

SPECTRUM

Virginia
Tech
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 19 FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2004

TODAY'S EDITION
See page 3 for promotion-
and-tenure information.

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research officially open

By Curtis W. Callaway

Citizens and leaders from throughout Southside and university leaders from Virginia Tech gathered June 12 to celebrate the dedication of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR). Institute officials and partners cut the ceremonial ribbon on the multi-million-dollar facility on Saturday.

"Congratulations to everyone on today's long-awaited ribbon cutting," said Governor Mark Warner in a special videotaped message sent from China. "This unique facility is important for several reasons. First, it brings the tangible presence of high technology and Virginia Tech to this region. Second, it offers a seamless set of higher-education programs because it is based on the principle that research and teaching are equally important. Third, it will be the next step in the economic transformation of Southside. By promoting economic diversity, we have a chance to make sure that Southside Virginia is the place that gets it right as we move into the information economy."

State Senator Charles Hawkins, chairman of the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, the primary funding source for the building, said, "This is where it all changes. The future belongs to those who can be innovative." Hawkins said that IALR was the only new project funded



State Senator Charles Hawkins cut the ribbon Saturday at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville. Also pictured are, from left, Congressman Virgil H. Goode Jr., Linwood Wright, chairman of the IALR Board of Trustees; Delegate Daniel W. Marshall III, Tim Franklin, IALR executive director and director of Virginia Tech's Southside outreach programs; Hawkins, Delegate Robert Hurt, Robert W. Searce, Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors; Virginia Tech's newly elected Board of Visitors Rector Ben Davenport, and Danville Mayor John C. Hamlin. (R. Griffiths)

in Virginia's budget for the next biennium—and "no one from either party opposed it."

Virginia Tech, Averett University, and Danville Community College serve as academic partners to develop and offer courses at the institute. Additionally, Virginia Tech is the driving force behind the institute's six research centers. "The institute is providing Virginia Tech with many new opportunities

for cutting-edge research and real-world collaborations, which would not have been possible in Blacksburg," President Charles W. Steger said. "There are already a number of exciting initiatives under way that build on Virginia Tech's research strengths. We believe these also hold great promise to revitalize the economy in the region."

"The vision and courage of the region's

(See *INSTITUTE* on 3)

Board of Visitors acts on degree program, university budget

By Mark Owczarski

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors met June 7 for its quarterly meeting and took action on many items, including a new academic-degree program and the 2004-05 university budget.

The board approved the creation of a new master-of-fine-arts degree in creative writing in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and offered through the Department of English. Planning continues while the university seeks approval from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. The department hopes to enroll the first class in 2005.

The board approved the 2004-05 fiscal year operating budget of \$762.6 million. For the first time in several years, the operating divisions will see an increase. The University Division budget moves from \$349.3 million to \$370 million, and the Cooperative Extension/Agriculture Experiment Station budget moves from \$66.3 million to \$71 million.

President Charles Steger told the board that new funding from additional state appropriations and tuition increases will enable the university to extend as many as

(See *BOARD* on 4)

White named equine medical center director

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

Nathaniel White, the Theodora Ayer Randolph professor of equine surgery at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) at Virginia Tech, has also been named director of the college's Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg.

in 1985 and was appointed the Randolph professor in 1987. He is an internationally recognized expert in equine colic and musculoskeletal disorders.

"Dr. White is a scholar and clinician of the highest order," said Gerhardt Schurig, dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. "Over the past year of

"I'm very pleased and honored by this appointment," White said. "The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is a big part of the veterinary college and Virginia Tech's commitment to the regional equine community."

White has served as interim director of the center since April 1, 2003, and assumes permanent leadership as the top candidate to emerge from a comprehensive national search conducted by VMRCVM and Virginia Tech.

"I'm very pleased and honored by this appointment," White said. "The Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center is a big part of the veterinary college and Virginia Tech's commitment to the regional equine community. I think the center has established a lot of momentum and has very exciting prospects for the future."

White joined the center as assistant director

his interim administration he has demonstrated many aspects of leadership excellence. Dr. White has a strong sense of our history and our capabilities, and he is also very committed to helping the college and Virginia Tech grow and develop our research enterprise."

White earned his DVM degree from Cornell University in 1971 and completed an internship and residency program in equine surgery at the University of California at Davis. He also earned a M.S. degree in pathology from Kansas State University. He is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS).

