

# SPECTRUM

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Tech  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Magliaro named School of Education director

By Jean Elliott

Susan G. Magliaro, associate professor of teacher education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has been named the college's School of Education director.

David Parks, professor of educational leadership and policy studies, will serve the new school as associate director.

"I think we have placed the leadership for the new School of Education in great hands," Dean Jerry Niles said. "Sue and David each bring extensive experience and special talents in facilitation to work with the faculty and administration. I am confident that their strategic planning efforts will result in an exciting and forward-looking plan."

Magliaro has been in the teaching

profession for 30 years—first, as a public-school teacher, and, since 1983, at Virginia Tech. She has served as the director of the Center for Teacher Education for the last two years. Her areas of expertise are problem solving, instructional design, and professional development. Magliaro has worked with pre-, beginning, and veteran teachers as well as university faculty members in the life-long study of learning to teach. She is a member of the American Educational Research Association, The American Psychological Association, the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Magliaro received her bachelor's degree

from East Stroudsburg University, a master's degree from Ohio State University, and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Parks, a former elementary-school teacher and principal, has taught in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) since 1971, specializing in preparation programs, leadership, administration, and change. He received his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College at Potsdam, a master's degree from the State University of New York College at

(See MAGLIARO on 4)



MAGLIARO

## University receives DOD research funding grant

By Susan Trulove

The Department of Defense announced plans to award \$43.5 million to academic institutions to support the purchase of research instrumentation. Four of the 213 awards to 92 academic institutions will come to Virginia Tech.

The awards, being made under the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), meet a critical need by enabling university researchers to purchase scientific equipment costing \$50,000 or more to conduct Department of Defense-relevant research.

The awards are the result of a merit competition for DURIP funding conducted by the Army Research Office, Office of Naval Research, and Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The research offices collectively received 1,025 proposals, requesting \$273 million in support for research equipment.

Virginia Tech recipients are:

Romesh Batra, the Clifton C Garvin professor in engineering science and mechanics in the College of Engineering. He requested \$146,692 to upgrade a parallel computer acquired with an earlier DURIP grant. The computer will be housed in the ESM Computational Mechanics Laboratory. The grant will be used to upgrade the six-processor machine acquired with an earlier DURIP grant to a 12-processor SGI machine.

William Devenport, professor of aerospace and ocean engineering, and Ricardo Burdisso, professor of mechanical engineering, both in the College of Engineering. They will use the approximately \$250,000 research-instrumentation grant from the Office of Naval Research to install modifications of the Virginia Tech Stability Wind Tunnel that will enable it to be used for measurements of sound produced by air flow.

Jack Lesko, associate professor of

(See UNIVERSITY on 2)



VBI GRAND OPENING The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute Facility I was the site of a grand opening celebration last Saturday. The new building includes a range of laboratories, offices, meetings and seminar rooms. Participating in the ribbon cutting were Executive Vice President Minnis Ridenour, Provost Mark McNamee, Board of Visitors member John Rocovich, U.S. Representative Rick Boucher, VBI Director Bruno Sobral, U.S. Representative Bob Goodlatte, BOV member Jacob Lutz, and President Charles Steger. (R. Griffiths)

## New livestock teaching arena dedicated

By Charlie Stott

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences dedicated its new \$3-million livestock teaching arena Saturday, April 24.

The new facility, on Plantation Road west of U.S. 460, is named for benefactors Colonel and Mrs. Horace E. Alphin and the late Patricia Bonsall Stuart.

"This is a critical facility for our students and for the state's livestock industry," said Mark McCann, head of the college's Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences.

The arena will provide a much-needed facility for teaching activities, major student-organized events, intercollegiate animal competitions, trade shows and other university functions, McCann said. More than 30 of the college's courses and laboratories, involving more than 1,000 students a semester, will use the space.

Sharron Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said: "Our students and many others throughout the university have laboratory courses where hands-on experience with large animals is an

integral part of their learning experience. Current facilities, constructed in the 1950s, were inadequate to serve this purpose and the special needs of Virginia's major livestock and poultry industries, which generate more than \$1.7 billion in annual revenue. The new arena will greatly enhance our teaching programs and provide a modern facility for livestock events and programs at Virginia Tech. The new arena will accommodate university, Extension, and educational events in addition to livestock shows."

