

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 32 FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2003

## University restructuring creates new departmental make-up

By Clara B. Cox

The departmental make-up of every college but Veterinary Medicine will be different by the time Virginia Tech opens for fall semester than it was at the beginning of the current academic year. Final college-level changes will become effective on July 1. Most of the colleges are still evaluating internal changes to departmental structures and programs.

"We have put in place the overall structure that we believe will best serve the university to carry out its strategic plan. We also believe that the restructuring will aid our quest for top-30 status while helping us to meet the challenges of reduced state support," said Joseph S. Merola, senior administrative fellow for restructuring. Merola has directed the restructuring efforts for the Office of the Provost.

The college with the largest number of changes is the new College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, headed by newly appointed Dean Jerry Niles. That college merges most of the departments that comprised the former College of Human Resources and Education with most of the liberal arts departments in the former College of Arts and Sciences.

The new college includes the liberal arts departments of English, foreign languages and literature, history, interdisciplinary studies, philosophy, political science, and sociology. Two School of the Arts departments—music and theatre arts—are also part of the college. Human-sciences departments include apparel, housing, and resource management; communication studies; and human development. The new School of Education within the college includes educational leadership and policy studies and teaching and learning. Special units include Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC.

Another new college—the College of Science, headed by a newly appointed Dean Lay Nam Chang—will include biology, chemistry, economics, geological sciences, mathematics, physics, psychology, and statistics. The economics department is merging with the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics and will probably have a dual relationship with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, now under the interim deanship of Natural Resources Dean Greg Brown, has added human nutrition, foods, and exercise, formerly in Human Resources and Education, to its program offerings. Other current departments are agricultural and Extension education; agricultural and applied economics (see above); animal and poultry sciences; biochemistry; biological systems engineering; crop and soil environmental sciences; dairy science; entomology; food

(See *RESTRUCTURING* on 4)

## University celebrates Commencement

By Jean Elliott

Virginia Tech celebrates Commencement today for its graduate and undergraduate students.

Approximately 3,750 undergraduate students are expected to be eligible for graduation. The ceremony will begin this evening at 7:30 p.m. in Lane Stadium.

Mark McNamee, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said, "This graduating class may be one of the more resilient groups of students to receive degrees at Virginia Tech. Since enrolling, they have faced Y2K, 9-11, and a nation at war. Through it all, they have kept learning as a focal point, which should serve

them well as they enter the world ready to make a difference not only in their own lives but also in the lives of others. Our best wishes go with them, and we look forward to hearing about their achievements."

Virginia Supreme Court Justice Leroy Hassell Sr. will be the keynote speaker for the undergraduate ceremony. "We are delighted and honored that Chief Justice Hassell will address the graduating class. Even before his election to this honorable position, he already had accomplished much, and it will be a privilege for our students, their families, and the faculty to

(See *COMMENCEMENT* on 4)

## IALR funding totals more than \$8 million

By Susan B. Felker

The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Commission and three federal-government agencies have awarded more than \$8.4 million for the benefit of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR), a collaborative educational and economic development effort partnering Virginia Tech, Averett University, Danville Community College, and local government and community organizations.

The largest grant, \$2.5 million for first year operating funds, is from the commission, and was announced after the state body met on April 24. An additional \$2 million is for a 40,000-square-foot research facility addition for IALR and matches an anticipated \$3 million in funds from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Another \$1 million dollars was awarded to the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County for the express purpose of funding technology for the IALR. The tobacco commission is also contributing the \$2 million it has pledged annually for debt service on loans being used to construct the original building, which will open later this year. The total funding for IALR and its operations from the commission equals \$7.5 million for the coming year.

State Senator Charles Hawkins of Pittsylvania County, who is chairman of the commission, said IALR is an example of the commission's goal of funding projects that help to redefine the region's economy.

"This funding provides very important momentum for the initiative. We have many partners to thank throughout the region. The IALR research addition will help leverage research advances we'll be pursuing by providing space for companies interested in research partnerships, licensing new technologies, or being near this center of activity," said Tim Franklin, executive director of the institute and Southside outreach director for Virginia Tech. "We will pursue additional project funds to augment these start-up and capital resources so the IALR can fully develop its potential as a regional economic engine."

At a press conference on April 21, Fifth District Congressman Virgil Goode an-

(See *IALR* on 4)

## President's Update on University's Affirmative-action Practices

As you know, there has been considerable public discussion about the university's affirmative-action practices. I wish to update you on recent activities.

