireless—available in Virginia communities today, local community leaders will showcase network-based projects under way where they live and work. This forum will also address issues related to the security of community networks, giving participants an opportunity to ask experts about their security concerns.

For more information, visit the seminar series web site at <http://www.mps.vt.edu/ITForum/> or contact Tedd Povar at [tep3e@virginia.edu](mailto:tep3e@virginia.edu)/804-371-0202 or Judy Alford at [jalford@vt.edu](mailto:jalford@vt.edu)/540-231-2309. The program fee is \$95, which includes all materials, breaks, and a luncheon. For information

regarding registration procedures, contact the conference registrar at 1-5182.

### Marching Virginians sponsor canned-food drive

The Marching Virginians will sponsor a canned-food drive in conjunction with the WVU football game on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The goal of the sixth-annual Hokies for the Hungry drive is to collect 65,115 cans of food.

Drop-off points for cans will be established at all four corners of Lane Stadium and at the Marching Virginians' practice field at the corner of Southgate Drive and Spring Road (across from Lane Stadium), and various locations near the stadium where tailgate pep bands will be performing before the 7 p.m. kick-off.

For more information, contact Eileen Oviatt at the Marching Virginians. ([eoviatt@vt.edu](mailto:eoviatt@vt.edu), 357-0493).

## Attorneys topic of panel for students

By Sally Harris

The College of Arts and Sciences is hosting its first Alumni Career Panel, which will focus on "Being and Becoming an Attorney" and is open to all Virginia Tech students, November 20 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in 3100 Torgersen.

The panel will feature special guest Judge Eric Andell, a recent presidential appointee to the post of deputy undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education, and six alumni panelists who practice in various areas of law. Because it includes lawyers from all backgrounds, the panel discussion is open to students in the liberal arts, sciences, engineering, and business, as well as any interested students in other fields.

"We hope the panel will be of service to students as they consider whether law school and a career as an attorney is something they want to pursue," said Dan Palmer, assistant director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, call Dan Palmer at 1-8739 or Debbie Wilson at 1-8131.

## Traffic information for West Virginia football game

President Charles Steger has approved closing of all university offices at 4 p.m. on November 20 preceding the game with West Virginia University, with the exception of faculty and staff members directly supporting classroom instruction, critical positions, the libraries, and other key groups such as Residential and Dining Programs. Classes will not be cancelled. Faculty members can and should consider the impact of the game on classroom instruction. The university registrar is available to help reschedule class periods should a faculty member deem it necessary.

The game will begin at 7 p.m. Football traffic normally begins arriving four hours before game time. Parking-lot clearance activities are as follows for the game:

**Tuesday, Nov. 19:** All parking will be prohibited after 7 p.m. in the stadium parking lot. Resident students should relocate their vehicles to I-lot (Cage) or B-lot. All resident vehicles in B-lot must be clear of that location by noon on Friday, Sept. 13.

**Wednesday, Nov. 20:** All vehicles must depart the following lots and roads by 4:15 p.m.: Litton-Reaves/Wallace lots (located off Washington Street and Duck Pond Drive); Coliseum lot (located off Washington Street and Spring Road); the gravel lot located behind

the Jamerson Center; stadium lot; Track/Field House lot; tennis-court lot (on Washington Street beside the Coliseum); Vet-Med lot (north side only); EHSS lot (located off Tech Center Drive); Maintenance lot (located off Southgate Drive) Engel/Cheatham lot, Price lot, Davidson lot (only the section parallel to West Campus Drive); Solitude lot; Derring lot (large section parallel to Perry Street); Spring Road, Washington Street (southern side {tennis court} only from Spring Road to Kent Street).

Vehicles must be removed from these lots and roads or are subject to being towed.

Hokie Club members should not attempt to park in their designated spaces until 5 p.m. or later to allow for employees and students to clear the lots.

At approximately 6 p.m. on Thursday, traffic on Washington Street, Southgate Drive, and Spring Road will become one way toward Lane Stadium. Traffic on Duck Pond Drive will also become one way toward Lane Stadium. After the game, the street directions will reverse until the traffic flow returns to normal.