The centerpiece of the facility is a 125-foot by 250-foot (31,250 square foot) indoor arena with seating for approximately 800. There also will be animal-holding facilities that will be adequate in size to service the arena. Other accommodations include a classroom, lobby, lounge, and office space.

The facility is jointly funded by private donations and public dollars. More than 420 friends and alumni contributed in excess of \$1.57 million, and the state provided matching funds. Of the private gifts, 13 were for \$25,000 or more. The largest contributors were Colonel

(See NEW on 4)

**TODAY'S EDITION**  
See page 3 for  
information on benefits  
open enrollment.

## Nessler named associate dean, VAES director

By Charlie Stott

Craig L. Nessler has been named associate dean for Research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Nessler has been serving as head of the college's Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science.



NESSLER

Sharron Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said, "Dr. Nessler's experience, vision, and leadership will serve the college and ultimately the public extremely well as we move into a new age of agriculture." She said the college is not only going to look at the success of production agriculture but also

(See NESSLER on 4)

## New CALS leadership team takes shape

By Charlie Stott

Sharron Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is building a new leadership team, preparing to lead the college in "a new age of agriculture."

Tim Mack is now associate dean for information technology and distance education and Michael Bertelsen has taken over as associate dean for international programs replacing S.K. DeDatta, who has become associate provost for international affairs. In addition, the college's Development Office has seen new leadership and additional staff to help the college forge new partnerships across the state and beyond for the future.

Mack joined the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech in 1994 after 13 years at Auburn University. He served as the head of the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech from 1994 through 2003. Mack also was concurrently the assistant dean for information technology from 1999 until his promotion in January.

Mack obtained his bachelor's degree from Colgate University, and both his master's and Ph. D. degrees from the Pennsylvania State University. He began his career in 1981 as an assistant professor of entomology at Auburn University, ultimately reaching the rank of professor. He served as acting head of Auburn's entomology department in 1993.

He is a member of the American Associate for Higher Education, NACTA, and the Entomological Society of America. He has published more than 245 refereed and

(See CALS on 4)

# ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS

### Friday, 30

**Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.**  
**NSF CAREER Award Program Special Faculty Workshop**, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Fralin auditorium.  
**“Soul, Salsa, South Atlantic Migrations” Presentation**, 3 p.m., 132 Lane: Pablo Davis

### MAY

#### Saturday, 1

**New River Valley Symphony Spring Concert**, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium.

#### Sunday, 2

**Ensemble Concert**, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: University Chamber Singers.

#### Monday, 3

**University Pre-Retirement Program**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.  
**University Council**, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.

### Flex Out Hunger Program Begins. Through May 5.

#### Tuesday, 4

**Faculty Senate**, 7 to 9 p.m., Hillcrest.

#### Wednesday, 5

**Classes End.**

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

#### Thursday, 6

**Reading Day.**

**University Pre-Retirement Program**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

**Center for Gerontology’s Graduate Certificate, Awards Celebration Keynote Speaker**, 9 p.m., Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium: Harold G. Koenig.

#### Friday, 7

**Exams Begin.**

#### Wednesday, 12

**Exams End.**

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

### Thursday, 13

**Senior Day.**

### Friday, 14

**Spring 2004 Grade Sheets Due.**

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

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

**Corps of Cadets Graduation Ceremony**, 1 p.m., DBHCC auditorium.

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

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

## SEMINARS

### Friday, 30

**Geosciences**, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Shlomo Neuman, University of Arizona.

### MAY

#### Thursday, 6

**MSE**, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Ted Asare, Ben Poquette.

## BULLETINS

### Lecture set on soul, salsa, migrations

Pablo Davis will give a presentation on “Soul, Salsa, and South Atlantic Migrations,” at 3 p.m. Friday, April 30, in 132 Lane. The event is free and open to the public.

Davis, director of the South Atlantic Humanities Center, is a historian who has a joint appointment with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy and the University of Virginia. He is a native Argentine who performs and researches both soul and salsa.