Provost Mark McNamee has assumed responsibility for reviewing all our programs to ensure that all programs involving race-conscious elements will comply with state and federal laws and with attorney-general opinions. He is also developing a set of issues for review by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Visitors charged with recommending narrow-tailoring options. Provost McNamee has established communications with the Office of the Attorney General. We have established a very positive collaborative working partnership with the state's lawyers to address specific legal issues. With their advice and guidance, we feel confident that our programs will pass legal muster.

Thank you to all of the 406 university groups that responded to the request for information as required even in cases where no race-conscious programs exist. Our initial review indicates that many activities support the university's stated aim of increasing diversity, but are not using race as a selection or participation criterion. Others use race to some extent. We will clearly identify these areas and develop recommendations for modification, redirection, or elimination of the program or activity. We have been or will be in contact with you, should we be apprised that modifications are necessary to our programs or practices.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Charles W. Steger, president

## White House official visits Tech's horseshoe-crab, bear centers

By John O'Neil,

director of federal agency relations

Kathie Olsen, associate director for science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, spent two days on campus recently speaking to a class and visiting with students and faculty members in the College of Natural Resources.

Olsen was the guest of James Berkson, director of the Horseshoe Crab Research Center. Noting the strength and productivity of his research activities, she said it was Berkson's teaching methods that really cemented the visit, "Jim's approach in the classroom awakens [students] curiosity. It is really



very engaging," she said. "You know, it is not every day that the finest coastal-research center for a species like the horseshoe crab is located more than five hours from the shore, but Jim has pulled it off, and his colleagues in the

Mid-Atlantic are thrilled to have this resource available to them for research collaboration."

She also visited the Ursid Research Center with students and colleagues of Michael Vaughan, professor of wildlife. Berkson deferred a hands-on visit to "The Crab Shack" for the trip to the Ursid Research Center, saying "Horseshoe crabs are a lot of things, but 'cuddly' is not the first item on most people's

(See *VISITS* on 4)

## Graduate Commencement Ceremony to be Broadcast

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony will be broadcast on Campus Cable channels 6 and 9 and on Blacksburg Adelphia Cable on channel 18, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday May 9.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 9

Senior Day.

Spring 2003 Gradesheets Due.

International Graduation Reception, 11 a.m., Cranwell Center.

VTCC Ceremony, 1 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

Horticulture Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Horticulture Garden.

Graduate Commencement, 3 p.m., Cassell Coliseum.

University Commencement, 7:30 p.m., Lane Stadium.

### Saturday, 10

Horticulture Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Horticulture Garden.

VMRCVM Graduation, 9 a.m., Squires Commonwealth Ballroom.

Northern Virginia Ceremony, 7:30 p.m., Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria.

### Sunday, 11

Mother's Day Buffet, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., DBHCC.

### Tuesday, 13

Spring 2003 Final Grades Available: Web View.

### Wednesday, 14

Staff Appreciation Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rector Field House.

YMCA Mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Luther Memorial Church.

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

### Thursday, 15

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

### Friday, 16

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

### Monday, 19

First Summer Classes Begin.

### Tuesday, 20

Faculty Service-Learning Course, DBHCC (through 5-22).

### Wednesday, 21

Last Day to Add.

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

### Monday, 26

Memorial Day Holiday for Faculty and Staff Members (No Classes).

### Wednesday, 28

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

### Friday, 30

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

## BULLETINS

### West Campus Trail to close for two years

West Campus Trail, which runs adjacent to West Campus Drive, will be closed between Prices Fork Road and Duck Pond Drive during the two-year construction phase of the new Alumni Center and Hotel.

During the trail closure, the following alternative routes have been identified: pedestrians should cross West Campus Drive at a crosswalk and use the sidewalk on the eastern side of the road. Bicyclists have several options. Southbound riders may use the roadway with care or, use the bike lanes on Prices Fork Road to Stanger Street bike lanes into campus or, use the Oak Lane Trail that passes around Special Purpose Housing to the Duck Pond Trail to West Campus Drive. Northbound bicycle traffic may use the bike lane on West Campus Drive or alternatively take the Duck Pond Trail to the Oak Lane Trail to Prices Fork Road.

The West Campus Trail will re-open when construction of the Alumni Center and Hotel is completed in approximately two years.

