

SPECTRUM

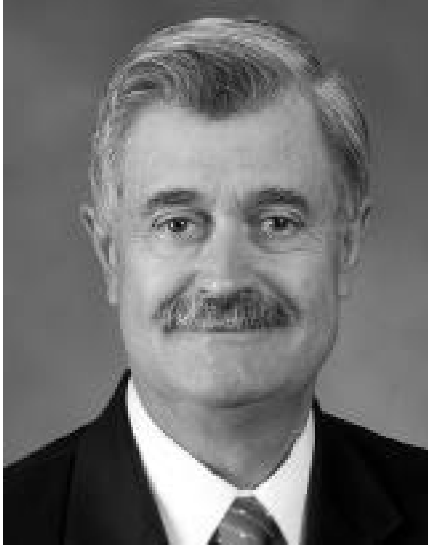
Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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VOLUME 26 NUMBER 18 FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2004

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 2 for
information on campus
construction projects.

Schurig named dean of Vet Med College



SCHURIG

By Clara B. Cox

Gerhardt Schurig, interim dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine since October 2003 and an internationally renowned researcher, has been named the third dean of the two-state, three-campus professional college, effective immediately.

"Dr. Schurig is an outstanding scholar with a long and distinguished record of service to the college and the university. His vision for the college and his commitment to excellence will ensure that the college's educational, research, professional, clinical, and outreach programs will continue to grow and develop," said Mark McNamee, university provost and vice president for academic affairs, in making the announcement.

Schurig replaces Peter Eyre, who resigned for health reasons in 2003 after serving as

dean for 18 years. The new dean was selected following an international search.

"We have accomplished a great deal in our first 25 years, but I believe we have enormous potential for growth and achievement in many established and emerging areas," Schurig said. "In particular, I believe our college is poised to play a vital role in Virginia Tech's rapidly developing collaborative research programs in the biomedical and life sciences."

A long-time professor and veterinary immunologist in the college's Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, Schurig is internationally renowned for his work in developing the RB-51 vaccine, adopted in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the official vaccine for bovine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that causes

(See **SCHURIG** on 3)



SPENCER

Spencer to be associate provost, undergraduate admissions director

By Sally Harris

Norrine Bailey Spencer, associate dean for undergraduate programs in the Pamplin College of Business, has been named associate provost and director of undergraduate admissions at the university. The announcement was made by David Ford, vice provost for Academic Affairs.

Spencer will assume the duties of her new position half time July 1 and full time August 2 to allow her to direct the summer-orientation program in the business college.

As associate provost and director of undergraduate admissions, Spencer will work with Ford to develop strategies to attract, recruit, and enroll a highly qualified, talented, and diverse student body. She will conduct market analyses, establish and implement short- and long-range enrollment-management plans, and design innovative approaches to recruitment. She also will be responsible for contributing to the academic and fiscal resources of the university and enhancing its public image in ways that underscore its unique strengths.

"Virginia Tech has some significant challenges ahead as we develop further our
(See **SPENCER** on 4)

Hou wins wireless sensor networks NSF CAREER award

By Liz Crumbley

Thomas Hou, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, has won a five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award worth \$449,295 for research on wireless embedded-sensor networks.

CAREER grants are the NSF's most prestigious awards for junior faculty members who are considered likely to be the academic leaders of the future. Recipients are selected on the basis of creative career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education.

The goal of Hou's CAREER project is to develop a theoretical foundation for the design and deployment of wireless sensor networks, which are formed by locating a number of micro-sensor nodes throughout a large area. Wireless sensor networks are capable of collecting and transmitting a broad range of data and are being developed for surveillance and monitoring applications for the military, the environment, health-care and numerous other complex systems.

Hou will investigate three areas critical to the design, deployment and operation of wireless sensor networks: developing optimal network routing for sensing data, understanding network performance limits and trade-offs, and uncovering inherent properties of energy-related network problems.

"Our approach is multidisciplinary," Hou said. "It spans the fields of wireless communications, networking algorithms, and optimizations. The outcome of this research will fill important gaps in the current understanding of wireless sensor networks, enabling this growing field to fully realize its potential."