Davis’ presentation will focus on the relationship between music, migration, and settlement in the U.S. South Atlantic. During the 20th century, millions of residents of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and other South Atlantic places, left their homes to seek work and lives elsewhere in the United States, particularly the Northeast. The urban musical genres that came to be known as “soul” and “salsa” can be thought of as the sound of people in movement. This talk will offer recorded examples of soul and salsa to consider the theatics, musical structures, and conditions of production of these forms of music.

For more information, contact Anita Puckett ([apuckett@vt.edu](mailto:apuckett@vt.edu) or 1-9526).

### NSF CAREER award workshop offered

There will be a special faculty workshop focusing on the NSF CAREER award program on Friday, April 30, in the Fralin auditorium, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the workshop will be to explore strategies for developing successful proposals.

CAREER awards are a major funding opportunity for untenured faculty members. They are awarded for a five-year period, with a minimum overall budget of \$400,000 (\$500,000 in biological sciences). There is no upper limit to the proposed budget.

To register for the workshop, contact Debbie Nester at [debbiell@vt.edu](mailto:debbiell@vt.edu) or 1-5410. The current CAREER program announcement may be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02111/nsf02111.htm>. For more information, contact Porter at [reporter@vt.edu](mailto:reporter@vt.edu) or phone 1-6747.

### Horticulture Plant Sale scheduled this week

The annual Horticulture Plant Sale, which began

Thursday, will continue through Sunday, May 2.

The sale will feature annuals, perennials, carnivorous plants, woody trees and shrubs, and new this year, orchids and indoor plants. The sale will be at the Horticulture Garden, which is located on Washington Street beside McComas Hall. Hours of the sale are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.

There will be informational speakers at 1 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The sale helps support the Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech as well as the Horticulture Club.

For more information about the sale, visit web site [www.hort.vt.edu/hortclub/plantsale.htm](http://www.hort.vt.edu/hortclub/plantsale.htm). For other questions, e-mail [plantsale@vt.edu](mailto:plantsale@vt.edu).

### University pre-retirement program scheduled

All faculty and staff members are reminded of the pre-retirement programs to be held on May 3 and May 6 in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium. No pre-registration is required.

The schedule of presentations for the May 3 session begins at 8:30 a.m., and features presentations on Social Security, health care at retirement, estates, trusts, and wills; investments, Warm Hearth, and a VRS—ORP benefits update.

The May 6 session also begins at 8:30 a.m., and features presentations on VRS—ORP benefits updates, CommonHealth, volunteering at retirement, the Montgomery County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Montgomery Regional Hospital Volunteer Program, Virginia Tech Retiree Association, health care at retirement, estates, wills, and trusts; and Social Security.

### Koenig to keynote gerontology celebration

Harold G. Koenig, M.D., M.H.Sc., will be the keynote speaker at the Center for Gerontology’s Graduate Certificate and Awards Celebration on Thursday, May 6.

The ceremony honors students with a graduate certificate in gerontology and recognizes student and faculty award winners. University and community members are invited to attend the celebration held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Fralin Biotechnology Center auditorium.

Koenig is an advocate of increasing the presence of religion and spirituality in the daily practice of medicine and has testified before the U.S. Senate about the benefits of spirituality on health.

The title of his presentation is *Religion, Spirituality and Health: History, Research, and Application*.

Koenig is founder and director of the Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality and Health at Duke University. Board-certified in general and geriatric psychiatry, and geriatric medicine, Koenig is professor of psychiatry and medicine at Duke University.

He has published extensively (nearly 250 scientific peer-reviewed articles and 26 books in print or in preparation) in the fields of mental health, geriatrics, and religion; has presented his research at numerous professional venues (including the United Nations); has been featured on national and international news (all major U.S. networks) and radio programs (including multiple NPR, BBC, and CBC interviews), and written for more than 250 magazines and newspapers (including cover stories for *Newsweek*, *Reader’s Digest* and *Parade*).

### Staff Appreciation Day set for May 19

Staff Appreciation Day will be Wednesday, May 19, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Rector Field House.

Staff Appreciation Day is the university’s way of recognizing classified-staff and non-student wage employees for their contributions to the university. It gives staff members a chance to get together with colleagues around the campus, renew friendships, and strengthen networks.

Regrettably, funding is not available to expand the celebration to include families. As in the past, it is intended for employees only. A flyer will be mailed to employees within the next two weeks to provide additional details on the day’s events. Employees should report to their usual work location before and after the event, based on the employee’s work schedule.