Handicap parking will be available in the center section of Perry Street lots (located behind Whittemore Hall). Signs will be posted for guidance to that area. Handicap shuttles will transport persons from this lot to the stadium

before, during, and after the game.

For more information, call Parking Services at 1-3200 or, after regular business hours, the University Police Department at 1-6411. For information concerning reserved Hokie Club lots, call 1-9963.

## REASON

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I've been turned down by print media for because they said it's too complex for people to understand." Her experience brought new opportunities for her as well. She was featured with History Professor and electric industry expert Richard Hirsh, whom she had not met before. The result: "We've become colleagues and are now working together on a university-wide consortium on energy restructuring." Their new group has a monthly seminar series open to the university community and is working toward applying for an NSF grant.

"With Good Reason" works with University Relations to generate ideas and guests for its programs. Professors with program ideas should submit them to Broadcast Media Coordinator Paul Lancaster at [dinosaur@vt.edu](mailto:dinosaur@vt.edu).

## CAMPUS UPDATE

### Electronic Earnings and Deductions Statements Available

All Virginia Tech employees have the option to view their earnings-and-deductions statements electronically. Employees who completed and returned the Earnings and Deductions Statement Preference Form will continue to receive a paper copy. Others will receive an e-mail notification that their latest earnings-and-deductions statement is available starting with the November 27 pay date.

Employees who opted to continue to receive the paper form and want to change their selection can do so via the web. Use the following address to access the Hokie SPA: <https://www.ban-vtweb.vt.edu/bprod/owa/>

[twgkwbis.P\\_ValLogin](#) and select Electronic Pay Stub Preference.

Employees with privacy concerns are reminded that earnings-and-deductions information is secured with their PID and password. Electronic earnings-and-deductions statements can be printed, providing both current and previous statements, as well as year-to-date information. Electronic earnings-and-deductions statements also benefit the university, because they reduce the costs associated with providing the paper copy.

For more information, contact the Payroll Office at 1-5201.

### Professor's book on Confederacy fills void

By Allan Miller

Literally thousands of volumes have been written documenting the battles fought in the American Civil War and shedding light on those who planned, led, or fought in those engagements. But relatively sparse scholarly effort has been devoted to examining the underlying social, political, and economic factors that led so many southern states to band together to form a Confederacy separate from the Union.

*Look Away! A History of the Confederate States of America*, a new work by Civil War historian William C. Davis, helps to fill that void by viewing the Confederate cause through the eyes of those responsible for inspiring the birth of that new and independent nation, and those who, through their daily labors in a variety of pursuits, bore the burden of making the grand design work in the face of considerable obstacles. The book is, in essence, an eyewitness account of the Confederacy related by those who first sought, then attained, and finally lost their dream of Southern independence.

Davis, director of programs for Virginia Tech's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and author of more than 40 books on the Civil War period, examined some 800 newspapers and the personal papers, letters, and diaries of more than 100 Southern leaders and ordinary citizens to write the 484-page volume. "These

documents amply demonstrate how loyalty to the fundamental principles of the Confederacy, which permeated virtually every level of the social conscience in the early stages, gradually gave way to uncertainty, and then disillusion, as realities of the cost of the endeavor, political infighting, civil strife, and dwindling resources eventually fractured the soul of the Confederacy," Davis said.

From policies for educating the young to guidelines covering treatment of slaves and from the heroic sacrifices of many Southern women to the greed and cowardice of some Southern men, the book provides a record of the Confederacy before, during, and after the struggle for sovereign status.

Published by The Free Press, *Look Away!* provides a comprehensive, factual, and informative account of the Confederate national experience, from its philosophical underpinnings to the tremendous social turmoil and economic devastation seen at war's end. It fills the need for a cohesive, easy-to-follow overview of the Confederate States of America as seen from the perspective of those who were responsible for inspiring, creating, and living that failed attempt at nation building.