(See **HOU** on 4)



PROGRESS UPDATE President Charles Steger, right, recently toured the construction site for the new Inn at Virginia Tech, the Skelton Conference Center, and the Holzman Alumni Center one year after construction began. With him are, from left, Kurt Krause, vice president for business affairs; Ray Smoot, president of the Virginia Tech Foundation; and University Architect Scott Hurst. Work on the new complex is proceeding on schedule, with the formal dedication to take place in early August, 2005. Events, meetings, and conferences are already being booked for dates beginning August 15, 2005. For more information, call the Office of the Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs at 1-9868. (J. McCormick)

Veterinary College plans 25th anniversary celebration

By Jeffrey Douglas

The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine will observe its 25th anniversary during a year-long celebration that begins in August 2004 and concludes in May 2005.

The anniversary celebration will be structured around the theme "Breaking New Ground in Veterinary Medicine" and will include a series of special events and communication programs designed to recognize the college's achievements over its first quarter-century of operations and raise public awareness about the changing role of veterinary medicine in society.

"We are all very excited about our anniversary year, and we are celebrating this

milestone at a very important time in the history of the veterinary profession," said Gerhardt Schurig, a founding faculty member and the VMRCVM's current dean.

"Over the past 25 years, this college has established itself as a vital part of the region's animal and human-health communities, and we look forward to celebrating the excellent relationships we maintain with so many organizations and agencies as part of this event."

The year-long series will include celebrations at Virginia Tech and throughout the region, the publication of a history book, the presentation of a community vet-school

(See **VETERINARY** on 3)

Board of Visitors to Meet

By Larry Hincker

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors will hold its quarterly spring board meeting at 1 p.m. Monday, June 7, in the Board Room of Torgersen Hall (room 2100).

The Academic Affairs Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room F.

The Building and Grounds Committee will meet in closed session at 8 a.m. in the Board Room and in open session at 8:45 a.m. in conference room A.

The Finance and Audit Committee
(See **BOARD** on 3)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 4

Summer Arts Festival Concert, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Michael Mulvaney.

Monday, 7

Last Day to Drop.

Wednesday, 9

Summer Arts Festival Theatre Performance, 7 p.m.,

Squires Studio Theatre: "Lovers." Through 6-12.

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

Friday, 11

Summer Arts Festival Concert, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: "Double Take."

Monday, 14

Last Day to Resign.

Wednesday, 16

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members. "With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani.

Thursday, 17

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

Friday, 18

Summer Arts Festival Concert, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Gerry Timlin.



Henderson Hall Lawn will be the location for the Friday Night Out Concert Series, which will run through July 30, hosting different music performances each Friday. Performances will begin at 6 p.m. "Crossties," pictured here, will perform July 30. (J. McCormick)

Blacksburg Summer Arts Festival opens

Sponsored by the Virginia Tech School of the Arts and the Town of Blacksburg, the Blacksburg Summer Arts Festival 2004 will host a variety of live music, theatre and visual-arts events. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

The Friday Night Out Concert Series will run to July 30, with different music performances each Friday beginning at 6 p.m. on the Henderson Hall Lawn, located at College and Main Streets. The series includes performances from various genres including Celtic swing, bluegrass and traditional folk music.

Summer theatre performances include "Lovers" by Brian Friel and directed by Gregory Justice, running from June 9 through 12 and July 14 through 17; and "The Imaginators" by Dwayne Hartford directed by Susanna Rineheart, performed June 23 through 26 and July 7 through 10. Both directors are faculty members of the Virginia Tech Department of Theatre Arts. All performances will be held in Squires Studio Theater at 7 p.m. on the dates

indicated. For more information on the Friday Night Out Concert Series and theatre performances, call 1-5921.

The Armory Art Gallery hosts, "Underground Hip Hop in the Southwest Hills," an exhibit of five West Coast artists with speaker/performance by Juan Amador and Benjamin Rojas through June 30; and "Lately in Lexington," recent photographs from Lexington, Virginia artists from July 9 through August 14. The Perspective Art Gallery will also host an exhibit through August 12. For more information on visual-arts exhibits, contact the Armory Art Gallery at 1-5921 or the Perspective Art Gallery at 1-6040.