Sobrero will be CALS associate dean, VCE director

By Charlie Stott

Missouri educator Patricia Sobrero has been named associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Virginia Cooperative Extension.



SOBRERO

She has served as associate vice president and

associate director of University Outreach and Extension at the University of Missouri since 1999 and holds the rank of professor in the College of Human Environmental Sciences there.

At Missouri, Sobrero has addressed issues at the county, campus, system, state, and national levels. She is recognized for her ability to develop strong, lasting partnerships that generate programs and funding.

"We are indeed fortunate to have someone of Dr. Sobrero's proven vision and leadership skills to move into this critical position," said Sharon Quisenberry, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "At the University of Missouri, she has played a pivotal role in helping the Extension system develop a 21st-Century strategic direction and in implementing meaningful and

(See *SOBRERO* on 4)

University earns international computer honor

By Lynn A. Nystrom

Virginia Tech is the recipient of this year's Computerworld Honors 21st Century Achievement Award in Science. The award was presented Monday at an event evening in Washington, D.C.

Apple nominated Virginia Tech for its development of a 2,200-processor supercomputer with a cluster of 1,100 Power Mac G5 computers. Called System X, the supercomputer is the world's third-fastest with the best price and performance for a top supercomputing facility.

Virginia Tech faced stiff competition with more than 250 of this year's most innovative applications of technology submitted for consideration. In April, Virginia Tech was named one of five finalists for the award along with Rice University, Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center, CoreTek, and the Columbus Zoo. Entries came from 33 states and 26 countries.

"Virginia Tech is using information technology to make great strides toward

(See *UNIVERSITY* on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 18

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

Wednesday, 23

"With Good Reason," 7:30 p.m., WVTF.
Summer Arts Festival Theatre Performance, 7 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: "The Imaginators." Through 6-26.

Friday, 25

Summer Arts Festival Concert, 6 p.m., Henderson Lawn: Ron Harris Band.

Wednesday, 30

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

Thursday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members. Classes End.

Friday, 2

Exams Begin.

SEMINAR

Friday, 25

Statistics, 3:45 p.m., 418-A Hutcheson: Friedrich Jondral, *Institut für Nachrichtentechnik, Universität Karlsruhe.*

BULLETINS

Great West representative on campus today

A representative of Great West (457 deferred-compensation plan) will be on campus Friday, June 18, for general-information sessions and individual appointments.

General sessions (no appointment necessary) will be held at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center, conference room C. General-information sessions are scheduled at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. To schedule an individual appointment on June 18, send an e-mail note to nancy.roth@gwl.com and request a time.

The Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is established by the Code of Virginia and allows state employees to save for retirement in a voluntary, payroll-deducted, tax-deferred savings program. Virginia Tech employees may contribute the maximum amount for which they are eligible to both the 457 and the 403(b) program. The 457 program provides a wide range of low-cost investment selections from conservative to moderate or aggressive funds with maximum control and flexibility.

Leadership academy calls for nominations

The Academy for Leadership Excellence (ALE) has announced a call for nominations for the ALE Outstanding Leader Award. The award recognizes university employees who have exhibited outstanding leadership qualities through superior job performance, job-related extracurricular activities, (such as participation in university governance); university, college, and departmental committee work; other areas of service to the university, and supplemental activities outside the university. (While outside activities that enhance the nominee's overall profile of service to the university and community may be considered, they will be given less weight than university activities.)

Any university employee, on or off campus, may nominate individuals for the award. Nominations will consist of a one-page typed, signed letter outlining the leadership qualities of the nominee. Endorsements of the nomination by supervisors or others are not required. An employee may nominate as many individuals as he/she wishes; however, each nomination must be made separately, and the nominator must sign each.

Eligibility will be limited to employees in classified staff positions or in administrative/professional faculty positions. Tenured and tenure-track faculty members are not eligible, since other awards are available to these groups. This restriction is intended to apply to all tenured and tenure-track faculty members, including those who presently are engaged in administrative functions. Self-nominations are ineligible. This award should not be viewed as competing with the President's Award for Excellence.

The person selected for the award will be honored at the academy's awards reception scheduled for Friday, July 16.

Chartered University Initiative info available

Information on the proposed Chartered University Initiative can now be found on the Virginia Tech home page (the specific link is <http://www.vt.edu/charter>.)

The web site will contain the proposed charter-university legislation, documents explaining the rationale behind the proposal, and frequently asked questions on the initiative. A feedback form also will be included on the web site.