Sign-up is now available for obstacle-course relay races. Teams should each select a leader (captain) who will turn in the team entry. All participating teams must have five members and one alternate. Return entry forms to: Robin Conaway, CommonHealth (0347) no later than 5 p.m., Monday, May 3.

Call the CommonHealth Office at 1-4806 for team entry forms or more information.

## UNIVERSITY

*Continued from 1*

engineering science and mechanics in the College of Engineering, and Tim Long, professor of chemistry, in the College of Science. They will use the approximately \$103,000 DIRPA award for equipment to

provide inputs, such as measurements, to computer simulations or models that describe how a composite material structure will respond to fire.

The fourth grant will be used within the ARO Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) at Virginia Tech. The Army

Research Office will provide nearly \$85,000 for the acquisition of light-scattering instrumentation, which permits the determination of aggregation and size of molecules in solution, said Long, principal investigator of the MURI.

All awards are subject to the successful

completion of negotiations between the Department of Defense research offices and the academic institutions. The complete list of winning researchers can be found at [www.defenselink.mil/News/Mar2004/d20040318.pdf](http://www.defenselink.mil/News/Mar2004/d20040318.pdf).

**CAMPUS UPDATE****Graduate Education Week celebrates accomplishments, diversity**

During Graduate Education Week activities at Virginia Tech recently, outstanding graduate students were recognized, student research showcased, and programs were held to examine a range of issues and announce plans for the future.

The Graduate Education Week theme, "Excellence through Diversity," highlighted the many contributions of graduate education to the university.

In her second State of the Graduate School address, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Karen P. DePauw described plans for increasing the number of Ph.D. students, graduate policy issues, and the current review of all graduate programs.

The Graduate Student Assembly's 20th Research Symposium had 77 entries and was expanded to include an Exposition to provide students in non-technical fields with a forum for displaying their work. The week's keynote

speaker, Secretary of Education Belle Whelan, spoke on the role graduate students will take as leaders in society.

A two-day exhibit on the "Past, Present and Future of Graduate Education" was presented by the Graduate School and University Libraries at Torgersen Museum. Visual media, including such original documents as early master's theses and photographs, were displayed along with a plan for the new Graduate Center at Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center.

The Graduate School, Career Services and Graduate Education Development Institute presented a seminar on "Preparing the Future Professoriate" and "Preparing the Future Professional," which included one-on-one critiques of the participants' professional portfolios.

A faculty panel discussion, led by Alicia Cohen and Shelli Fowler on "Shattering the Silence," was open to the university and

Blacksburg communities. The purpose of the discussion was to explore the broad experiences and benefits of living in a diverse community. Later in the week, a symposium led by Graduate Honor System Chief Justice Greg Lemmond invited students and faculty members to discuss issues relating to academic integrity.

The Graduate Awards Banquet recognized outstanding students in several areas. Derrell McPherson, a Ph.D. graduate in biology, and Maria Rentetzi, a Ph.D. graduate in science and technology studies, each received a \$1,000 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Graduate School.

Outstanding graduate students from each college, selected based on criteria defined by individual college committees, each received \$500 from the Graduate School. Winners were Patricia Dos Santos, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Raquel Becerra, Architecture and Urban Studies; Eric J. Ruggiero, Engineering;

Jennifer Matheson, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Kerri Cahill, Natural Resources; J.D. Williams, Science; Andrew O. Coggins Jr., Pamplin College of Business; and Brett Wood, Veterinary Medicine.

Alumni Association awards for outstanding graduate teaching excellence and graduate student service were presented to Eric Vugrin, a doctoral candidate in the math department, and Donna Augustine, a doctoral candidate in science and technology studies, who tied for and shared the \$1,000 teaching award. The Outstanding Service Award and a check for \$1,000 was presented to Christian Rieser, a doctoral student in engineering and computer science and former graduate representative to the Board of Visitors. The Graduate School also presented commendation awards to Renee M. Raider for teaching excellence and to Amanda Burke for outstanding service.

**University environmental advisory group formed**

The university has formed the Advisory Council for Campus Environmental Sustainability (ACCES), a university-wide advisory group that will work closely with senior university administrators on issues concerning environmental sustainability.