This summer's special-event offerings include the Independence Day Celebration on July 4 with a parade to begin at 4 p.m. on Main Street and a fireworks display at 9:30 in the Blacksburg Municipal Park.

For more information visit the Summer Arts Festival 2004 web site at <http://www.sota.vt.edu/SAF/> or call the Virginia Tech School of the Arts at 1-5921.

Office of Economic Development to present global e-commerce seminar in Abingdon

The Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development, a division of Outreach and International Affairs, will present a half-day seminar on "Global Electronic Commerce: Going Beyond the Web to Increase your Export Sales" at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SWHEC) in Abingdon. The special course will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10 and costs \$30 per person.

The seminar is cosponsored by Pamplin College of Business, the Outreach Office of Economic Development (OED), the U.S. Commercial Service of the Department of Commerce, and Global Virginia of the SWHEC.

The featured speaker will be France Belanger, director of the Center for Global E-Commerce at the Pamplin College of Business. Other speakers will be Devin Rambo of the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.; J.D. Harbaugh of Bristol Compressors in Bristol; Chad Miller of the Virginia Tech Office of International Economic Development, and Pete Ketterer, also of OED.

A web site for the seminar at www.conted.vt.edu/globalec/ has additional information and offers on-line registration. To request a copy of a flier with a registration form, call 1-8891.

Some roads, sidewalks to be closed or restricted because of utilities work

Several roads and nearby sidewalks on campus will be closed or restricted during the summer as work begins on underground utilities.

Ag Quad Lane, the access road leading to the new Ag-Forestry Building, and the parking area between Smyth/Seitz will be closed for approximately 30 days from May 17 through June 18. Limited access can be arranged for special deliveries (including Fralin Hall) by contacting Steve Chapman at pager 953-9270 or e-mail chapman@vt.edu.

Work will begin at the intersection of Stanger Street and Prices Fork Road this summer to install a dedicated left-turn lane at the intersection of Stanger Street and Prices Fork Road. Two-way traffic will be maintained through the intersection for most of the summer but the lanes may be restricted for construction. The work will be done by the Town of Blacksburg to improve the safety of the intersection.

On Price's Fork Road/University City Boulevard (including the bike path), work will begin in late May/early June for the future entrance to new Alumni Center. The intersection will remain open throughout

construction with some lane closures. New traffic signals and turn lanes will be constructed. The walking/biking path on the south side of Price's Fork Road (which runs parallel to the road) will be closed for the entire summer and should reopen by August 13. Walking-path users are encouraged to use the sidewalk on the north side of Price's Fork Road or detour around the area via the walking path running between the Golf Course and Oak Lane Community to Duck Pond Drive. Bicyclists will need to use the roadway.

Limited access and parking will continue throughout the summer to support the ongoing Dietrick Dining Hall upgrade. After May 17, work will begin on the west end of the building/parking lot and continue throughout the summer. The parking lot should reopen by the end of August.

A map of campus showing roads and parking lots can be found at www.parking.vt.edu/map.htm. All work is subject to delays related to unforeseen circumstances and weather. Questions regarding these road closures can be addressed to David Dent at 1-9326 or ddent@vt.edu.

Free Civil War institute offered for teachers at Hotel Roanoke

Teachers looking for resources and practical cross-curriculum ideas for teaching Civil War history will find them at the free third-annual Civil War Teacher Institute July 30 to August 1 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke.

The institute is sponsored by Virginia Tech's Virginia Center for Civil War Studies and the Civil War Preservation Trust.

"We hope to build on the success of last year's workshop and make that great watershed of the American heritage more dramatic and more inspiring for teacher and student alike," said James I. Robertson Jr., Virginia Tech alumni distinguished professor of history, director of the Civil War Center, and well-known Civil War author. "Our generation is the bridge—the only bridge—between Civil War soldiers and generations yet to come. We have a moral and patriotic obligation to ensure education keeps all ages informed of the American past; for if our children lose their culture, we will have lost our history."

