

# SPECTRUM

Virginia  
Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Tech teams prepared to move to ACC

By Jean Elliott

After a frenzied six weeks and a whirlwind of media attention, it appears that Virginia Tech is headed toward membership in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

An emergency meeting of Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors (BOV) was held at the Hotel Roanoke on Wednesday afternoon and after more than an hour in closed session, it passed a resolution granting President Charles Steger the authority to negotiate membership with the ACC on mutually agreeable terms.

"The university is prepared to accept an invitation from the Atlantic Coast Conference," Steger said following the meeting. "We look forward to this very special opportunity."

While the board met in executive session, a group of ACC officials was in Blacksburg, touring Lane Stadium and other

(See ACC on 4)



President Charles Steger, center and BOV Rector John Rocovich, right, field questions from media representatives at Wednesday's meeting (J. McCormick)

## Tech in top 10 in ag-sciences research funding

By Stewart MacInnis

Virginia Tech brought in nearly \$5 million more in research and development funding for the agricultural sciences in 2001 than in the previous year, according to figures released recently by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The NSF defines agricultural science to include such disciplines as agricultural production, aquaculture, soil science, animal science, plant science, agronomy, forestry, fish and wildlife, and international agriculture. The increase during 2001 brought Virginia Tech's funding for research in those areas to

(See TECH on 4)

## Upward Bound receives \$1.8-million federal grant

By Susan B. Felker

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education, TRIO Programs, just awarded a grant to the Upward Bound program at Virginia Tech for \$1.8 million. The funds will cover operations for the next four years, with a first-year allocation of \$449,508. The first-year grant monies will be supplemented with in-kind support from Virginia Tech amounting to another \$142,657.

The Federal TRIO Programs are educational-opportunity-outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes six outreach-and-support programs targeted to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college, and disabled students while they progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

Thomas G. Wilson is director of the joint Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search office at Virginia Tech, which will join Outreach Program Development, part of Outreach and International Affairs, effective July 1. The Upward Bound/Talent Search office manages the two federal TRIO programs for the region, both of which target potential college students from families with parents who did not earn four-year degrees and/or with low incomes. The programs have a very high success rate, with 95 percent of the students from Tech's Upward Bound program and 70 percent of the Educational Talent Search students enrolling in college. A national survey shows Upward Bound students are four times more likely to graduate from college.

"The Upward Bound office is a good fit with our other programs that serve popula-

(See UPWARD BOUND on 2)

## University Statement Regarding Court Decision on University of Michigan Affirmative Action

By Larry Hincker

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the use of race via narrow tailoring to achieve educational diversity is in the nation's best interest. It says that the government has a compelling interest in promoting racial diversity on campus.

Virginia Tech has recently completed a rigorous review of all of our programs with a race-conscious element. We feel that we are in a very good position to respond to the recent Supreme Court ruling. We have evaluated our programs using guidance from the Virginia attorney general, who has opined that the use of narrow tailoring for diversity is acceptable.

The university's strategic plan has set goals of increasing diversity of the student population. We strongly support increasing diversity of people and ideas at the university. We believe that because of our adherence to narrow-tailoring guidance, once the nuances of the Supreme Court decision are deciphered, we will be in very good standing and likely in compliance with the court's most recent direction.

The Supreme Court's decision confirms that the intellectual environment is deeply enriched by the contributions of individuals from many cultures with varying perspectives and experiences. Continued efforts to nurture diversity of people and ideas will only enhance the intellectual vitality of Virginia Tech and in turn, strengthen our university's attraction to corporate and government partners.

## Vet College researcher awarded NSF grant

By Jeff S. Douglas

A faculty member in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech has been awarded a \$726,476 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant to develop a more "holistic" system for the integration of technology, research and education through a project designed to study and protect chimpanzees in Tanzania.

Taranjit Kaur has received the prestigious NSF funding to support a five-year program entitled "Bridging the Gaps Using Bush-to-Base-Bio-Informatics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Program Called "READ-IT."

