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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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The Founders Day
Convocation begins
at 3 p.m. today in
Burruss Auditorium.

Giacco, Grado receive Alumni Distinguished Service Awards today

By Kelly Corace and Courtney O'Hara,
University Relations interns

The growth and development of Virginia Tech as a major research university is due in large measure to the active support of the university's alumni. In honor of the numerous contributions that Alexander F. Giacco and John Grado have made to the betterment of the nation and Virginia Tech, the Alumni Association has recognized them with the 2002 Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

The awards will be presented to Giacco and Grado today at the Founders Day Convocation, which begins at 3 p.m. in Burruss Auditorium.

After graduating from Virginia Tech in 1942 with a B.S. in chemical engineering, Giacco began his 45-year career with Hercules, Inc. He served as the company's president from 1977 to 1987 and chairman of the board from 1980 until his retirement in 1987. The *Wall Street Transcript* dubbed Giacco "The Chemical Industry's Outstanding Chief Executive Officer" in 1984.



GIACCO

Since leaving Hercules, he has served as president and CEO of Rheometric Scientific Inc., and chairman and CEO of HIMONT Inc. He is currently managing director of Axess Corp.

Giacco's achievements have earned several honorary doctorates from universities



GRADO

throughout the U.S. He also has been honored by the nation of his birth—in 1985, the Italian government conferred a title of honor, *Commendatore*, the country's highest civilian commendation. In 1987 he was elected to membership in the prestigious National Academy of Engineering.

In addition to his corporate career, Giacco served as a member of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors from 1979 to 1987 and was rector of the board for the last three years of his term. During the university's national "Campaign for Excellence," which generated more than \$108 million dollars in less than three years, he chaired the Corporate and Foundation Gifts Committee. He was inducted into the College of Engineering's Academy of Engineering Excellence in 2000 and is a member of the college's Committee of 100.

After Giacco retired from Hercules, the company established the Alexander F. Giacco Presidential Chair at Virginia Tech with a \$1-million endowment. The Alexander F. Giacco Engineering Scholarship Fund was subsequently established through his support. In 1989, he received the University Distinguished Achievement Award for "significant achievement of enduring significance to society."

"Just as Al Giacco has played a vital

(See SERVICE AWARDS on 3)

Kraft selected 2002 Ruffner Medal recipient

By Lynn Nystrom

When Christopher C. Kraft Jr. won the 1999 National Space Trophy from Rotary International, the group described him as "a driving force in the U.S. human space flight program from its beginnings to the Space Shuttle era, a man whose accomplishments have become legendary."

In honor of his distinguished service to science and the nation, the Board of Visitors has awarded him the 2002 William H. Ruffner Medal, the university's highest honor.

"Virginia Tech is truly honored to count

among its esteemed alumni Dr. Christopher C. Kraft," President Charles Steger said. "He has provided vision and leadership in his service to the university on the Board of Visitors in addition to his support for Alumni Center Campaign, the Class of '45 Campaign and the College of Engineering Committee of 100."

Kraft was instrumental in the decision to land an astronaut on the moon. He led the planning and operational control of programs from the two sub-orbital Mercury missions through Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, and the Apollo Soyuz/test project. He was deeply involved in

the development of the Space Shuttle. During its definition and design studies, he played a vital role in the decision-making process that created the Space Shuttle program, and he determined the initial configuration of the Space Shuttle

(See KRAFT on 3)



KRAFT

Restructuring may lead to college consortia

By Clara B. Cox

The grouping of several colleges into "consortia of colleges," defined by Provost Mark McNamee as "a group of colleges that shares common approaches to accomplishing goals in one or more of the university's missions," is among the proposals that have emerged during the university's examination of restructuring.

In a letter to faculty and staff members on Monday, McNamee provided a progress report that summarizes the "current state" of the restructuring discussions. The report, available on line at <http://www.provost.vt.edu/restructuring.html>, outlines six broad areas of recommendations designed to "maximize our effectiveness in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members, students, and staff members as part of the effort to expand the scholarly environment appropriate for a top-30 university."

One recommendation would expand the Pamplin College of Business to include the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management. In another recommendation, the College of Architecture and Urban Studies could add part or all of the School of the Arts, the interior-design component of Near Environments, and, for administrative purposes, the School for Public and International Affairs.

(See RESTRUCTURING on 4)

Roy Graduate Commencement speaker

By Julie Kane

Lucinda Roy will be the keynote speaker for Graduate Commencement on May 10, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Cassell Coliseum.