The site will be maintained by the Office of University Relations.

Part-time health insurance available

In October 2003, classified employees in salaried positions working between 32 to 39 hours per week (80 to 99 percent) became eligible for enrollment in the university's group health-insurance plan and the flexible-reimbursement program. This group of employees has the option to payroll-deduct their health-insurance premium (pre-taxed), and the employer makes a contribution on the premium.

Legislation passed during the 2004 General Assembly session extends eligibility for the group health-insurance plan and the flexible-reimbursement program to classified salaried employees working between 20 to 31 hours per week (50 to 79 percent). This group of employees also has the option to payroll-deduct their health-insurance premium (pre-taxed), but the employer makes no contribution on the premium.

A letter will be mailed out in June to this new group of eligible classified staff members advising them of their eligibility for enrollment in the health-insurance plan and the flexible-reimbursement program. The open-enrollment period will be from June 1 through July 30. Enrollment forms received in the Benefits Office on or before July 1 will be effective July 1, 2004. Enrollment forms received between July 2 and July 30, will be effective August 1, 2004. New hires and current employees who become eligible will be required to enroll in benefits within 31 days of their date of employment or the date they become eligible.

CNS deploying more wireless service

Communications Network Services (CNS) has operated a pilot Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) service in selected buildings for students, faculty and staff members. Over the summer, CNS will further deploy wireless service throughout the majority of the Blacksburg campus's academic and administrative buildings, such that by the beginning of the 2004

fall semester, it will be available in most of these buildings.

CNS wireless site surveyors are conducting radio-frequency measurements in academic and administrative buildings, which will be followed by installation of cables and wireless access points. The date the university's WLAN service will be activated in any given building has not yet been established, although the goal is to have it in operation by the coming fall semester. Information about Virginia Tech's WLAN service is available on the web at <http://www.cns.vt.edu/html/wireless/wlan/>.

Children sought to participate in research project

Children between seven and 13 years old are being sought to participate in a research project run through the Child Study Center, Department of Psychology. The project has been conducted for several semesters.

The project is designed to study emotional reactions in seven-to-13 year-old children who may or may not have emotional or behavioral problems such as depressed mood, anxiety, conduct/oppositional problems, or attentional difficulties. Children do not need to exhibit these problems to be in the study. The project will lead to a better understanding of why some children develop these kinds of problems.

Children will be asked to go to the Emotion Regulation Laboratory located at the Psychological Services Center, 3110 Prices Fork Road. Families will receive \$50 for participation in the study (\$40 for the parent/child who come to the clinic, and \$10 for the other parent who completes questionnaires). Call the Emotion Regulation Laboratory at 1-2053 for more information about the study or to schedule an appointment.

Early Childhood Education Conference slated

"Shining Stars: Charting the Future of Today's Children," a day-long conference for those who instruct preschoolers with and without disabilities in educational, home, and daycare settings, will be held July 13, at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, and July 15, at the Holiday Inn (Interstate 64 and Broad Street) in Richmond.

The conference will assist early-childhood educators, early intervention specialists, Head Start, Title I, and Even Start providers; childcare providers, and families across the state.

Registration for the conference, which includes a \$35 fee that covers lunch and conference materials, should be submitted by June 30, and can be completed on line at <http://www.conted.vt.edu/shiningstars/index.html>. For more information, contact Elizabeth Schroder at 1-3144 or eschrode@vt.edu, or Jane Todd at 1-2014 or janetodd@vt.edu.

Vet Med research symposium examines obesity issue

By Jeffrey S. Douglas

The health risks obesity poses to people and pets will be examined during a special seminar that kicks off the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine's (VMRCVM) 16th-annual research symposium on June 17-18 in VMRCVM room 102.

Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Graduate School Dean Karen Depauw will present a keynote address entitled "Transformative Graduate Education" before the special seminar on obesity gets under way at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 17.

Chaired by Craig Thatcher, professor and head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at VMRCVM, the seminar

will feature remarks from a variety of university and guest researchers on June 17. Highlights include:

Janet Walberg Rankin, interim director of the Institute for Biomedical and Public Health Sciences, will present a talk on "New Approaches to Research at Virginia Tech: Institute for Biomedical and Public Health Sciences" at 9 a.m.

Pamela E. Starke-Reed, deputy director of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, will present an overview of NIH obesity research at 9:15 a.m.