"This is all about integrating research and education," said Kaur, who also serves as Virginia Tech's director of laboratory-animal resources. She plans to create an "electronic infrastructure" that will take a multidisciplinary

approach to developing improved wildlife-management strategies in the east African nation.

Kaur, who has traveled to Africa several times, conceived the project around a proprietary program she has developed called "READ-IT," an acronym which stands for Research, Education, and Dissemination via Information Technology. It represents a multidisciplinary career-development strategy that seeks to bridge the gaps between discovery, learning and the diffusion of information in the biological sciences.

"Everything I do brings together humans, animals and the environment, and the dynamic interaction between them," Kaur said. The goal of this project transcends the immediate benefit of using technology and training programs to improve conservation-management strategies

(See VET on 3)

## VBI researchers get \$1 million to study biochemical modeling

By Neysa Call

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (VBI) researchers Reinhard Laubenbacher, Pedro Mendes and Vladimir Shulaev have been awarded \$1 million from the National Institutes of Health. The funds will be used to develop mathematical tools to model biochemical networks from experimental data.

In particular, the experiments will focus on oxidative stress in baker's yeast, known scientifically as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Oxidative stress is a general biological phenomenon common to all aerobically grown organisms, from bacteria to humans, that essentially causes aging and degeneration.

According to a report by Laubenbacher and colleagues, "Yeast cells have evolved a variety of mechanisms to protect themselves from the damaging effect of oxidative stress." Since baker's yeast is safe, easy to culture and well studied, it will act as a model to develop novel strategies for coping with many disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

In addition, the grant will provide funds for high-school students and undergraduates from economically depressed areas in southwestern Virginia to receive training and preparation for bioinformatics studies. Out-of-town students will receive room and board at Virginia Tech, as well as a stipend for their participation.

The VBI research platform centers on understanding the "disease triangle" of host-pathogen-environment interactions. With bioinformatics, an interdisciplinary merger of information technology and biology, faculty researchers at VBI have been able to interpret and apply biological data generated from basic research. With over \$27 million in research funding, VBI researchers are working to find cures for many diseases of humans, crops, and animals; create high-yield, insect- and disease-resistant crops; and provide bioinformatics information and tools to support further discoveries.

For more information, visit <https://www.vbi.vt.edu>.

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 27

Exams Begin.

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson lawn: Electric Woodshed.

### Saturday, 28

Exams End.

Hokie 5K, 8 a.m., Corporate Research Center.

### Monday, 30

Second Summer Classes Begin.

## JULY

### Tuesday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.  
Summer Orientation Begins (through 7-31).  
Summer I 2003 Gradesheets Due.

### Wednesday, 2

Last Day to Add.  
Summer I 2003 Final Grades Available: Web View.  
"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF: Matt McAllister.

### Thursday, 3

On-campus Bloodmobile.

### Friday, 4

Independence Day (No Classes).

### Wednesday, 9

SOTA Event, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: *Proof* (through 7-12).

### Friday, 11

Friday Night Out Concert Series, 6 p.m., Henderson lawn: Double Take.

## Virtual-reality, 3-D workshops to be held

By Jane Todd

Two summer workshops, one on digital video and virtual reality, the other on 3-D design, will offer aspiring middle-school web designers, writers, and computer gurus a high-tech learning adventure that will beef up brainpower in math, science, computers, and oral and written communication. Virginia Tech's Outreach Program Development and the Center for Instructional Technology Solutions in Industry and Education have teamed up with the support of Montgomery County schools to bring interactive and creative workshops to Montgomery County's 2003-2004 middle-school students. Classes will be held on campus and will be small in size to ensure personalized attention.

The one-week workshops will engage students in hands-on exercises using computers and real-life scientific puzzles as well as introduce them to careers in fast-growing, high-tech fields. Students will form new friendships while improving their ability to think critically, solve problems, and work in teams.