Roy is alumni distinguished professor in English and director of creative writing at Virginia Tech. In May, she will assume the position of chair of the English Department. She served as an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences from 1993-1996, and was the Gloria D. Smith professor in black studies from 1997-1999. In 1992, she was the Margaret Bundy Scott professor of English at Williams College in Massachusetts. Roy has taught in Africa, England, and the United States, and frequently gives presentations throughout the country on creative writing, higher education, and diversity.

A recipient of several teaching awards,

including the university-wide Alumni Award for Teaching Excellence, Roy was co-founder of the Service-Learning program at Virginia Tech and has authored a number of successful grants in support of on-line course development and diversity initiatives.

She has published two novels, *Lady Moses* and *The Hotel Alleluia*, and two collections of poetry. Her poetry collection, *The Humming Birds*, won the 1994 Eighth Mountain Poetry Prize. She received her B.A. (honors) in English from King's College, London, and her M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Arkansas. In May 2000, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of Richmond.

Currently, she is at work on her third poetry collection, her third novel, and a series of oil paintings in which she reinterprets the trials of the "middle passage."

Alexander's Fulbright to fund teaching materials on China

By Jean Elliott

M. David Alexander, chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, has been awarded funding from the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program. The grant will fund 15 educators and administrators from Virginia Tech, Western Kentucky University and three Virginia public-school systems, for a four-week study tour in the People's Republic of China.

"Our goal is to develop curriculum materials about China that will enhance current programs within the K-12 districts and the offerings within the universities," Alexander said.

Consisting of a series of seminars, field

(See FULBRIGHT on 4)

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 26

Founders Day, 3 p.m., Burruss auditorium.

TA Event, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theater: "Radon!" (Through 4-27).

Saturday, 27

New River Valley Symphony, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium.

YMCA Hike, 10 a.m., YMCA Parking Lot.

Virginia Museum of Natural History Event, 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday Science: Flowers and Plants.

SOTA Event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., PAB: open auditions for Blacksburg Summer Arts Festival.

Sunday, 28

SOTA Event, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Faculty Recital.

Wednesday, 1

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.

Classes End.

Family, Work/Life Resources Program, noon to 1 p.m., DBHCC conference room G.

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

SOTA Event, 8 p.m., Burruss auditorium: Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*.

Thursday, 2

Reading Day.

SOTA Event, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Faculty Recital.

Friday, 3

Exams Begin.

SEMINARS

Friday, 26

Highlands in Chemistry, 11:15 a.m., 3 Davidson: Chris Walsh, Harvard Medical School.

MCBB, 12:20 to 1:10 p.m., Fralin auditorium: George Bloom, UVa.

STS, 4 p.m., 132 Lane: Michael Klein.

Monday, 29

Horticulture, 4 p.m., 409 Saunders: Lisa Kelk.

Wednesday, 1

ESM, 4 p.m., 136 Norris: Andrew Hood, U.S. State Department.

Wednesday, 8

Human Development, 7 p.m., Wallace atrium: Shirley S. Travis, UNC—Charlotte.

BULLETINS

SCC announces last assistance day

The last day to request assistance from the Statistical Consulting Center is April 26. The center will begin accepting new clients for the summer on May 16.

Shiva program set for April 29

Vandana Shiva, scientist, ecofeminist, and activist, will present a program in the Donaldson Brown auditorium Monday April 29, at 8 p.m.

She is the director of the Research Foundation for Science,

Technology, and Natural Resource Policy in New Delhi, India. She is known for her scholarship in—and work to protect—biological and cultural diversity, traditional agro-ecosystems, and the knowledge and rights of women, indigenous peoples, and peoples of the Third World.

Her visit is sponsored by the Campus Greens at Virginia Tech. Co-sponsors include the departments of Biological Systems Engineering and Political Science, International Club at Virginia Tech, Multidisciplinary Studies, Science and Technology Studies, womanspace, and the Women's Studies Program.

Music department sponsoring Alumni Weekend

The Department of Music is sponsoring the first annual Music Education Alumni Weekend April 26-27.

More than 20 alumni are returning to campus to lead seminars, classes, and conduct ensembles for Tech's undergraduate music-education majors. Music-education faculty, alumni, and undergraduates will participate in a series of seminars and ensemble performances that will bring the real world of public school music education to Tech's undergraduate music-education program. Alumni will experience the latest in music-education theory and technique while undergraduates experience the "real world" of music-education alumni.