Initially, ACCES will focus on three major issues. One will be to promote public awareness of environmental issues at Virginia Tech and communicate those advances made by the university. A second focus will be to investigate opportunities and foster collaborations concerning research in environmental sustainable technologies and policies, as well as support environmentally focused academic curricula within the university. A third focus will be to investigate improvements in and give suggestions concerning the environmental infrastructure of the university.

(See ENVIRONMENTAL on 4)



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Universities collaborate to negotiate publications contract**

By Clara B. Cox

Thanks to the collaboration among the libraries at seven public universities in Virginia and the expertise of a skilled attorney representing them in negotiations with Elsevier, a division of the British-Dutch publishing company Reed Elsevier, a new five-year contract will give faculty members and students access to more than 1,800 scholarly publications. Specific titles range from *Advances in Cancer Research* to the *Journal of Medieval History*, but most of the publications report on research developments in scientific, technical, and biomedical fields.

The contract increases by almost 50 percent the number of titles for only 5 percent more in cost, assures their researchers of sustained access to significant major

publications in their disciplines, provides retrospective access to 1995, and caps the inflation increments for the next four years. The contract will also reduce staff time associated with managing these collections, allows "walk-up" access to the content from public terminals in the libraries that offer this service, allows appropriate interlibrary-loan access to the materials, and protects against the possibility of future financial emergencies with an exit clause for each library.

Eileen Hitchingham, dean of libraries, said, "This is a great example of success on both sides of an agreement. We have the content we need at a price we find acceptable, within a timeframe that is useful. At the same time the publisher maintains an ongoing relationship with a major group of public academic libraries

**Mobile chem lab suspends operation**

By Juliet Crichton

The university will suspend operation of its Mobile Chemistry Laboratory (MCL) for the 2004-05 academic year due to lack of funding.

Since late 2000, the mobile laboratory has transported modern chemical instrumentation, computers, chemical equipment, and lab space to Virginia high schools lacking adequate laboratory facilities. Its use has spurred higher scores on the state's Chemistry Standards of Learning (SOL's). Despite its academic success, the program has not garnered program support from the state, though it has been requested for several years. Due to termination of federal grant support along with General Fund reductions to Virginia Tech's budget, the university is no longer able to support the program.

"Over the past five years, the Mobile Chemistry Lab has been an important part of the university's outreach program for Virginia's public schools," said John Dooley, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs. "Its success in contributing to gains in SOL scores and heightened appreciation for the sciences is impressive. We're hopeful that recognition and appreciation for these successes will lead to the necessary investments to allow us to restore its critical services in the future."

The curriculum developed for use on the

(See MOBILE on 4)

**BENEFITS UPDATE****Enrollment Open for Health Insurance and Flexible Reimbursement Program**

The annual open-enrollment period for health-care changes, as well as enrollment in the Flexible Reimbursement Program, continues through May 14 with a July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 contract (fiscal year). This is the normal operating schedule for the health-insurance program, but this represents a major change for the flexible-reimbursement program which previously had a November open-enrollment period with a January 1 through December 31 contract (calendar year).

Effective July 1, 2004, the health-insurance program will incur some rule changes, an increase in premiums, and a change in administrators for some of our medical benefits such as dental and behavioral health. The flexible-reimbursement program will move from the calendar-year contract to the fiscal-year contract.

Questions or comments may be addressed to the Benefits Office (call 1-7779 or 1-3781, or e-mail [shjackso@vt.edu](mailto:shjackso@vt.edu) or [sucompto@vt.edu](mailto:sucompto@vt.edu)).

**EMPLOYMENT**

For information on all faculty and staff position listings, see [www.jobs.vt.edu](http://www.jobs.vt.edu).

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

College of Agriculture/Life Sciences.  
Paul Mellon Distinguished Chair of Agriculture. (Deadline extended)

Virginia Cooperative Extension.  
Associate Director for Operations. (Deadline extended)

Women's Center. Coordinator, Victim Service Outreach.

Office of Judicial Affairs. Coordinator, Victim Services Adjudication.

Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Associate Director for Operations.  
Biomedical Sciences/Pathology.  
Postdoctoral Associate.

Bioinformatics Institute. Bio-formatician. (Five positions.)