### University Club announces membership drive

The University Club is announcing its open-enrollment membership drive. Effective June 1, the one-time initiation fee of \$50 will be waived for all those who join between June 1 and August 31.

A "kick-off" event is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, with music, cocktails and homemade barbecue.

The University Club, located on the east edge of campus, next to Donaldson Brown Center serves as a social/cultural center for the community, as well as a residence for 25 individuals

affiliated with Virginia Tech.

Once a residence for male faculty in the 1930s, the University Club now offers housing to graduate students, visiting scholars, and other Virginia Tech affiliates. It offers single, dorm-style rooms on a month-to-month basis (though semester rentals are preferred) for an economical price.

University Club members are offered events ranging from Friday-evening cocktails, theme parties, dances, pre-game celebrations, and cultural showings. Other benefits include premier parking on campus available for all its members and the opportunity to rent the facility for social or business gatherings.

For more information, contact Leslie Whiting at 1-3870, or e-mail at [uclub@vt.edu](mailto:uclub@vt.edu).

## Center for Real Life Kitchen Design workshop to be offered

By Jane Todd

"Explore Your Dream Kitchen," a two-day workshop offered in the Center for Real Life Kitchen Design, will be offered twice in May to participants who want to learn about planning and designing a kitchen that meets their needs.

Attendees explore and experience kitchens with a wide variety of designs, products, materials, and technologies during the interac-

tive course. Participants are asked to bring plans, ideas, and questions about their homes and kitchens as everyone has the opportunity to discuss their personal needs during an individual kitchen consultation. Upcoming workshops are scheduled for May 19 and 20, and May 23 and 24.

The Center for Real Life Kitchen Design reflects the combined effort of Virginia Tech and 25 other contributors whose help was en-

listed. Contributors included manufacturers who donated a wide range of products. The goal was to create a teaching lab for kitchen-and-bath-design students.

The center is designed to give not only students the opportunity to learn new applications of products, materials and technologies used in residential kitchen design, but also give researchers and industry professionals the op-

portunity to use the center for training and continuing education. It also offers multi-media teaching capabilities for classes in housing and interior design.

The workshop will be led by faculty members Kathleen Parrott. (1-4783), Joanne Emmel (1-9259), and Julia Beamish, (1-8881).

For more information, visit web site <http://www.conted.vt.edu/dreamkit/>.

## Fiscal Bunch for Lunch Group celebrates tenth anniversary

By Anna Kirsch, University Relations Intern

The Fiscal Bunch for Lunch Group, an organization promoting the interests of fiscal officers at Virginia Tech, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this month.

The group will celebrate at its May 27 meeting, which will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. Group leader Judy Alford said past and present leaders of the group will provide a brief overview of the group's history and accomplishments at the meeting.

Peggy Arnold, the group's founder and first leader, said she started the Fiscal Bunch for Lunch group in 1993 to establish a channel of communications between fiscal officers, department heads and deans. Arnold created a small, unofficial lunch group, which began meeting to discuss ideas and procedural changes within university policies.

The group now has over 200 members, meets monthly during the academic year, and

features a different speaker at each meeting. There have been speakers from many different administrative departments, including Payroll, Personnel Services, Controller's Office, Purchasing and Records Management, and other university departments.

"We have gotten to see aspects of the university that we would have never been exposed to before joining the group," member Karen Guynn said.

In addition to improving communications, the group is also seen as a means for enhancing professional development, a way to share ideas and a forum for proposed changes in procedures.

Although the group is targeted at administrative staff members who perform departmental fiscal functions, it is open to anyone who could benefit from the information shared, Alford said. There are no fees and members are notified of upcoming meetings and events through e-mail.

For more information, contact Alford at [jualford@vt.edu](mailto:jualford@vt.edu)

## Operating-system upgrade licenses offered to faculty, staff through departmental purchases

By John Krallman

In an effort to improve computer security and support across the university, Information Systems and Computing (ISC) has purchased upgrade licenses for faculty and staff members for Microsoft Office and Windows and Mac operating systems on university-owned machines. Windows upgrade licenses will be provided at no cost to departments until June 30, 2003.

Mac OSX licenses, BlackIce and Zone Alarm firewalls and Norton Antivirus 8 will continue to be offered after this date. Licenses and media are available in the Software Distribution Office in 3220 Torgersen Hall. All faculty and staff members are encouraged to take advantage of the Microsoft upgrade for university-owned machines before it ends on June 30.