"Digital Video and QuickTime Virtual Reality" will be offered July 14 through 18. Students will explore the many aspects of movie production as they learn to use digital cameras, tripods, and other equipment, as well as QuickTime Virtual Reality panorama and object-creation software to record spaces and objects. Using digital video cameras and iMovie software, students will be part of a team creating a series of short movies. Opportunities to play the part of scriptwriter, director, actor, cameraperson, and editor are available. Finally, students will use Dreamweaver to create a web page to showcase creations.

"3-D Design Modeling and Animation" will be offered August 4 through 8. This workshop offers students the opportunity to explore the world of virtual reality. Students will create three-dimensional models and animate them using Cinema4D software. Everyone will collaborate and interact through desktop virtual environments—and see such things as virtual insects, historical cathedrals, or even walk "inside" parts of biological cells while visiting the VT CAVE. Students will learn to use Dreamweaver to create their own personal web page.

Workshops are held from 1 to 5 p.m. each day. The fee for each workshop is \$275 and includes materials, afternoon snacks, and a field trip. Information and registration is also available on line at [www.conted.vt.edu/bsyt/](http://www.conted.vt.edu/bsyt/).

## Construction changes noted for Ag Quad Lane, Hutcheson Lot

On approximately July 1, construction will begin on the new Ag/Forestry Research Laboratory building. This will require changes in parking and access for the general area. A section of Ag Quad Lane and the Hutcheson lot will be closed (located between Smyth, Hutcheson, and Slusher Halls) to the public during the two-year construction of the Ag Forestry Lab beginning early July.

The only exception is that access will be granted for five handicapped spaces and for deliveries. Several new handicapped and service-vehicle spaces will be made available immediately outside the construction fenced area.

The small parking area on the west side of Smyth Hall will remain open. Replacement parking is available behind Wallace Hall and in the Litton-Reaves lots.

A portion of Ag Quad Lane will be closed, from the entrance to Hutcheson lot to the entrance to Dietrick lot for the two-year construction period. A temporary service road will be installed beginning at the end of the Engel-Cheatham parking lot (on the south side of Cheatham Hall) connecting to the existing service drive by Dietrick to provide access to the region. This alternative route will accommodate

the closing of the Ag Quad Lane immediately behind Smyth Hall for the two-year construction period.

Additionally, pedestrian circulation patterns will also change. Exits from Ag Quad buildings into the Hutcheson lot will become emergency exits only. Other changes in patterns will become evident as the project proceeds, with access to buildings becoming limited to areas not impacted by construction limits.

For more information, Parking Services at 1-3200.

## Fralin Center helps state students learn about biotechnology

By Stewart MacInnis

More than 13,000 middle-, high-school, and college students in Virginia will have learned about biotechnology by the end of the current school year, thanks to equipment and assistance provided by the Fralin Biotechnology Center.

In addition to 79 middle and high schools across the state, the Fralin Center also loaned equipment to four community colleges.

"Biotechnology is about science, but it's also about economic-development opportunities for Virginia's communities and the potential for the creation of new cutting-edge companies that will need these very students as employees in the future," said Dennis Dean, acting director of the Fralin Center.

"Our equipment-loan program is designed to familiarize young people with the promise and limitations of biotechnology," he said. "At the same time we hope to interest a number of these bright young people to set their sights on

an educational path that would prepare them for employment in this new industry."

To accomplish this, the center conducts training sessions for secondary-school teachers and college instructors on a variety of laboratory techniques used in biotechnology. With that training, those teachers are eligible to borrow five specialized laboratory kits that allow them to introduce to their students certain concepts and advanced laboratory techniques that are central to biotechnology.

By borrowing the kits, the teachers have access to laboratory equipment most schools cannot afford to purchase. They are also provided with all of the supplies they will need to use during experiments.

"The teachers who have borrowed our kits tell us that their students really like the experiments because they are designed to get these concepts across in ways that are relevant to them and that are fun," said Kristi DeCourcy,

the center's lab manager and manager of the equipment-loan program.