University Development. Associate Director of Development. Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

Center for Advanced Separation Technologies (CAST). Assistant Director (Project Associate.)

Biomedical Sciences/Pathobiology.  
Research Scientist.

Virginia Cooperative Extension.  
Extension Agent. Food, Nutrition and Health, City of Portsmouth. (Deadline extended)

# IN OTHER NEWS

## Linda Gail Leffel, 59

Professor Emeritus of Continuing Education Linda Gail Leffel, who planned, coordinated, and delivered more than 2,500 professional and advanced continuing-education programs for the university, died April 8 after a long illness. She was 59.

Leffel received her B.S. degree from Concord College. She earned her master's and doctorate in education at Virginia Tech in 1973 before beginning her career with the university as a member of the faculty and as an administrator in various capacities in the Division of Continuing Education (CE). She served as director of program development from 1988 until 2001, when she was named head of market research. She resigned in 2002 for health reasons.

During her career, the programs her department delivered generated more than \$46 million in gross revenue and more than \$10 million in net revenue for CE and the colleges. She also administered 400 continuing-education, non-credit programs each year.

"For over 30 years, Linda served the university and the people of the commonwealth with distinction," said John E. Dooley, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs. "She was a giant in the continuing and professional education field whose leadership and contributions will be felt for years to come."

## ENVIRONMENTAL

*Continued from 3*

Faculty and student representatives from each college as well as five university staff members will serve on the council during the upcoming academic year. Each college's faculty representative shall be appointed by the college's dean and student and staff representatives shall be selected through an application process. Representatives will be selected based on their expressed dedication to environmental issues, experience and communication skills.

ACCES will begin meeting in the fall. For more information contact Aaron Burr at [EC@vt.edu](mailto:EC@vt.edu).

## NESSLER

*Continued from 1*

how producers can add value to what they are already doing, whether that is through bio-based products, diversification into new crops, or other avenues.

In addition, she said, "We are going to look at how agriculture is tied to human health and nutrition, to the prevention of chronic diseases, and how it can assist communities with economic development. This would include areas such as families, youth at risk, our urban/suburban/rural interface, and rural economic development." She added, "We must bring our expertise in research as well as teaching and Extension together to address problems that face society. Dr. Nessler will help lead those efforts."

Interdisciplinary proposals, he said, can and should take a variety of forms from combined field and laboratory studies to large program grants. "The age of sustaining a viable research program solely from state funds and small grants is past. We must look beyond traditional sources for support, not only for individual grants and contracts, but also through multi-investigator awards that will allow Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Veterinary Medicine to participate in 'big-science.'"

Before coming to Virginia Tech in 2000, Nessler served on the faculty at Indiana University, North Carolina State, and Texas

## Joseph J. Kennedy Jr., 80

Emeritus professor in the Department of Music and noted violinist Joseph J. Kennedy Jr., died Saturday, April 17 in Richmond at the age of 80.

Kennedy, one of the most prominent names among the world's jazz violinists, was director of jazz studies at Virginia Tech from 1984 until his retirement in 1995.

Kennedy was also active in the Black Studies Program at the university. He was cited in his emeritus resolution in 1995 "as a committed advisor and teacher of students in the Music

Department and many other academic areas of the university."

In 2001, he was honored with the Living Legacy Jazz Award from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation during a ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. He was still performing and recording as recently as last summer.

Kennedy earned a degree from what is now Virginia State University. He also held a master's in music education from Duquesne University.

## Alex Baer, 74

Alex Baer, who was a former employee of the Virginia Tech library, died February 3 in Oelsnitz, Germany. He was 74.

According to former colleague Harry Kriz, director of inter-library services at the university, Baer served for many years as head of the Reference and Collection Development in the

library system. "It is worth noting that during those years," Kriz said at Baer's memorial service, "Tech's library was ranked among the top-35 research libraries in the country."

Baer worked a total of 22 years in several departments of the library.

## CALS

*Continued from 1*

non-refereed publications, taught more than 4,400 students, and garnered more than \$4.2 million in grants during his career.

Bertelsen is a natural resource economist and information systems specialist who has worked in more than 20 countries around the world during his 17 years in international development work. He has served as the Chief of Party for the Agricultural Research and Training Support Project in Burkina Faso and has also provided long-term technical assistance on USAID projects in Morocco, Haiti, and Honduras.