"We would like to see all faculty and staff machines which are using Windows to be running Windows 2000 or above," said Pat Jackson, associate vice president of ISC. Upgrade

licenses are available at no cost to users who have previously purchased licenses for any version of a Windows or Mac operating system from Software Distribution. However, faculty and staff members can receive new licenses for security software at no cost without a prior purchase. ISC is offering firewall protection from Zone Alarm and BlackIce, and virus protection from Norton Antivirus 8.

Departments that are interested in upgrading multiple machines will be given one copy of the media; however, they must obtain a license for each computer on which the software will be installed. In addition, a limited number of loaner CD's will be available for check-out on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for licenses and media can be found on line through the Hokie portal at <http://my.vt.edu>. Log into the portal and go to the "My Services" tab to access the order forms. Detailed instructions may be found at <http://www.vt.edu> (See UPGRADE on 4)

## CAMPUS UPDATE

# Duck Pond to be improved during summer

By Suzanne Ducker,  
alternative transportation manager

Over the summer, the upper Duck Pond (the smaller pond, closest to West Campus Drive) will benefit from work designed to improve the water quality in the Duck Ponds and connecting streams. The goal of the project is to improve the health of the upper pond by: removing accumulated sediment in the pond, improving the existing dam, building a new overflow swale adjacent to the dam, and stabilizing the stream banks of the north and south branches of Stroubles Creek (the feeder streams for the Duck Ponds).

The university will perform this work with the assistance of a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The project will begin with the lowering of the water level in the upper pond so that work may be performed on the dam and the new overflow channel. While the pond is drained, accumulated sediment at the bottom of the pond will be removed to increase the water depth and provide a healthier living environment for the wildlife and fish in the pond. Fish located in the upper pond will be transferred to the lower pond before the pond is drained. A few smaller trees will be removed from the dam after coordination with the university's Arbo-retum Committee.

The second phase of the project includes stream stabilization along Stroubles Creek. Over the years, stream banks have eroded, undercutting the adjacent vegetation and trees and causing additional sediment to be transported into the pond. The proposed stabilization treatment will protect the stream banks while maintaining the natural, meandering look of the stream, avoiding and protecting significant trees along the banks.

The work is expected to be completed over the summer and fall. For more information, contact Martha Wirt at [mwirt@vt.edu](mailto:mwirt@vt.edu) or call 1-4743.

# Supplemental funding available by adding undergraduate students

By Susan Trulove

Faculty members who have National Science Foundation (NSF) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding, can get supplemental funding for undergraduate students by adding a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program to their NSF projects or by recruiting under-represented minority students and investigators to their NIH projects.

The REU program seeks to expand student participation in all kinds of research—whether disciplinary, interdisciplinary, or educational in focus. The program seeks to attract a diversified pool of talented students into careers in science and engineering and to help ensure that they receive the best education possible.

A request for an REU supplement may be made for an on-going NSF-funded project or as part of a proposal for a new or renewal NSF grant or cooperative agreement. An REU Supplement request is handled by the NSF program officer for the underlying research grant.

Faculty members can also launch a REU program independent of an existing NSF-funded project by creating an REU site. The chemistry department has just received funding as an REU

site. "As part of the top-30 initiative, it is important to expose the university and the department to talented undergraduates," said Mark Anderson, associate professor of chemistry and project administrator. "The REU program will be a recruitment tool for our graduate program."

Students receive a stipend and, often, assistance with housing and travel. The physical chemistry REU site will be ready for students in 2004. Another REU program, which focuses on polymers and adhesives, has been in place for 15 years and is administered by chemistry Professor Tom Ward.

There are now two materials-related REU programs, said Angie Flynn of the Materials Research Institute—the long-time polymeric materials and adhesives REU site and a more recent REU related to the NSF Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Macromolecular Science and Infrastructure Engineering initiative. Both of the programs will run from May 20 to August 8 this summer, with 12 college juniors and seniors from all over the country enrolled in each program. They conduct research in faculty labs,

under the direction of the faculty member and a graduate-student mentor. A presentation at a concluding symposium and a final report are required. The program has graduated more than 300 students over the years, Flynn said.

"Applying for REU funding is different from a regular proposal, but no more difficult," Anderson said. "Ten participating faculty members supplied brief descriptions of the research student participants would be involved in."

Go to [www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/](http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/) for more information. The deadline is September 15.

The NIH has offered research supplements for under-represented minority members since 1989 to address the need to increase the number of under-represented minority scientists. The agency uses administrative supplements to attract under-represented minority members to the sciences and to careers in biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social science research.