The five types of kits loaned by the Fralin Center provide the equipment and supplies necessary to conduct experiments and teach concepts concerning DNA science, column chromatography, immunology, and protein electrophoresis. In addition, the center also has several thermal cyclers available which can be borrowed to perform additional experiments.

The experiments made possible with the kits teach students about DNA fingerprinting, the spread of diseases in a population, the relationship of different species through an examination of their proteins, and how and why scientists can separate individual components from a mixture.

The Fralin Center also loans other equipment when possible to help teachers with experiments they design themselves.

## UPWARD BOUND

Continued from 1

tions outside the university," said John E. Dooley, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs, in announcing the grant and the merger. "Since Upward Bound guides high-school students interested in attending college and Talent Search assists promising middle-school, high-school, and GED students up to age 27, outreach will be serving even more of Virginia's population. We hope this consolidation enables us to reach the region's youth more effectively."

Wilson is optimistic about the realignment. "Upward Bound and Talent Search are very excited to be joining Outreach and International Affairs. We look forward to forming new partnerships and collaborating on programs with more individuals and groups across the university community," he said.

Upward Bound, a federal program created in 1967, helps guide talented high-school students toward a college education while improving their academic skills. It provides counseling in matching interests with abilities, choosing a career, tutoring to improve grades, train-

ing in library research techniques, selecting an appropriate college, and applying to colleges. Staff counselors visit each of the 115 Upward Bound students in 23 schools in 13 school districts once a month for individual sessions. These students must be from low-income homes and/or homes in which parents did not graduate from four-year colleges.

Other Upward Bound activities include visits to the theatre, concerts, Virginia Tech athletic events, craft fairs, and trips to visit colleges. Each summer, students receive an introduction to the college experience during a six-week program on the Virginia Tech campus. While staying in one of the residence halls, students attend classes to help them prepare for their next year in high school, explore careers, visit other colleges, go on field trips, and opt to join a choir or be part of a talent show. A spring weekend retreat on campus is also open to Upward Bound students. Workshops for parents are offered at least three times per year.

The Upward Bound program headquartered at Virginia Tech accepts students in Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Smyth, Tazewell, and Wythe counties;

and the cities of Galax, Lynchburg, and Martinsville.

Educational Talent Search, founded in 1973 to complement Upward Bound, encourages students to complete high school in a college-preparatory program, choose a career, and pursue a college education. The program also helps those who have dropped out of high school obtain a GED. The Talent Search program based at Virginia Tech is fully funded by the federal government to serve 750 students from 32 schools, including seven middle schools. It is open to those between the ages of 12 and 27 who meet the same requirements as Upward Bound students. In addition to the locations served by Upward Bound, Talent Search also serves Grayson County.

Applications for both federally funded free programs are available from school counseling offices or from the Upward Bound/Talent Search Office in Hillcrest Hall, 1-6911 or <http://www.ubts.vt.edu>.

The Upward Bound and Talent Search office was previously part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

## CAMPUS UPDATE

# Vice provost for outreach and international affairs retires

By Susan B. Felker

After 32 years of service to Virginia Tech, C. Clark Jones, vice provost for outreach and international affairs and former director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, retired on June 1.

President Charles Steger said, "Jones distinguished himself by his vision and his integrity and has made a lasting contribution to Virginia Cooperative Extension and Outreach and International Affairs. He has won the respect and admiration of those who have worked with him over the years."

According to Provost Mark McNamee, "Jones brought coherence, focus, and leadership to the mission area of the university that includes outreach, Extension, and international affairs."

Jones joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1971 as a program associate and instructor at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education, today the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center. In 1974, he was promoted to associate director and instructor and in 1975 to associate director and assistant professor of continuing education.

In 1977, Virginia Cooperative Extension recruited Jones to serve in Richmond as program leader for community-resource development. He became a full professor with the Extension division in 1987. In 1991, he guided the formation of the Institute for Leadership Development and its educational program.