### Tech to host foreign Fulbright scholar

By Emily Bezek, University Relations intern

The university has been selected to host Fulbright Visiting Scholar Andrejs Krasnikova from the Czech Republic for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Krasnikova is one of approximately 800 outstanding foreign faculty members and professionals the Fulbright Scholar Program has brought to the United States to teach and do research. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Visiting from Latvia, Krasnikova will research the damage accumulation and failure in mechanically loaded composite materials (and nano-composites) to create new damage-accumulation stochastic models and verify their predictive abilities comparing computer-simulation data with experiment.

Krasnikova received his doctor of engineering science (Ph.D. equivalent) in 1992 from Riga Technical University. He also received his doctorate in physics and mathematics from the Institute of

Hydrodynamics USSR Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk in 1986.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational-exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Over its 56 years of existence, thousands of U.S. faculty members and professionals have studied, taught or done research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

More than 250,000 American and foreign university students, K-12 teachers, and university faculty and professionals have participated in one of the several Fulbright exchange programs.

Recipients of Fulbright awards—both U.S. and foreign—are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

For more information about the Fulbright Scholar Program, contact Judy Pehrson, director of external relations, Council for International Exchange of Scholars by phone at (202) 686-4014 or e-mail at [jpehrson@cies.iie.org](mailto:jpehrson@cies.iie.org).

### BOV

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tuition low, has plunged in a short time. In less than one year through two rounds of reductions, the university lost \$42.2 million of its \$186-million appropriation for academic programs. Funding for building maintenance and repair was reduced by \$5.9 million to 80 percent of last year's level.

Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station lost \$10.9 million. Including losses in equipment funding, the university lost \$61.5 million or about 23 percent from its base budget. Tech is slated to lose an additional \$11 million from next year's budget for a total of \$72.4 million.

As a result of these General Fund reductions, Virginia Tech will have \$11 million less in state tax dollars in 2003-2004 than in 1990-1991.

Ridenour gave another reason for raising tuition. The university carried an embedded shortfall of more than \$20 million according to the state's own studies (The Joint Subcommittee on Higher Education Funding Policy, December 2000). "We already have a lean operation from chronic underfunding. Absorbing massive losses would have fundamentally changed the character of Virginia Tech."

One feature of the plan adopted by the board includes several "re-investment" pools for selected program areas such as life sciences and critical technologies.

## 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.

### CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

#### FULL TIME

**Assistant Housekeeping Manager**, 001182J, PB 2, UUSA.  
**Executive Secretary**, 004406B, PB 3, MME.  
**One full-time food-service position available.**  
**Grounds Worker Senior**, 006855G, PB 1, PPGD.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, P002005C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

**Hvac Technician**, 008001H, PB 3, RDP.  
**In-vehicle Experimenter**, 007787J, PB 4, VTTI.  
**Lab Technician**, 008042K, PB 4, VBI.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 001834S, PB 2, University Registrar.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 003080B, PB 2, ISE.  
**Office Support Assistant**, 008043K, PB 3, VBI.  
**Research Specialist**, 007788J, PB 3, VTTI.  
**Scientific Glassblower**, 001267B, PB 5, Chemistry.  
**Senior Programmer Analyst**, 008041B, PB 5, Grado ISE.  
**Unit Manager**, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.

#### PART TIME

**Administrative Assistant**, W023358J, PB 3, Athletics.  
**Distance Learning Support Technician**, W023494A, PB 4, VBS.  
**Icu Veterinary Technologist Large Animal**, W022218M, PB 2, VTH.  
**Large Animal Husbandry**, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.  
**Program Support Tech**, W023304G, PB 3, Graduate School.  
**Research Specialist**, 008012M, PB 3, Entomology.  
**Veterinary Technican**, W020101M, PB 4, VTH.