All activities at the institute, including meals, are free, although teachers will have to provide their own lodging. Teachers who attend also will earn 2.2 continuing-education units through Virginia Tech.

Featured speakers will include Robertson; William C. Davis, a Virginia Tech history

professor and program director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies; and Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Other participants include historians from the Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Victorian Dance Ensemble, representatives from the Petersburg National Battlefield, and Doug Jimerson and the Gilmore Light Ensemble. Activities include a field trip to Appomattox Courthouse, demonstrations by living historians, and focused material topics. There will be ample opportunities for questions and for networking.

Reservations for the institute must be made by July 9. To register, call Jennifer Rosenberry toll-free at (888) 606-1400 or send an e-mail message to jrosenberry@civilwar.org. To reserve a room at the Hotel Roanoke, call the hotel directly at (540) 985-5900 or toll-free at (866) 594-4722 (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday). Ask for the Civil War Preservation Trust Institute room block when making a reservation.

To see a report on last year's institute go to www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/hc_anntechinst.htm.

CAMPUSUPDATE

Continuing-education association honors Settle

By Susan Felker

At its annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in April, the University Continuing Education Association honored Ted Settle, director of Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development, with the creation of an award in his name. The new award will be called the Ted Settle Award for Distinguished Service to the Outreach and Engagement Community of Practice.

Settle started the Community of Practice on Outreach and Engagement within the University Continuing Education Association to bring together individuals interested in exploring and considering the applicability of the concepts of outreach and engagement to their institutional environments. It grew from zero to 170 members in less than two years. Settle has also held numerous other leadership positions in the association, including serving on the Board of Directors.

Settle directed Tech's Continuing Education from 1992-2002. His career covers both academia and industry. At the NCR Corporation in Dayton, Ohio, he directed the NCR Management College for 10 years. He also worked with the Illinois Board of Higher Education as assistant director for Academic and Health Affairs.

BOARD

Continued from 1

will meet in closed session at 7:30 a.m. in the Private Dining Room and at 8:30 a.m. in open session in the Executive Conference Room.

The Student Affairs Committee meets at 9 a.m. in conference room C.

Among topics under consideration are the university budget for 2004-05, an MFA in creative writing, creation of clinical track faculty ranks, the final report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Narrow Tailoring, report of the nominations committee, and discussion of the chartered university initiative.

There will be meetings on Sunday, June 6. The Special Committee on Research will meet from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center's Executive Conference Room. The full board will hold an information session at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 6, in the Torgersen Board Room.

Commonwealth Campus Centers broaden program offerings

By Susan B. Felker

Virginia Tech's Commonwealth Campus Centers in the greater Washington, D.C., area; Richmond; Hampton Roads; Southwest Virginia; and Roanoke will be playing a greater role in the university's outreach efforts. The changes involve the addition of more outreach programs tailored to regional needs that will be developed by a new associate director for outreach at three locations in high-population areas of the state. The new staff members will be in place by June 1.

"Graduate education will remain a centerpiece of the program offerings at each center, but new programs, both credit and non-credit, as well as new research endeavors, will be added," said John E. Dooley, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs. "Our intent is to better utilize the Commonwealth Campus Centers as local gateways to the full scope of university resources and to facilitate timely response to and leadership for regional needs and opportunities."

Dooley announced the appointment of

associate directors for outreach at three of the locations, Charlotte L. Anders, Hampton Roads; John M. Aughenbaugh, Richmond; and Barbara L. Bennett, National Capitol Region. They will be working to fulfill Virginia Tech's tripartite mission of teaching, research, and outreach locally throughout the state and will better connect the university and its outlying constituencies.

Anders has held the position of interim director of Virginia Tech's Roanoke Center since last July. She is also outreach program specialist for tourism, serving as a liaison between the university and state-, regional-, and community-based business development and tourism programs seeking community-development information and expertise. She is a board member and vice president of the Virginia Festivals and Events Association; a member of the Education Committee of the Virginia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus; and is a former board member of the Virginia Downtown Development Association and continues as the chair of its

annual conference planning committee. She also serves on the conference planning committee for the Virginia Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism and in 2004 provided leadership for program management for the conference held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.