All principal investigators holding NIH research grants are eligible for administrative supplements to existing grants for the support and recruitment of under-represented minority

(See SUPPLEMENTAL 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.

### CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

#### FULL TIME

**Academic Programs Assistant**, 008101M, PB 3, CALS.  
**Accountant**, 004522F, PB 4, Controller's Office.  
**Administrative/Financial Services Associate**, 007981Y, PB 4, IRED.  
**Administrative Assistant**, 007380H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Administrative Assistant to Dean**, 001560B, PB 3, College of Science.  
**Agricultural Research Manager**, 003068M, PB 4, BSE.  
**Anesthesia Technician**, 008097M, PB 4, VTH.  
**Assistant Manager Senior**, 000514H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Assistant/Associate Director, Development Research**, 001557S, PB 4, University Development.  
**Associate Director of Culinary Services**, 002947H, PB 5, RDP.  
**Boiler Operator Assistant**, 000332G, PB 2, Power Plant.  
**Building Services Specialist**, 001641J, PB 1, UUSA.  
**Business Manager**, 008088B, PB 4, College of Science.  
**Development Associate**, 001441B, PB 3, Engineering Development.  
**Director of Construction Services**, 008082F, PB 6, CDC.  
**Electrician**, 001691F, PB 3, Physical Plant.

**Eligibility Analyst/Graduation Analyst**, 001310S, PB 2, University Registrar.  
**Fiscal Technician**, 008089M, PB 3, VTH.  
**Fiscal Technician**, 008102S, PB 3, University Registrar.  
**Fiscal Technician**, 008098M, PB 3, VTH.  
**Grants Specialist**, 004073M, PB 4, CVM.  
**Grants Specialist**, 008076K, PB 4, VBI.  
**Housekeeper**, 001189J, PB 1, UUSA.  
**Housekeeping Leader Senior**, 000552H, PB 1, RDP.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, P002005G, PB 1, Physical Plant.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 008091M, PB 2, VTH.  
**Office Services Specialist**, 008092M, PB 2, VTH.  
**Personnel Transaction Specialist**, 002514S, PB 3, Personnel Services.  
**Plumber Steamfitter**, 007339F, PB 3, Physical Plant.  
**Police Officer**, 008027F, PB 3, Police.  
**Powerline Worker**, 006524F, PB 3, Facilities.  
**Programming/Resource Staff Director**, 008081F, PB 6, University Architect.  
**Radiographer**, 008099M, PB 3, VTH.  
**Service Leader/Cashier**, 000753H, PB 1, RDP.  
**Small Animal ICU Technician**, 008100M, PB 4, VTH.  
**Small Animal Surgery Ward Technician**, 008094M, PB 3, VTH.  
**Sous Chef**, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Staff Architect**, 008079F, PB 5, University Architect.  
**Storekeeper**, 008093M, PB 2, VTH.  
**Switchboard Operator**, 008090M, PB 2, VTH.  
**Unit Manager**, 007961H, PB 5, RDP.

**PART TIME**

**Animal Care Technician**, W022675M, PB 1, VTH.  
**Computer Resources Manager**, 008083B, PB 4, History.  
**Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications)**, W023203A, PB 2, CNS.  
**Fiscal Assistant**, W023548S, PB 2, University Registrar.  
**Fiscal Assistant/Receptionist**, 000505B, PB 2, History.  
**Lab Assistant**, W023536M, PB 3, HNFE.

**Radiologic Technologist**, W022238M, PB 3, Schiffert Center.  
**Security Guard**, W020470G, PB 1, Police.  
**Small Animal Veterinary Technician**, W020101M, PB 4, VTH.  
**Starter Marshall/Shop Attendant**, W022113J, PB 1, Golf Clubhouse.  
**Switchboard Operator**, W022101A, PB 2, CNS.

#### UNIVERSITY ONLY

**Fiscal Technician**, U0LC070G, PB 3, HPO.  
**Program Support Technician Sr.**, U001584J, PB 3, College of Business.

#### OFF CAMPUS

**GIS Technician**, CCCCC, PB 0, CMI.  
**Historic/Prehistoric Collections Curator**, 008080J, PB 4, CMI.  
**Nursing Shift Supervisor**, 002996M, PB 2, EMC.  
**Research Specialist Sr.**, 004119M, PB 4, ESREC.  
**Wildlife Worker**, 006643B, PB 2, Biology.