#### OFF CAMPUS

**Nursing Supervisor**, 006726M, PB 3, CVM.  
**Senior Program Administrator**, 006436Y, PB 4, DCE.

### FACULTY POSITIONS

**F1050 Assistant Professor. Department of Geological Sciences. College of Arts and Sciences.** Contact: Carolyn Williams, Department of Geological Sciences.  
**112611 Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, Amelia/Nottoway Counties. College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.** Contact: Robert Ray Meadows, Virginia Cooperative Extension, 121 Hutcheson Hall, 0437.  
**F3057 Endowed Professorship in Equine Internal Medicine. Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.** Contact: G. Frederick Fregin, Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 1938, Leesburg, VA 20176.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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# New university center examines multiple accountability issues

By Susan Trulove

A non-governmental organization (NGO) that is oriented to poverty relief, whether in India or in Appalachia, is accountable to the community it is working with, to those who provide funding, and to its own values and mission. Sometimes there can be tensions—competitions. How do you resolve them?

The WorldBank is accountable to its member governments, but is also accountable to the people on the street who are protesting the way it does business.

A new university center, Global Accountabilities: Center for Social Monitoring Analysis, has been established to examine the theory and practice of accountability in multilateral and civil-society organizations. Directed by Edward Weisband of political science and Alnoor Ebrahim of urban affairs and planning, the center will have operations in both Blacksburg and in Northern Virginia.

"Our interest is, how do we think about accountability so it accounts for multiple perspectives?" said Ebrahim, who provided the NGO and WorldBank examples above.

Launched as a result of an ASPIRES grant, which supported a colloquium on accountability and moral community in September that drew presenters from across the world, the center will promote the study and practice of

democratic forms of accountability in global governance. According to its charter, the center "is especially devoted to research and teaching on social, ethical, and environmental accountability in public, private, and nonprofit sectors of international society."

Activities will include sponsored research on topics of accountability, organization of colloquia, publications, curriculum development and teaching, provision of web-based resources, and fund-raising to support future research, outreach, and public education.

Weisband says that the idea of an interdisciplinary center came about when he and Ebrahim realized they shared interest in accountability analysis. "It was a crystallization. I was looking at monitoring and reporting of organizations in India and Edward was looking at monitoring of core international-labor standards," Ebrahim said.

"We realized there were themes and motifs that were common and current. The question was, could we extract those from our research? We found we could generalize together," Weisband said.

"The conference was an attempt to see if what Edward and I had found in common also held true for a larger group, for those studying NGO's in the developing world and those studying public international organizations," Ebrahim said.

They discovered that, once they teased out different interpretations of 'accountability,' people representing different kinds of organizations could talk about 'moral community' and solving problems despite what appear to be conflicting missions.

"When we talk about moral community, we are assuming that accountability is about how things should be," Ebrahim said. "But different communities all over the world have different perceptions of what is the right way of behaving. Still, we feel there is something that is ethically motivating." A book resulting from the conference will address what is a moral community and how accountability can help organizations work towards ethically motivated behavior.

Another element of the book will look at whether there are certain kinds of accountability mechanisms that are complimentary and others that compete. For example, Ebrahim said, "Fundlers, such as USAID or the Ford Foundation, often require an NGO to write a report. If the time and resources devoted to generating a report compromise the time and resources the NGO can devote to working on the ground, then accountability to the funder is competing with accountability to the community. A complementary mechanism might be to redesign the reporting system so the information collected for the report will be useful to programs on the ground."

Weisband said with a public international organization, an issue is who is accountable to whom? "Many such organizations are comprised of sovereign nation states. Plus, each organization has its own bureaucracy and internal accountability, such as the UN, whose members are sovereign states.

"A concrete issue is to create a more systematic understanding of how accountability works," Weisband said. An example is multilateral development banks. They give money for

development and create mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, such as questionnaires.

Ebrahim said that how organizations learn is particularly important in terms of development. "Development programs are fragile because there are cultural values as well as technical. Accountability is a way to think about organizational learning."

The Global Accountabilities center explores and advances the analytical and practical integration of perspectives on accountability in four thematic areas: international civil society, global multilateral governance, corporate social responsibility, and systems of accounting, reporting, and monitoring. The primary focus of the center's work is presently on accountability in the first two of these thematic areas: on networks of civil society organizations, particularly transnational and development NGO's, and on the structures and procedures of inter-governmental and multilateral organizations with respect to trade, labor, and environmental standards, practices, and policies.