Later the same year, Jones was named assistant to the director of Extension and was

promoted to full professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). In July 1995, he became interim director of Extension for one year before becoming director and CALs associate dean for Extension. Jones served in that dual post until 1999, when he was selected as vice provost for outreach and international affairs (OIA).

Under his leadership, OIA underwent extensive restructuring to align program areas with related missions and to facilitate collaborative endeavors, which involved moving several units that serve the off-campus public to OIA. Major projects, including the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Southside and Virginia Tech's new hotel/alumni/conference center complex, moved closer to reality through his efforts.

He also combined the offices of International Research and Development and International Programs to form the Office of International Research, Education, and Development and reorganized the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, so there would be an on-campus liaison to assist faculty with program development.

During his years at Virginia Tech, Jones received numerous awards and honors. The Virginia Cooperative Extension administration at Virginia Tech cited him for meritorious leadership, and the Virginia Extension Service Association and its three affiliate professional associations gave him an advocacy award in 1999.

## Deferred-compensation plan representative here July 17

A representative of the Great West 457 plan will be on campus Thursday, July 17, for general-information sessions and individual appointments.

The 457 plan allows employees to save for retirement in a voluntary, payroll-deducted, tax-deferred savings plan. Virginia Tech employees may contribute the maximum amount for which they are eligible to both the 457 plan and the 403(b) program.

General sessions (no appointment necessary) will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center July 17 in conference room G. To make an individual appointment for July 17, send an e-mail note to [Nancy.Roth@gwl.com](mailto:Nancy.Roth@gwl.com). For more information regarding the 457 or 403(b) plans, contact Gloria Smith at [gsmith@vt.edu](mailto:gsmith@vt.edu).

## VET

*Continued from 1*

for chimpanzee populations in the jungles of a nation home to the famed Mount Kilimanjaro, Kaur said.

To accomplish this greater goal, she plans to focus on the immediate task of helping the Tanzanian National Park Authority (TANAPA) develop science-based management strategies that will protect the free-ranging chimpanzee population from tourism-related problems like disease transmission, habitat destruction, and competition for resources. Because of genetic similarities between chimps and people, both are highly susceptible to influenza, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

That information will enable those officials

to determine a more accurate understanding of the area's capacity for tourism, as well as support the development of more effective management and training programs for professionals and tourists.

A key part of Kaur's program is designed to develop "interesting and compelling content for integrated research and educational opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional students at Virginia Tech." Some of those will be involved with the "bush-to-base-bio-informatics" and the "geographic-information-systems" components of the program, she said.

Field researchers will gather physiological data on the chimps, and code and process the data using handheld modules with global-positioning system capability, Kaur said. The

modules will interface with a Virginia Tech-based web-enabled server designed to share information with authorized users.

"My theory is that students are a tremendous resource and that we don't utilize them enough," said Kaur, who views students as key players in a "cross-pollination" component of the program. Students participating in the program will gain interdisciplinary research and educational experiences within a global context by designing communication systems and sharing information with other students, tourists, wildlife personnel, and local communities, Kaur said.

Another goal of the program is to use U.S. technological leadership in a way that supports sustainable global development, promotes conservation, and ultimately leads to a higher quality of life for all in the 21st century, she said.

## 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

**Accountant, Plant Fund**, 004526S, PB 4, Controller's Office.  
**Assistant Manager Senior**, 000514H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Budget Analyst Senior**, 002075S, PB 5, BFP.  
**Building Code Engineer**, 008118Y, PB 5, Physical Plant.  
**Business Manager**, 008125J, PB 4, CLAHS.  
**Compensation Analyst**, 008110S, PB 4, Personnel Services.  
**Enrollment Services Assistant**, 008126J, PB 3, CLAHS.  
**Fire Protection/Building Code Engineer**, 008085F, PB 5, CDC.  
**Government Documents Assistant**, 001959G, PB 2, ULTS.  
**Grants Specialist**, 000073J, PB 4, CLAUS.  
**Housekeeper**, 001189J, PB 1, UUSA.  
**Housekeeping Lead Worker**, 001181J, PB 1, UUSA.  
**Housekeeping Worker**, P002005G, PB 1, Physical Plant.