### FACULTY POSITIONS

#### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Center for Science and Technology Studies, Visiting Assistant Professor.** Contact: Rachel Hall (0227).  
**Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology Department, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Anatomic Pathology Faculty Position.** Contact: Ludeman A. Eng, (0442).  
**Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Clinical Instructor/Post-Doctoral.** Contact: Gregory C. Troy (0442).

#### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**Department of Chemistry, Post-doctoral Position.** Contact F.E. Hanson, (0212).  
**Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI), Senior Research Associate/Lab Manager for Sobral Lab.** Contact Human Resources (0477).  
**Cranwell International Center, Assistant Director for Student Support.** Contact: Kim Beisinger, (0529).  
**Department of Chemical Engineering, Research Scientist.** Contact: Y.A. Liu, (0211).  
**Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Research Associate.** Contact: Cindy Wilkinson (0536).

Virginia  
Tech

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

*Spectrum*, a faculty-staff tabloid, is published each Friday during the academic year, with the exception of certain holidays, exam weeks, and the summer. Copy deadline is noon Friday. No advertising is accepted.

*Spectrum* is a non-profit publication of the Office of University Relations: Lawrence G. Hincker, associate vice president for University Relations; Jean Elliott, director of news and information.

Editor  
John Ashby, 1-6961

News Bureau Manager  
Sherri Box, 1-8508

Production Manager  
Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager  
Paula Vaught, 1-6333

Web/Editorial Assistant  
Sherri Songer, 1-2522

Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 102 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

*Electronic Spectrum*. <http://www.spectrum.vt.edu>  
 Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, or political affiliation. Anyone having questions concerning discrimination or accessibility regarding the programs described in this newspaper should contact the Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Office: 540-231-7500 (v), 540-231-9460 (TTY).

## Physics students garner NSF graduate-research fellowships

By Sally L. Harris

National Science Foundation (NSF) awards are one of the top measures of a scientific program's success, and Virginia Tech's physics-department students received five awards this year.

NSF recently gave 32 fellowships to graduating physics majors. Three of the students receiving the awards (nearly one-tenth) are receiving their degrees from Virginia Tech this spring, and two from the University of Texas at El Paso have chosen to do their fellowship work at Virginia Tech. That means about one-sixth of the recipients in physics are affiliated with

Virginia Tech, said Beate Schmittmann, professor of physics. The NSF gave five other awards to current Virginia Tech students in fields other than physics.

According to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship web page, "NSF fellows are expected to contribute significantly to research, teaching, and industrial applications in science, mathematics, and engineering. These contributions, in turn, will broadly impact society and the community."

The three Virginia Tech physics student award winners are Jay Mettetal, Beth Reid, and Mike Zwolak.

The two students coming to Virginia Tech on the NSF fellowships will work with Mark Pitt, associate professor of physics, on a new experiment called "Qweak" at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News. "This experiment is a test of the validity of the Standard Model of elementary particle physics, and it is very sensitive to possible 'new physics' not described by that model," Pitt said.

"We are really proud that Virginia Tech garnered so many NSF fellows in physics this year," said John Ficencic, professor and chair of the department.

Ashley R. Krueger, a freshman in HNFE.

## IALR

Continued from 1

nounced three federal awards. A \$250,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture will help to develop a new plant-tissue-culture lab where high-value crop research will be carried out in the effort to help tobacco farmers switch to other lucrative crops. The second grant, \$500,000 from the Department of Education, will be used to advance a program to prepare K-12 teachers to integrate technology effectively in teaching and to prepare the population at large with core math and writing competencies. The third grant, \$180,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, will help underwrite costs of the technology systems that create the platform for state-of-the-art teaching-and-learning equipment.

IALR, which is managed by Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs, was established to advance the economy in Southside through a three-pronged effort that includes development of broadband Internet access via fiber optic cable for the region; research into new technologies that can be licensed to existing or new area businesses; and advanced learning that attracts bright students and entrepreneurs. The Internet access project, called e-Dan, is now in the final stages of implementation. It will expand into neighboring counties as part of the e-Corridors project.

While praising Goode and others for their hard work in making the funding possible, President Charles Steger said "This new support will help us to take the next step forward to train a highly skilled workforce and develop new technologies in the fields of biotechnology, bioinformatics, robotics, and chemical engineering. These new technologies will, in turn, create a foundation for new businesses, new jobs, and new prosperity. Research projects emanating from the institute will span all of Southside and will advance our vision for a sustained, healthy, and vibrant economy."