Aughenbaugh has been with Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development since May 2000, most recently as economic-development specialist responsible for collaborating with federal and state agencies and Virginia Tech academic departments on numerous community-development projects. He provided day-to-day operating budget management and procured and managed sponsored research and technical-assistance projects serving various Virginia localities and planning-district commissions. He also assisted with the analysis and completion of technical-assistance projects, including target-market studies, market and business-plan creation, business-incubator feasibility projects, and

(See *COMMONWEALTH* on 4)

VETERINARY

Continued from 1

program, a Legislative Day, the dedication of a major piece of sculpture, and other events.

The anniversary theme was selected to call attention to both the origins and aspirations of the VMRCVM. The slogan evokes images of the college's historic 1978 ground-breaking when former Virginia Tech President William Lavery, late founding Dean Richard B. Talbot and late Virginia Governor John Dalton got construction under way on an interim teaching-hospital facility by guiding a plow across a former pasture on the southwest side of the Virginia Tech campus.

The anniversary also emphasizes the pioneering role the college is playing in a national initiative under way in the veterinary profession to help it prepare more veterinarians to deal with the bioterrorism, infectious diseases, and biomedical health challenges of the post-9/11 world.

The VMRCVM's national Alumni Society kicks off the celebration on August 20 during an annual summer meeting that features "A

Tribute to Peter Eyre." Eyre, who led the college from 1985 through 2003, has assumed a faculty position in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology. The alumni society will also present a special anniversary reception before the Virginia Tech/University of Maryland football game on November 18.

College Family Day will be held on Friday, Oct. 8, from 4 until 8 p.m. on campus. Designed for faculty and staff members, students, alumni and their families, the celebration will feature food, entertainment, games and other activities designed to recognize the valuable contributions made every day by the various members of the college's immediate community.

Beginning in fall 2004, the college will also present a monthly Community Vet School, which is designed to help familiarize people with the modern process of training a veterinarian and learn more about the many different ways veterinary medicine is helping create and maintain a safe and healthy society. That program is expected to include a half-

dozen major events which will be presented over the fall and winter.

Regional celebrations designed to take the anniversary celebration to various locations around the state are also being planned. Veterinary practitioners and other friends of the college will be invited to attend evening 25th Anniversary functions which will be presented in Williamsburg, Leesburg and College, Park Maryland.

The Grand Celebration event will be held on the weekend of April 8-9, 2005 on the Blacksburg campus and at the Hotel Roanoke. Major programs associated with the final celebration weekend include the college's first Legislative Day, the annual Open House, the dedication of a major piece of sculpture, and a formal black-tie dinner at the Hotel Roanoke featuring prominent politicians, state and federal government officials and friends representing the many different public and private organizations that have helped the VMRCVM become what it is today.

The 25th-anniversary celebratory sculpture to be installed and dedicated on the grounds of the VMRCVM as part of the grand-celebration weekend has been created by nationally recognized artist Gwen Reardon, who designed the famous equine statuary at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Featuring a horse, a female veterinary student, and a dog, the bronze sculpture will be installed at the main entrance to the college off Duck Pond Drive. Major funding for the project has been provided through a donation made by Jane Talbot, widow of founding dean Richard Talbot. The sculpture will be the first major piece of sculpture installed on the Virginia Tech campus.

Other communication projects associated with the year-long celebration include the publication of a 25th-anniversary book, which will chronicle the historical development of the College of Veterinary Medicine as well as the early years of veterinary medicine at Virginia Tech. A 25-anniversary poster celebrating the silver anniversary will be produced and shared with veterinary practices throughout Virginia and Maryland. A calendar featuring animal photography and sharing information about the college and the profession will also be produced.

SCHURIG

Continued from 1

reproductive problems in cattle and undulant fever in humans. The vaccine has played a major role in the virtual eradication of the cattle disease in the United States, and Schurig has also been working on a project with the United States Army Medical Research and Development Command that will protect people from brucellosis.