**Information Services Manager**, 007466J, PB 3, UUSA.  
**Laboratory Specialist**, 008123J, PB 3, Veterinary Medicine.  
**Medical Technologist Senior**, 001154J, PB 4, Schiffert Center.  
**Parking Enforcement Officer**, 007042S, PB 2, Parking Services.  
**Powerline Worker**, 006524F, PB 3, Facilities.  
**Pre-prep Supervisor**, 000394H, PB 2, Student Programs.  
**Security Guard**, 007723G, PB 2, Police.  
**Sous Chef**, 002946H, PB 3, RDP.  
**Systems Architect**, 007434Y, PB 6, IAD.  
**Telecommunications Database Technician**, 006818A, PB 3, CNS.  
**Telecommunications Network Operations Technician**, 007665A, PB 4, CNS.  
**Telecommunications Vendor Billing Assistant**, 008127A, PB 3, CNS.  
**Telefund Administrative Supervisor**, 001421S, PB 3, University Development.

#### PART TIME

**Administrative Assistant**, W023527K, PB 2, VBI.  
**Field Technician Assistant (Telecommunications)**, W023203A, PB 2, CNS.  
**Interior Design/Space Programmer**, 008119Y, PB 5, Physical Plant.  
**Radiologic Technologist**, W022238M, PB 3, Schiffert Center.

#### OFF CAMPUS

**Human Resources Coordinator**, CCCCC, PB 0, VTF.  
**Nursing Shift Supervisor**, 002996M, PB 2, EMC.  
**Research Specialist Sr**, 004119M, PB 4, ESREC.  
**Unit Support Staff**, 006891C, PB 2, VCE.  
**Wildlife Worker**, 006643B, PB 2, Biology.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### INSTRUCTIONAL

**Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Assistant Professor of Large Animal Surgery.** Contact: Craig D. Thatches (0442).  
**Department of Animal/Poultry Sciences. Assistant Professor of Ruminant Nutrition.** Contact: Mark A. McCann (0306).  
**Bradley Department of Electrical/Computer Engineering. Professor and Department Head.** Contact: Nathaniel J. David (0111).  
**Department of Communication. Instructor (two positions).** Contact: Valarie L. Giddings (0426).  
**Department of Teaching/Learning. Assistant Professor (Instructional Technology).** Contact: Valarie L. Giddings (0426).

### NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

**University Bursar's Office. University Bursar.** Contact: Kenneth Miller (0312).  
**Institute for Distance/Distributed Learning. Coordinator of Faculty/Student Support.** Contact: Mark S. Raby (0445).  
**Center for Power Electronics Systems (CPES). Research Associate.** Contact: Alex Huang (0179).  
**Conservation Management Institute. Project Associate/Human Dimensions Specialist.** Contact: Julie McClafferty, [jmclclaff@vt.edu](mailto:jmclclaff@vt.edu).  
**VCE. Extension Agent (Agriculture/Natural Resources) Augusta, Rockingham, Rockbridge Counties.** Contact: Judith Jones (0001).  
**VCE. Extension Agent (Animal Science) Fairfax County.** Contact: Judith Jones (0001).  
**VCE. Associate Extension Agent (Crop/Soil Science) Greenville County/City of Emporia.** Contact: Judith Jones (0001).



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
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## Jones part of network to protect traumatized children

By Sally L. Harris

If, as happens in science-fiction movies, we could push a button to activate a shield between us and danger, there would be no need for the Terrorism and Disaster Branch (TDB) of the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS). But since there are no such shields, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) is forming a nation-wide web to help protect children in times of trauma, disaster, or terrorism.