Staff and Faculty Annual Fund offers donation options

By Kathleen Pantaleo

Last year, the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund experienced a 45-percent increase in the number of participants from earlier years. Input from staff and faculty members and retired employees resulted in many positive changes, such as the Employees' Spouse and Dependent Scholarship Fund (<http://www.fst.vt.edu/vtsp/>) emerging as a primary focus for the campaign.

This scholarship fund is now highlighted throughout the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund campaign, although many other areas at the university can and do benefit from annual dona-

tions made by Virginia Tech employees.

So that the Staff and Faculty Annual Fund may better meet the expectations of Virginia Tech employees, the following are now offered: on-line giving at <http://www.filebox.vt.edu/univdev/af/>; the option to give collectively for employee groups, and payroll deduction. Employees who contribute at least \$1 per paycheck (\$24) made by June 30, will receive a chance to win drawing for \$400 in airfare.

A new option introduced this year is the opportunity to add to the Presidential Dependent Scholarship Endowment. This endow-

ment—started by President Charles Steger along with past university presidents—ensures that spouses and dependents of employees will always have scholarship opportunities made available to them if they choose to attend Virginia Tech.

In addition to the scholarships already mentioned, current and retired Virginia Tech employees can make a gift to any area of the university. Current and retired Virginia Tech employees can look for a pledge card in the mail on or around May 1.

Engineering freshmen will need laptops this fall

By Karen Gilbert

The computer requirement for engineering freshmen has been changed from a desktop to a laptop to reflect the increased technology needs of students.

"The college is a strong believer in providing useful technologies that will serve our students well while learning at Virginia Tech and prepare them for the next stage in life, entering the workforce," said Glenda Scales, assistant dean for distance learning and computers in the College of Engineering.

About 30 percent of engineering students surveyed by the college's laptop taskforce, which was established to seek broad-based input before deciding on the requirement, reported that they have already switched to a laptop computer out of preference. Students responded that laptops are more convenient and provide quick access to the Internet, e-mail and homework files.

"One of the key things that came out of the survey that interested me was the number of times engineering students return to their dorms or apartments to use the computer," said Tom Walker, associate professor of engineering fundamentals. About two-thirds of students live off campus and these students spend an estimated seven hours a week in wasted travel time going back and forth from classrooms to home for computer use. The need to return home increases the pressure on students to own a car, which compounds the parking problem on campus.

Network plug-in or wireless network access is currently available in certain classrooms and study areas, such as Randolph Hall and Torgersen Hall. "CNS wants the laptop initiative to be successful and understands that ex-

(See ENGINEERING on 4)

Campus beautification competition winners announced

By Sherri Box

Jon Phillips, a business-information-technology major, and Lauren Fisher, a landscape-architecture major, were honored April 20 at the Student Recognition Banquet for winning first place for their submissions to the "Ornament the Cement" competition. The winners will each receive \$500 and a certificate.

The beautification competition began six months ago, and on March 4 a selection jury made up of visiting and university faculty members, administration, and past graduates chose the winners. In October, students were charged with the task of beautifying what has become one of Virginia Tech's main entranceways: the area between Prices Fork Road, West Campus Drive, Perry Street, and Stanger Street.

The competition was designed by the Campus Beautification sub-committee of the Commission on University Support as part of an effort to improve the aesthetics of the campus. Any student organization or full-time student in

the fall 2001 semester was eligible to submit an entry and the submissions were accepted from Oct. 1, 2001 through Feb. 1, 2002.

"Banners on a Campus Lot," Phillip's entry, was described as a simple, yet effective solution to the expanse of the commuter-lot entrance to the university. Phillips designed high-durability, weatherproof banners in orange and maroon, complete with the Virginia Tech emblem, which could be attached to the lighting structures throughout the lot. The banners can be changed for various events, as well as portray the parking designations of each lot. The design provides color, versatility, easy upkeep, and is cost effective.

"Unity in Design," Fisher's entry, proposed building several university-themed structures surrounding a new road entranceway. The road will create a more direct entrance from Prices Fork Road to West Campus Drive and will have a Burruss Hall abstract design made of pylons on the corner of the turn. Drivers approaching campus along Route 460 will see eight pylons

surrounded by Hokie stone, each with a college seal cast in bronze. As a final design element, Fisher included a screening wall along Prices Fork Road lines with trees to hide the commuter lot. Her design combines campus landmarks and insignia into an aesthetically pleasing landmark entrance.