Schurig joined the faculty of the college in 1978 as assistant professor of veterinary science and moved through the ranks to become professor and head of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences in 1984. In 1987, he was named director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases, a position he held until 1994. In 1996, he assumed duties as director of the college's International Program and director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Veterinary Education in Management and Public Health. In 2001, he was named the college's associate dean for research and graduate studies, and in July 2003, he became interim director of the university's new Institute

for Biomedical and Public Health Sciences.

Schurig, who holds three patents, has presented keynote talks and seminars throughout the world and has published more than 90 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He is a member of numerous professional societies, among them the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists, and the American Society for Microbiology, and has served on many national and international committees. He has also received a number of major teaching and research awards, including the 1986 Beecham Award for Research Excellence.

A native of Chile, Schurig studied chemical engineering for one year at the University of Concepcion before transferring to the University of Chile to major in veterinary medicine and earn his DVM degree. He conducted graduate work at Cornell University, where he received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in immunology and pathogenic bacteriology. He spent two years as a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison before joining the faculty at Virginia Tech.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Tech's De Datta receives award from Philippine government

By Susan B. Felker

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has honored S. K. De Datta, associate provost for international affairs at Virginia Tech, with a Presidential Citation Award. The award recognizes De Datta's contributions towards eradicating hunger through improved agricultural productivity and food security, particularly for the production of rice.

De Datta received the award at the opening session of the 17th PhilRice National Research and Development Conference, an annual event attended by some 500 rice scientists, government officials, extension workers, growers, and other rice industry representatives. Luis P. Lorenzo, Philippine secretary of agriculture, presented the award.

De Datta was the agronomist and principal scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines from 1964 to

1991 and headed the IRRI agronomy department from 1966 to 1989. From 1989 to 1991, he provided leadership in the Rainfed Lowland Rice Ecosystem programs at IRRI.

Since 1991, De Datta has served as director of Virginia Tech's Office of International Research and Development, which was expanded in 2003 to become the Office of International Research, Education, and Development. In this capacity, he has obtained approximately \$57 million in funding for 14 projects. The Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPMCRSP), a decade-long project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and host country institutions, is the largest.

He has also been associate dean for international agriculture in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for 10 years and

is a tenured professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences. He was named associate provost for international affairs in August 2003.

De Datta's research on rice has significantly changed the production of this important food crop, the staple of diets around the world. In an early project at IRRI, his team worked on the development of rice varieties and associated technologies that would produce high yields in Asia, where yields were then the lowest in the world. This work led to the development of the "miracle rice," named "IR8," in 1966.

He also worked to improve rice-production methods, leading to the substitution of direct seeding of rice for the age-old transplanting method of rice propagation, an innovation that enabled rice farmers to produce three crops per year with

less labor on fields that previously had only yielded one annual crop. Additionally, his contributions in weed-and-crop-nutrient-management practices have led to significant changes in farming in 55 rice-growing countries.

De Datta's work has been acknowledged as a significant factor in bringing about the "green revolution" caused by the introduction of improved farming methods in the developing world. He received the prestigious Borlaug Award from the vice president of India in December 1992 in recognition of his contributions.

He continued his involvement in improving crop production in the Philippines through the \$19.4 million IPMCRSP project, which involves research on integrated pest management in rice-vegetable cropping systems throughout the developing world with the collaboration of governments in five regions and several other land-grant universities in the United States.

University researchers receive 24 patents in 2003

By Susan Trulove

Virginia Tech researchers received 24 patents in 2003. Faculty and staff members and students who earned patents were honored by the university and Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc. (VTIP) at a reception May 20 at the German Club.

"The creativity, contributions to knowledge, and technology transfer that patents signify are an important form of scholarship," said University President Charles Steger.

Mike Martin of Blacksburg, VTIP executive vice president, said, "These patents represent a significant resource for economic development."

Patents were awarded for power electronics for fuel cells and computers, new materials, sensors, a method for drying wood; plant varieties, and human health-related discoveries, including a spermicide that also prevents disease.

One example of a health-related patent received by university researchers is a method for introducing toxins to cancer cells and a method for creating human proteins, for pharmaceutical purposes, in the milk of transgenic animals.

'The creativity, contributions to knowledge, and technology transfer that patents signify are an important form of scholarship...'