John C. Peters, director of Proctor & Gamble's Nutrition Science Institute will

present "Social Change and Obesity Prevention: Where Do We Begin?" at 9:45 a.m.

Dottie Laflamme, a veterinary nutrition communications specialist with Nestle Purina Pet-Care PTC will present "Feline Diabetes: A Model for Human Type II Diabetes" at 10:15 a.m.

Kevin P. Davy, associate professor of human nutrition, foods, and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, will present "Obesity and Hypertension: Two Epidemics or One?" at 10:45 a.m.

Korinne Saker, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, will present "Obesity: A Growing Concern for

Companion Animals" at 11:15 a.m.

Following the obesity seminar, the two-day research symposium will continue with the traditional graduate-student presentation competition. Eighteen presentations providing glimpses of some of the major research programs under way in the college will be featured.

Graduate students and VMRCVM faculty members will make an additional 25 research presentations when the symposium continues on Friday, June 18. An awards luncheon/ceremony will be held at noon on Friday.

For more information, contact Kirsten Murphie at 1-3528.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Promotion, Tenure, Continued Appointment, and Administrative Promotion Listing 2003-2004

Provost Mark McNamee, the University Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the University Promotion and Continued Appointment Committee have recommended the following candidates for promotion, tenure, continued appointment, or administrative promotion. President Charles Steger concurred and presented these recommendations to the Board of Visitors on June 7. The Board of Visitors approved the following actions:

Promotion with Tenure to Associate Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Amy E. Bell, electrical and computer engineering; James M. Berkson, fisheries and wildlife sciences; Daniel Breslau, science and technology in society; Sean G. Corcoran, materials science and engineering; Samuel R. Cook, interdisciplinary studies; Harry J. Dankowicz, engineering science and mechanics; Luiz A. DaSilva, electrical and computer engineering; John J. Donovan, psychology; James M. Dubinsky, English; Alnoor S. Ebrahim, School of Public and International Affairs, urban affairs and planning; Stephen H. Edwards, computer science; Joseph D. Eifert, food science and technology; Michael W. Ellis, mechanical engineering; Edward T. Ewing, history; Jessica A. Folkart, foreign languages and literatures; Scott P. Greiner, animal and poultry science; David Hicks, teaching and learning; Matthias G. Imhof, geosciences; Sharon P. Johnson, foreign languages and literatures; Jeanceleste M. Kampe, engineering fundamentals; Otto I. Lanz, small animal clinical sciences; Edwin E. Lewis, entomology; Shirley Luckhart, biochemistry; Parameswarakuma Mallikarjunan, biological systems engineering; John R. Morris, chemistry; Sanjay Raman, electrical and computer engineering; Binoy Ravindran, electrical and computer engineering; Jesse J. Richardson Jr., School of Public and International Affairs, urban affairs and planning; Korinn E. Saker, large animal clinical sciences; Sherry Schofield-Tomschin, apparel, housing, and resource management; Jill C. Sible, biology; James A. Spotila, geosciences; Ann M. Stevens, biology; John C. Tedesco, communication; Zhijian (Jake) Tu, biochemistry; Kevin E. Van Cott, chemical engineering; Bradley A. Whitney, interior design, School of Architecture+Design; Christopher W. Zobel, business information technology.

Promotion with Tenure to Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Dwight Viehland, materials science and engineering. Tenure at the Currently Held Rank of Associate Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Marilyn Casto, interior design, School of Architecture+Design; Ronald M. Lewis, animal and poultry sciences; William D. Nichols, teaching and learning; Sean F. O'Keefe, food science and

technology.

Tenure at the Currently Held Rank of Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Alan J. Brown, aerospace and ocean engineering; Brett M. Tyler, plant pathology, physiology, and weed science.

Promotion to Professor, Collegiate Faculty

Wallace M. Aust, forestry; Richard V. Broadstone, small animal clinical sciences; Ruby H. Cox, human nutrition, foods, and exercise; Mark V. Crisman, large animal clinical sciences; Susan E. Duncan, food science and technology; Michael J. Ellerbrock, agricultural and applied economics; Joseph F. Eska, English; Alfred L. Hammett, wood science and forest products; Michael Jahncke, food science and technology; Jih (Jason) S. Lai, electrical and computer engineering; Donald J. Leo, mechanical engineering; John C. Little, civil and environmental engineering; Brian J. Love, materials science and engineering; James R. Martin, civil and environmental engineering; John B. Phillips, biology; Dean F. Stauffer, fisheries and wildlife sciences; Mark A. Widdowson, civil and environmental engineering; Jay H. Williams, human nutrition, foods, and exercise.