He has broad experience in the design and implementation of computerized information systems and has conducted training courses and workshops in database management, data analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), and microcomputer technology to people of diverse backgrounds in numerous countries.

He also has been responsible for developing and coordinating overseas technical assistance opportunities for Virginia Tech faculty members,

technical assistance for on-going projects, preparing project proposals, and servicing the technical economic needs of the multi-disciplinary staff of the Office of International Research, Education, and Development.

He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics in 1978 from Virginia Tech.

Max Bales has joined the college as the director of development. He is a graduate of Vincennes University and Purdue University with a bachelor of science in agronomy. He came to Virginia Tech from Purdue where he served as agriculture development director for six years.

Diane J. Sutphin is the new assistant director of development. In the past few months she and Bales have traveled across the state and visited with thousands of citizens, Virginia Tech Alumni and numerous agricultural organizations and industry leaders. Their work is part of the expanded public-private partnerships of Virginia Tech

A&M. He also spent a year (1989-90) as a visiting research scientist with the Plant Biotechnology Institute of Canada's National Research Council. More recently, he served the Canadian NRC as an External Program Reviewer of the Plant Biotechnology Institute (2000) and a Biotechnology Program Reviewer (2001).

Nessler said he will use those experiences to help him as associate dean. "It takes a special kind of leadership to enroll faculty members in an effort where success depends on nurturing a collective vision. More than two decades as a faculty member makes me appreciate the stresses

associated with performing multiple missions in a major land-grant university and how administrators can play a critical role in helping faculty achieve their goals."

He has served as principal investigator or co-investigator on more than \$5.4 million in competitive grants, including grants from federal agencies and national foundations, such as the American Cancer Society. Nessler earned his B.S. and his M.A. in biology from the College of William and Mary, and his Ph.D. in plant sciences at Indiana University.

## Trio wins ACS award

Two years after courses in polymer chemistry began to be offered at Virginia Tech, Paul J. Flory received the 1974 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his achievement in the physical chemistry of macromolecules. This year, the award given in his name to recognize outstanding achievements in polymer education is being presented to the pioneers of Virginia Tech's polymer-education program.

Tech chemistry professors Tom Ward and James McGrath and chemical-engineering professor emeritus Garth Wilkes have been awarded the Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award by the American Chemical Society Division of Polymer Chemistry.

Ordinarily presented to an individual, the 2004 award recognizes the team for long-term efforts in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education in polymer science and engineering.

and agriculture. New partnerships for the experiment stations and Extension offices in all areas of the state are one of the Development Office's goals.

Sutphin graduated from Radford University with a B.S. degree in elementary education and earned her M. S. degree in curriculum development from Cortland State University (New York).

## MOBILE

*Continued from 3*

MCL supports the chemistry SOL's and serves to increase student knowledge of chemistry. Since its inception, the MCL has favorably affected student learning and SOL pass-rates. On average, schools participating in the MCL program saw a 20-point gain during the MCL's first year of operation, and 19 schools whose average pass-rate was previously 15.6 points lower than the state average saw their pass-rate rise to 1.2 points above the state average.

## MAGLIARO

*Continued from 1*

Plattsburgh, and a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

The School of Education is formed by the Departments of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Teaching and Learning, and includes 23 licensure programs in a range of degrees. It also encompasses four centers: one of Virginia's Training & Technical Assistance Centers (T/TAC) to improve educational opportunities for children and youth with disabilities; Virginia VIEW (Vital Information for Education and Work) which provides accurate, current, and comprehensive career information that is accessible to all Virginians; the Center for Instructional Technology Solutions for Industry and Education (CITSIE); and, the Center for Assessment and Evaluation in Educational Practice (CAEPP).

## NEW

*Continued from 1*

Alphin and the estate of Patricia B. Stuart.

Alphin is a 1934 alumnus of the college and the Corp of Cadets, who went on to serve more than 20 years, from World War II to 1967, in the U.S. Army. After retiring from the military, he became a hospital administrator in Washington, D.C., and was involved in real estate in Northern Virginia.

Mrs. Stuart and her husband, Herb, were Arabian horse breeders from Afton.