Brian Storrie of Little Rock, Ark., former professor of biochemistry at Virginia Tech and now professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Arkansas Medical School; Maria Teresa Tarrago-Trani, Virginia Tech research scientist; and Sam English of Roanoke, research projects manager at Carilion Biomedical Institute, have received

patent 6,631,283 for "B/B-like fragment targeting for the purposes of photodynamic therapy and medical imaging."

The invention is a method of delivering a photoactive drug to cancer cells by attaching the drug to a toxin that recognizes a specific receptor on cancer cells. The researchers identified a non-toxic subunit of a protein produced by E. coli bacteria as the vehicle to deliver the drugs because it binds to the cancer cell and causes it to ingest the entire toxic package. The toxin-photoactive drug conjugate can be activated by light to kill the cancer cell without causing damage to healthy tissue. The method also can be used to attach "visualizing" agents to cancer cells for use with imaging technology, such as a CT Scan or X-ray, to aid in cancer diagnosis, assessment of metastasis, or during surgery.

For more information on 2003 patents, go to www.research.vt.edu/rotw/2003patents.html.

COMMONWEALTH

Continued from 3

strategic plans.

Bennett comes to Virginia Tech from the Region 2000 Regional Commission in Lynchburg, where she served as special services/grant administrator since 2001. In collaboration with Central Virginia Community College and Ericsson Inc., she wrote a successful U.S. Department of Labor Skill Shortage II Demonstration Grant application for \$2.5 million in funding over two years for the Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board. As administrator of the grant, she built a coalition including 13 companies to design, deliver, and assess technical-skill training for more than 1,400 adults in the region. She also negotiated a one-year extension of the grant and adapted the grant program to respond to significant plant closings and layoffs.

From 1999-2001, Bennett served as executive director of Regional Renaissance, the first regional citizen-engagement project to determine residents' quality of life priorities. She was program director for the University of Virginia's Center for Executive Development from 1994-1999.

HOU

Continued from 1

After graduating with a bachelor's degree from the City College of New York in 1991, Hou earned his master's degree at Columbia University in 1993 and his Ph.D. at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn in 1998, all in electrical engineering. He received Polytechnic University's Alexander Hessel Award for the outstanding Ph.D. in electrical engineering. He joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 2002.

Hou has published extensively in the area of wireless and multimedia networking and is a co-recipient of two best-paper awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—for the 2001 Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology and the 2002 International Conference on Network Protocols.

In addition to the CAREER Award, Hou also has won an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator Award and a NSF Information Technology Research program grant since joining Virginia Tech.

SPENCER

Continued from 1

brand name and attractiveness to future generations of undergraduate students," Ford said. "We must remember our land-grant heritage, remain competitive in striving to diversify our undergraduate student body, and continue to provide competitive academic programs for all students. It is my expectation that Dr. Spencer will provide the leadership to enable us to accomplish these goals."

Spencer has experience in student- and academic-affairs roles to bring to the new position and has an academic background in mathematics, higher-education administration and research and evaluation. As associate dean of the Pamplin College of Business, Spencer has been responsible for the academic programs for the undergraduate business majors for 21 years. During that time, several new programs began in the college, including the creation of a freshman-sophomore advising center, implementation of a college-based job-development and career-services program, and inauguration of pilot programs with the Virginia Community College System.

"She has provided excellent leadership for the undergraduate programs in the Pamplin College of Business over the last 21 years," said Dean Richard Sorensen, "and her involvement in the college will be sorely

missed. Her experience and skills will be of great value to the university."

Spencer earned a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in mathematics from Susquehanna University, a master's degree in higher-education administration from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in research and evaluation, with a concentration in statistics, from Virginia Tech. Before joining Virginia Tech as assistant dean in 1983, Spencer served as an assistant dean of the College of Business and Economics at the University of Delaware.

Spencer has received numerous honors, including having been selected in 2000 for the new AACSB affinity group Steering Committee for Women in Management Education, serving as part of the National American Council on Education network to identify and encourage women to enter higher-education administration, and being featured in an article about women in management education in the national magazine *Biz Ed*.

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