Continued Appointment with Promotion to Associate Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Nancy H. Seamans, University Libraries.

Continued Appointment at the Currently Held Rank of Assistant Professor, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Althea Aschmann, University Libraries.

Administrative Promotion to Extension Agent, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Jennifer Abel, VCE—Arlington, Northern District; Michelle Adcock, VCE—Montgomery, Southwest District; Traci Gilland, VCE—Portsmouth, Southeast District; Donna Hamm, VCE—Smyth, Southwest District; Andy Overbay, VCE—Wythe, Southwest District; Crystal Peek, VCE—Washington, Southwest District; James Scott Reiter, VCE—Campbell, Central District; Stuart Sutphin, VCE—Danville, Central District; Mary E. Williams, VCE—Clarke, Northern District; James Willis, VCE—Russell, Southwest District.

Administrative Promotion to Extension Senior Agent, Extra-Collegiate Faculty

Johanna Hahn, VCE—Newport News, Northeast District; Jim Orband, VCE—York County, Northeast District.

Colleges select first Excellence in Outreach Award winners

By Susan B. Felker

Virginia Tech's colleges have named winners of the first annual College Awards for Outreach Excellence.

The awards, made possible through funding from Outreach and International Affairs, recognize the efforts of faculty members who have made outstanding

contributions in "putting knowledge to work" for the benefit of constituencies outside the university.

This year's winners are Ted Koebel and Carole Kuhns Station, who share the award from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies; LuAnn Gaskill, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences; Audrey Zink-Sharp,

College of Natural Resources; Howard Feiertag, Pamplin College of Business; and Russell Jones, College of Science.

The winners, each of whom received a \$500 cash award and a plaque, were honored at the Commission on Outreach and International Affairs meeting last month.

Career Services

moving to new location

By Donna Ratcliffe

Virginia Tech Career Services will be closed June 24 and 25 to move from Henderson Hall to its new location on the corner of Washington Street and West Campus Drive. The office will be open in the new building June 28.

Situated with the Student Services Building, West End Market and Dietrick Dining Hall nearby, the building is also in close proximity to a number of residence halls, including Harper, Ambler Johnston and Cochrane halls.

Career Services assists students in three key areas: making career decisions, gaining experience through internships or cooperative education positions, and preparing for a job search or graduate school. In addition to students, Career Services works closely with employers in assisting them in meeting their hiring needs and with alumni in assisting them with finding positions, changing careers and serving as a career resource to other alumni and students.

With two stories of almost 22,000 square feet of air-conditioned space solely dedicated to Career Services, there will be space for interviews, employer-information sessions, meetings, career-development classes, a career-resource library, computer lab and staff offices. The space for on-campus interviews has grown by 40 percent with each of the 32 rooms wired for Ethernet connections.

Members of the campus community are invited to stop by the new facility for a tour.

EMPLOYMENT

For more information on all faculty and classified-staff positions, see www.jobs.vt.edu.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

Editor
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News Bureau Manager
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Letters to the editor and questions for "Ask *Spectrum*" should be addressed to the editor, 101 Media Building, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061. *Electronic Spectrum*: <http://www.spectrum.vt.edu>

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INSTRUCTIONAL
Dairy Science. Assistant Professor.
Aerospace and Ocean Engineering.
Assistant, Associate or Full Professor.
Small Animal Clinical Sciences.

Veterinary Medicine. Assistant or Associate Professor.

Biological Systems Engineering.
Assistant or Associate Professor.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
University Development. Director of Foundation Relations.

University Honors Program.
Assistant Director.

Student Programs/Residence Life.
Associate Director of Residence Life/
Complex for Oak Lane Community.

Biomedical Science. Post Doctoral.
Animal and Poultry Sciences. Post Doctoral.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute.
Research Communications Officer.

Virginia Tech Athletics. Assistant Swim Coach.

Virginia Tech Athletics. Assistant

Men's Basketball Coach (Third Assistant).

Northern District Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent. 4-H Youth Development. Alexandria.

Northern District Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent. 4-H Youth Development. Richmond.

Northern District Cooperative Extension. Animal Science. Louisa County.

Northern District Cooperative Extension. Animal Science. Albermarle County.