Weisband holds the Diggs Endowed Chair Professorship in the Social Sciences and is a senior consultant to a number of government and intergovernmental agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Education, and, in recent years, the International Institute of Human Rights, based in Strasbourg, France.

Ebrahim joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1999 after completing his doctorate degree at Stanford University. His work centers on accountability, information, and monitoring systems in non-governmental organizations.

## Landscape-architecture scholarship announced

By Sarah Newbill

The College of Architecture and Urban Studies has announced the creation of an annual landscape-architecture student scholarship honoring Richard "Dick" Gibbons, one of Virginia's longtime contributors to the field of Landscape Architecture.

The Richard G. Gibbons Public Landscapes Planning and Design Award was established by friends, colleagues, and family in honor of Gibbon's recent retirement from the Virginia State Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Gibbons has made significant contributions to the conservation of natural landscapes over the course of his career, and was inducted as a fellow into the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 1997. He is past president of the Virginia Chapter ASLA.

This award is intended to enrich the educational experience of students by increasing awareness of real world, public landscape-planning-and-design issues and the role of public decision makers in stewarding the landscape. It also intends to help increase the understanding of the role of the public in environmental-planning decisions and of methods for including public input into the planning process, and enhance interaction between students, faculty members, and landscape planning and management agencies.

## OIRED

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the world's citizens. The Office of International Research, Education, and Development will make the best use of resources to enrich opportunities for students, faculty members, Virginians, and the world."

To facilitate a smooth transition to the new international programs structure, the directorship of OIRED will be assumed by S.K. De Datta, former director of the Office of International Research and Development. "This combined unit—the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED)—will enhance Virginia Tech's total strength internationally," De Datta said. "It will speak with one voice, broaden the support base, and engage in programs and activities that will implement Virginia Tech's strategic plan. This office will involve all colleges, centers, and institutes at the university. The full programs and services of each individual unit will continue under the new combined unit. This is an important decision supported by University Outreach and International Affairs headed by Clark Jones."

The Office of International Research and Development competes for and manages donor-funded, overseas projects in partnership with non-governmental organizations, universities, and the private sector. The current project portfolio of more than \$30 million involves 27 countries and the expertise of Virginia Tech faculty members in information technology, biotechnology, gender equity and women in development, natural-resource management, environmental policy, trade, and agriculture.

OIRED will seek to expand this portfolio to include projects involving departments and colleges throughout the university. Such projects are designed to improve local economies and quality of life while providing opportunities for

faculty members and graduate students to gain experience and conduct research overseas and bring back this rich international perspective to the classroom.

The Office of International Education arranges study-abroad opportunities for students, offers grants to faculty members for international course development and for faculty-led programs for study abroad. This academic year, the office arranged for more than 800 Virginia Tech students to study overseas. Options include 31 programs led by faculty members and 33 reciprocal exchange programs with overseas universities.

The former director of the University Office of International Programs, Lyn Gray, whose current interim appointment concludes next month, will fill the position of program director for international education in OIRED during her remaining time at Virginia Tech.

Judith Shrum, who currently has a partial appointment as faculty liaison for UOIP, will become faculty liaison for international education, continuing her duties as chair of the University Council for International Programs. She will link with Virginia Tech's Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) while performing other duties related to OIRED.

Dan O'Brian, former assistant director for education abroad in UOIP, will serve as assistant program director for education abroad in the combined unit.

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confused with the description of personnel affairs in the field of business.

### Faculty compensation plan modified

The existing policy on faculty compensation for credit continuing education was slightly modified to authorize overload payment to those teaching in executive/professional programs even when such teaching occurs at their home location.

## CVC Winner

Donald Conner, with Environmental Health and Safety, is the winner of last week's CVC drawing. His prize is a soft-sided Virginia Tech cooler.



CONNER

Conner's name was drawn at random from all those returning CVC pledge cards by November 4. As of that date, the total raised was \$143,559—more than 62 percent of the \$230,000 goal. For pledge cards and other CVC materials, contact Terri Tishman at 1-6727 or [ttishman@vt.edu](mailto:ttishman@vt.edu).