The collaborative effort to refocus the Southside economy means new hope for the region, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. IALR will develop and attract technology and talent critical to Southside Virginia's economic transformation through advanced learning, strategic research and technology transfer, IALR Conference Center activities, outreach programs, and technology infrastructure development. IALR is training teachers in technology and will offer other educational opportunities for adults along with graduate courses to help create a knowledge economy workforce.

## COMMENCEMENT

Continued from 1

hear his message," President Charles Steger said.

Spring Graduate Commencement will be held at 3 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum. Approximately 1,200 graduate students will be eligible to receive degrees from the university.

The keynote speaker for the Graduate School ceremony is Debra Stewart, president of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) in Washington, DC. CGS represents its member institutions (including Virginia Tech) nationally and internationally on issues that affect graduate education and research.

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine ceremony is tomorrow at 9 a.m. in Squires Commonwealth Ballroom. The college will award diplomas to 86 DVM students during the 20th annual Commencement ceremony.

Belle S. Wheelan, Virginia's secretary of education, will deliver the address for the Commencement ceremony in Northern Virginia tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria. Nearly 400 graduate students are expected to

participate.

Cadet Kelly Fisher van Veldhuizen, winner of the Pallas Athene Award sponsored by the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, will be commissioned today at 3 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown auditorium by Second Lieutenant Jenna Cosbey Kaylor, a military police office and Tech alumna whose husband, Second Lieutenant Jeffrey Kaylor, was killed in a grenade attack in Iraq April 7. Jenna Kaylor also was serving in the Middle East.

Van Veldhuizen won the Pallas Athene Award for the First Region, which includes all ROTC schools on the East Coast, from Maine to the Virgin Islands. The region contains more than 100 ROTC schools, the largest number in any region.

*Spectrum will  
resume publication  
May 30*

## RESTRUCTURING

Continued from 1

science and technology; horticulture; and plant pathology, physiology, and weed science.

New departments in the College of Architecture and Urban studies are art and art history, which had been in Arts and Sciences, and interior design, which had been part of a larger department in Human Resources and Education. The college also offers programs in architecture, building construction, environmental design and planning, landscape architecture, public administration and policy, and urban affairs and planning and includes the Virginia Tech Institute for Metropolitan Research.

The Pamplin College of Business is adding

hospitality and tourism management, which moved from Human Resources and Education, to its offerings in accounting and information systems; business information technology; finance, insurance, and business law; management; and marketing.

Computer science will move from Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering. Other departments in the college are aerospace and ocean engineering; chemical engineering; civil and environmental engineering; electrical and computer engineering; engineering fundamentals; engineering science and mechanics; industrial and systems engineering; materials science and engineering, mechanical engineering; and mining and minerals engineering. Hassan Aref is the new dean of the college.

The College of Natural Resources will add geography from the College of Arts and Sciences to its departments of fisheries and wildlife sciences, forestry, and wood science and forest products.

The restructuring will also align the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources, and Science in a Science Consortium, with some participation by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The consortium will allow participating colleges to share resources and human capital, especially in graduate and undergraduate education and research facilities

In other changes, Engineering and Veterinary Medicine will both be involved in the School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences.

## SUPPLEMENTAL

Continued from 3

investigators and students. In all cases, the proposed research experience must be an integral part of the on-going research of the parent grant and have the potential to contribute significantly to the research career development of the candidate.

A request for a supplement may be submitted at any time. Submit requests for supplemental funds directly to the unit (National Cancer Institute, National Institute on Aging, etc.) that supports the parent grant. More information and a list of contacts are available at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-01-079.html>.

## UPGRADE

Continued from 2

[www.computing.vt.edu/news/securitydesktop.html](http://www.computing.vt.edu/news/securitydesktop.html). Completed forms may be faxed to the Software Distribution office (1-7634) or sent through campus mail (mail code 0282).

To support the installation of new software and upgrades, ISC offers recommendations for security settings for Windows 2000 and Windows XP operating systems are also available at the "My Services" tab of the Hokie portal. Other information is available for Windows users at <http://selfservice.w2k.vt.edu>.

For more information on software available through the university, go to [http://www.computing.vt.edu/software\\_and\\_hardware/index.html](http://www.computing.vt.edu/software_and_hardware/index.html).