Central Cooperative Extension. Animal Science. Pittsylvania County.
Central Cooperative Extension.

Extension Agent. 4-H Youth Development. Lunenburg County.

Northwest District. Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent. 4-H Youth Development. Rockbridge County.

Southeast District. Cooperative Extension. Extension Agent, Crop/Soil Sciences. Greensville County.

INSTITUTE

Continued from 1

leadership have been an inspiration to all of us who are working to make it a stunning success," said Timothy V. Franklin, executive director of the IALR and Virginia Tech's outreach director for Southside programs. "On this historic day, allow me to extend heartfelt congratulations from the institute and all its

partners to the Southside people for seizing the day and shaping the destiny of this region for generations to come."

The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research was established to develop and attract technology and talent critical to Southside Virginia's economic transformation through strategic research, advanced learning, and technology transfer, institute conference-

center activities, IALR outreach programs, and technology-infrastructure development.

IALR is part of a comprehensive strategy for Southside Virginia supported by Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. The institute is now officially in its new location at 150 Slayton Avenue in Danville.

More information is available at www.ialr.org.

Puri to head Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics

By Lynn A. Nystrom

Ishwar K. Puri, professor of mechanical engineering and executive associate dean of engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will become the head of Virginia Tech's Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics August 1.

"Dr. Puri has worked with some of the strongest mechanics groups in the world," said Hassan Aref, dean of the College of Engineering. "His enthusiasm for his new job and the tasks at hand has been infectious to the point where I sometimes forget that he is not already here."

Puri obtained his bachelor's degree in

mechanical engineering in 1982 from the University of Delhi. He received his master's degree and Ph. D. in engineering science from the University of California at San Diego in 1984 and in 1987, respectively.

He served as assistant research engineer at the University of California, San Diego from 1987 until 1990. He then moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) as assistant professor of mechanical engineering. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1994, and to full professor in 1999.

At UIC, he directed the mechanical and industrial engineering graduate programs from 1994 until 1997, and again during the 1999-

2000 academic year. He served as the associate dean for research and graduate studies the following year, and as executive associate dean of engineering from 2001 until 2004. He was on the steering committee of the UIC Institute for Environmental Studies and headed UIC's micro- and nanotechnology initiatives.

Puri has conducted research through major grants from NASA, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Illinois, the natural-gas industry, and other industry. He established a European-US consortium to conduct engineering-

student exchanges at the undergraduate and graduate levels that was funded through the US Department of Education FIPSE program.

He is the author of over 180 archival and conference publications in the field of combustion. He has edited a book on the environmental implications of combustion processes, and a textbook on advanced thermodynamics.

Puri is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He succeeds Norm Dowling who has served as the interim department head during the international search.

Extension agent helps children to save bay dune

By Lynn Davis

Jeffrey Kirwan, associate professor of forestry and Extension specialist in the College of Natural Resources, has been advising students and teachers at Ocean View Elementary School in Norfolk to save what appears to be the last mature dune in Norfolk on the southern shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

Kirwan first visited Ocean View Elementary through Project Learning Tree, in which he visited elementary schools across the state to do tree inventories and set up tree lists on the web for students to participate in tree-identification activities. Students and teachers at Ocean View asked Kirwan on his visit there if he could help to save the dune located near

the school.

Following Kirwan's advice, the teachers and students at Ocean View and at nearby Willoughby Elementary contacted local authorities for assistance in saving the dune. Their work resulted in the Norfolk Environmental Commission recommending a 6.5-acre parcel, known locally as the "Sand Hills" to be permanently protected by city-council action.

The dune, which has an elevation of 70 to 85 feet, also has historic significance. Some of the trees on the site were present at the time of the Sarah Constant landfall and are the only living things that can provide a linkage between the past and present. The first settlers of Jamestown landed there.

administrators were honored with emeritus or emerita status. The promotions of more than 60 faculty members were approved.

In its final action, the board adopted officers for the coming academic year electing Ben Davenport of Danville as rector and Jacob Lutz of Richmond, as vice-rector.

Full details of board materials and actions can be viewed on line at <http://www.bov.vt.edu>.

The next Board of Visitors meeting will be August 22-23.

Human Sciences Task Force. Earlier this year, she was appointed to the Secretary of Energy's national Energy Advisory Board as a representative of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

Sobrero earned her bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University, her master's from the University of Maryland, and her doctorate from Vanderbilt University. She will assume her new position July 1.