The NCTSN is designed to combine the expertise and resources of an extensive national network to develop and carry out a comprehensive national child mental-health disaster and terrorism program. Virginia Tech psychology Professor Russell T. Jones has been named a member of the Terrorism and Disaster Branch.

The main goal of the group is to reach across the United States, "to foster a truly integrated, state-of-the-art readiness, response-and-recovery program for our nation's children and families," according to Robert Pynoos of UCLA and John Fairbank of Duke University, co-directors of the NCCTS.

Since joining the group, Jones has

coordinated several meetings with members of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), for which he has done previous work, and the TDB. In fact, he serves two roles. He is co-leader of the research working group that will design short- and long-term research strategies to build an infrastructure and identify important topics for short-term research before, during, and after terrorism events as well as identify research gaps and build a research agenda for long-term projects. He also is a member of the pre-planning working group charged with coordinating a federal mental-health response strategy, establishing health communications, and developing a collaborative research effort.

"I am continuing to apply my knowledge and clinical skills in the research domain to events of disaster and terrorism," Jones said. "It is my desire to apply my knowledge and experience to assist people who are hurting to cope with tragedy."

**'I am continuing to apply my knowledge and clinical skills in the research domain to events of disaster and terrorism,' Jones said.**

He has done so by providing information for the media to disseminate to the public after 9-11

and other trauma-related events—information such as how to help children and their parents cope with and get over the trauma. His expertise has been sought by *Time Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Essence*, the *New York Times*, the *LA Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the Associated Press, and *USA Today* as well as by foundations and agencies such as the Casey Foundation, the American Red Cross, the International Society of Fire Fighters, the CDC, and the National Institutes for Mental Health.

Because of his work with the CDC, Jones has been asked to serve a second term as a member of the Advisory Committee for Injury Prevention and Control (ACIPC). He recently served as chair of the Science and Program Review Subcommittee for the August meeting. Last year, he served as a member of a workshop for NIMH that identified key psychological, biological, and neurobiological predictor variables to be measured after trauma. He was involved in analyses and refinement of the procedures and helped develop plans for intervention strategies to prevent long-term pathological reactions to trauma.

The TDB will "comprehensively address

the understanding of childhood traumatic stress due to disasters and terrorism and disseminate best practices for evaluation, treatment and services," according to Betty Pfefferbaum, director of the TDB. The NCTSN "is in a unique position to provide tailored evaluation tools, treatment approaches that are culturally and ecologically sound, and services that respond to community needs in regard to specific types of disasters."

The members of the groups also have expertise to address the needs of different populations and different localities in the wake of a disaster. "The network will further add to national preparedness and response through the requirement of each site to build community partnerships and provide leadership and training within their local networks," Pfefferbaum said.

Jones said his colleagues and Virginia Tech have been instrumental in enabling him to contribute to these national efforts to assist people in coping with trauma. "Without the continued support and expertise of my colleagues and both undergraduate and graduate students, I would be unable to contribute to these outstanding organizations," Jones said.

## Research exhibit wins award at International Contemporary Furniture Fair

By Sarah Newbill

A team of Virginia Tech students won the Editor's Choice award at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York City in May.

The yearly furniture fest is the nation's premier event for contemporary design. Virginia Tech, one of only four schools selected to participate, exhibited alongside hundreds of companies showing home and office products from 22 countries. During the four exhibit days, the convention center attracted more than 17,000 interior designers, architects, retailers, facility managers, wholesalers, store design professionals, hotel and restaurant designers,

manufacturers, students, and members of the general public.

Associate Dean and Director of Industrial Design Robert Dunay answered a request for proposal advertised in *Interior Design Magazine*, and the work was selected to receive a complimentary exhibit space. Each year, the ICFF holds a juried competition to select the top design schools to fill these spots which are among the most coveted at the fair because the students are invited to present their works-in-progress alongside the finished products of the international design community's leading designers and manufacturers.