BOARD

Continued from 1

80 new faculty lines in the coming fiscal year.

The board also approved the creation of clinical-track faculty ranks within the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The new ranks will give the college greater flexibility in hiring faculty members who teach, conduct research, and work in the teaching hospital.

Four university professors and

SOBRERO

Continued from 1

accessible programs for diverse learners.

"The breadth of her background in education, leadership, administration, external relations, organizational learning, and program development will strengthen Extension and the college," Quisenberry said. "In the future, we must closely align the educational outreach expertise of Extension together with teaching and research to address problems that face society. With her leadership, Virginia Cooperative Extension can reach new heights in meeting the needs of the citizens of Virginia."

From 1991 to 1999, Sobrero was associate dean at the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. From 1985 to 1991, she served as associate district supervisor in the Middle Tennessee Extension District. She also has experience as a teacher and administrator in the public schools.

She serves on the Strategic Direction Council of the national Extension Committee on Organization and Policy. Sobrero also serves on the committee's Health, Nutrition, and Wellness Committee, on the Expanded Food and Nutrition Task Force, and the Health and

Students aid emergency-assistance program

By Kimberle Badinelli

Because of the contributions of Virginia Tech students, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) will be able to provide support to thousands of individuals and families in Montgomery County. More than \$8,000 was collected during the fourth-annual Flex Out Hunger program coordinated by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity and Virginia Tech's Office of Student Programs. Students were given an opportunity to use their dining plans to purchase grocery certificates for the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.

"The funds raised through the Flex Out Hunger food drive go a long way in restocking our food bank, which is always in need," said Phil Pappas, president of MCEAP. "The Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program provides emergency assistance to individuals and families who for reasons beyond their control are temporarily unable to provide for themselves. MCEAP appreciates the generosity of the Virginia

Tech students for helping to meet the food needs of those less fortunate."

Flex Out Hunger donation tables staffed by Sigma Alpha Epsilon students were set up outside of all the major dining centers in May. Students were asked to complete a donation form and take it to a designated cashier to have their donation subtracted from their dining plan. Everyone who made a donation was also entered into a drawing for various door prizes donated by local businesses.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon started the Flex Out Hunger program four years ago, with the goal to provide an easy way for Virginia Tech students to donate money to the local community. Over the past four years, Virginia Tech students have donated more than \$41,000 to MCEAP through this program.

"The Flex Out Hunger Program was again a win/win/win situation for the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, for students and the SAE fraternity, and for the Office of Student Programs," said Edward Spencer, assistant vice president for student affairs.

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Continued from 1

remarkable social achievement in science," said Daniel Morrow, executive director of the Computerworld Honors Program. "The materials submitted on behalf of Virginia Tech will enrich the program's growing collection on the Information Age and help build an accurate record of the truly outstanding achievements being made in these remarkable times."

Virginia Tech built "a world-class supercomputer to tackle fundamental, grand-challenge problems in computational science and engineering. While supercomputers have been invaluable, their high cost of often tens to hundreds of millions of dollars has limited their deployment to a few national facilities. The goal of the Virginia Tech project was to develop novel computing architectures that reduce their cost, time to build, and

maintenance complexity. As a result, institutions with relatively modest budgets can now afford to build a premier supercomputer," said Hassan Aref, dean of the College of Engineering.

The engineering college collaborated with the university's Information Technology group to build the supercomputer.

As the cluster was being built, the university named Srinidhi Varadarajan, an assistant professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, the director of Tech's new Terascale Computing Facility. Jason Lockhart, also of the College of Engineering, and Kevin Shinpaugh of information technology were named associate directors. Pat Arvin, associate vice president for information technology, and Glenda Scales, associate dean for research computing and distance learning in the College of Engineering, provided the overall direction for the project that included some 160 student volunteers.

System X is going through an upgrade process, wherein the nodes that comprise the supercomputer are being replaced by the Xserve G5 server platform. This upgrade has several advantages. It reduces the size of the supercomputer by a factor of three, consuming significantly less power than its predecessor. It generates less heat thereby reducing the cooling requirements. The upgrade adds automatic error correcting memory that can recover from transient bit errors. Finally, it has significant hardware monitoring capabilities—line voltages, fan speeds, communications—that allow real-time analysis of the health of the system.

Virginia Tech's partners for building System X were Apple, Mellanox, Cisco, and Liebert.

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