During the event, a panel of editors from

leading design journals judged all the exhibits in 16 categories. Winners were named at an awards ceremony at the event. The Virginia Tech exhibit was chosen winner of the "design school" category. This is the first time Industrial Design has answered the RFP, the first time to have been selected to exhibit, and as rookies came away the top winner in their category.

The 10-by-20-foot exhibit represented a portion of the solar house (designed last year to compete in the National Solar Decathlon held in Washington, D.C.) emphasizing the structure's materials, and showcasing furniture made by industrial-design students. "We

already had the raw material, so when I saw the RFP, it seemed to fit in terms of the industrial-design program and the university and what it could bring in terms of national recognition. I also saw it as an educational opportunity—for seven students to participate in something like this is a chance they'll rarely get in their academic studies," Dunay said.

Student team members who traveled to New York included Aaron Emmons (lead), Yousef Nawas, Ross Marks, Stefani Bachetti, Junko Hosokawa, Tor Stevertson, and Chollaporn Ounkomol. Also working on the exhibit were Kelly Blanchard and Joe McCoy.

### TECH

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nearly \$68.7 million.

"This increase in funding is due to the excellence in research conducted by the faculty here," said Greg Brown, dean of the College of Natural Resources and interim dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "Our researchers are focused on the practical needs of our society, and those are the issues that many funding agencies find most relevant."

While that nearly seven-percent jump in funding kept Virginia Tech among the top 10 universities nationally in that category of research, its standing dropped from the number-seven spot to the number-nine spot. It was overtaken in the rankings by Pennsylvania State University and Michigan State University.

Nationally, funding for agricultural research increased about 6.2 percent to more than \$2.3 billion. The top institutions for agricultural research were the University of California at Davis and the University of Florida. Each of those institutions recorded in excess of \$100 million in agricultural research and development funding. The University of California at Davis, which retains the number-one position nationally, is the only institution among the top 10 to register a decline in agricultural research spending; all the others posted gains in funding.

"The research programs in some other states grew faster than ours, but ours is growing faster than the national average for this category," Brown said. "We feel good about that, and about the fact that our program is solid and is progressing at a sustainable rate."

The university's agricultural research-and-development program accounts for nearly one-third of the research spending at the university. With \$216.3 million in research expenditures, Virginia Tech has the largest research program among Virginia universities.

### ACC

Continued from 1

athletic facilities. The campus visit fulfills ACC bylaws that state that conference officials must make an on-site visit of any prospective new league member.

The BOV and Steger expressed "appreciation to University of Virginia President John Casteen, Virginia Governor Mark Warner, and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf." In a separate press conference, Kilgore affirmed that Virginia Tech has withdrawn as plaintiff from a lawsuit against the ACC, Miami and Boston College.

"This clears the way for Tech to join the ACC and remain in a viable and strong athletic conference," Kilgore said. "Without the litigation, I do not believe Virginia Tech would be in this position today. The lawsuit, by all the colleges, slowed the process. Had the lawsuit not been filed, the ACC would have voted, probably 19 days ago, to expand their conference. And I believe, at that time, Tech would have been left out."

While the timing of the formal invitation and press conference was not available at *Spectrum's* press time, the ACC web site had posted a statement by Clemson University President James F. Barker, chair of the ACC Council of Presidents, announcing, "Our member institutions reached agreement to officially offer membership in the Atlantic Coast Conference to the University of Miami and

Virginia Tech. These two institutions represent and share the values for which the ACC has long been known. We feel they will be a great addition to our family. Through the ACC's first 50 years, the conference has earned a reputation for excellence in both academics and athletics. As we look to the future, we are confident that our schools, coaches and student-athletes will maintain that heritage."

Tech Director of Athletics Jim Weaver said, "It's a simple fact that we are unique from the other Big East schools. We're in the geographic footprint of the ACC. We had to do what's best for this university, for our long-term future."