The entries were judged upon their innovative and creative use of construction, landscape, and design elements; successful integration of the design into the existing environment and architectural style; comprehensiveness and thoroughness of submitted design; and feasibility and practical implementation. Submissions also had to include a visual representation of the idea and a design essay.

Honorable mention was awarded to Michelle McLeese for "Ornament in the Cement Project," and special mentions were awarded to Jeremy Richa for "VT West Campus Design Competition," and Alison Thorne for "A Vision in Motion."

EMPLOYMENT

CLASSIFIED POSITIONS

The following classified positions are currently available. Position details, specific application procedures/position-closing dates may be found on Personnel Services web site <http://www.ps.vt.edu>. Positions are also listed on the Job Line, a 24-hour recorded message service. For information on all job listings, call 1-5300. Some positions include state benefits. Positions with numbers beginning with "W" are hourly and do not include state benefits. Individuals with disabilities desiring assistance or accommodation in the application process should call by the application deadline. Closing date for advertised positions is 1 p.m. Monday. An EO/AA employer committed to diversity.

FULL TIME

One full-time food-service position available.

Assistant Manager, 000561H, PB 3, RDP.
Electrician, 001050F, PB 3, Physical Plant.
Graduate Enrollment Specialist, 001846G, PB 3, ESM.
Graduate Program Coordinator, 001092G, PB 3, Math.

Housekeeping Worker, 007324C, PB 1, Physical Plant.

Human Resources Specialist, 007570D, PB 4, Personnel Services.

Laboratory Specialist, 007944M, PB 3, Biochemistry.

Laboratory Technician, 007945G, PB 2, CVM.

Large Animal Veterinary Technician, 001996M, PB 4, VTH.

Office Services Specialist, 001286S, PB 2, Purchasing.

Office Services Specialist, 007283G, PB 2, ECE.

Phototypesetting Specialist, 000601A, PB 3, Printing Services.

Practical Nurse, 001776J, PB 3, SHC.

Radiologic Technologist, 002394M, PB 3, VTH.

Technical Operations Assistant, 007940J, PB 2, VTTI.

TV/Media Systems Engineer, 000196A, PB 4, VBS.

Web Designer, 007510A, PB 4, BEV.

Webmaster, 007943Y, PB 4, VBI.

PART TIME

Laboratory Technician Senior, W022172M, PB 2, VTH.

Large Animal Husbandry, W022155M, PB 1, VTH.

Program Coordinator, W023168J, PB 3, CDAC.

Program Support Technician, 004570M, PB 3, CSES.

Radiologic Technologist, W022412M, PB 3, VTH.

Security Guard, W020470Y, PB 1, Police.

Switchboard Operator, W022101A, PB 2, CNS.

Switchboard Operator, W020821M, PB 2, VTH.

Veterinary Technician, W023340M, PB 4, VTH.

OFF CAMPUS

Nursing Supervisor, 000606M, PB 3, CVM—EMC.

Office Manager, 007796Y, PB 3, IALR.

Operating Room Supervisor, 007377M, PB 3, CVM—EMC.

Research Specialist, 007942J, PB 3, VTTI.

Secretary Senior, 002089R, PB 2, NVC.

Wildlife Worker, 006638G, PB 2, Biology.

FACULTY POSITIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Department of Educational Leadership

Policy Studies. Assistant/Associate Professor in Counselor Education. (CACREP-accredited program.) Contact: Mary Whitlock, College of Human Resources and Education, 103 War Memorial Hall (0317), Blacksburg, VA 24061. Review begins May 16.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

University Development. Director of Development Communications. Contact: Rhonda K. Arsenault, Assistant Vice President for Advancement Services, Office of University Development, 201 Pack Building, Mail Code (0336), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

Metropolitan Institute, College of Architecture and Urban Studies. Senior Project Associate. Contact: Robert E. Lang, Director, Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech, 1101 King Street, Suite 612, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Women's Center. Program Coordinator. Contact: Program Coordinator Search Committee, Women's Center at Virginia Tech, Price House, Stanger St. (0270), Blacksburg, VA 24061-0279. Review begins May 20.

Virginia Public Service Week set

Later this month, Governor Mark Warner will announce the observation of Virginia Public Service Week (VPSW) for May 6-12. This year's theme is "Proudly Serving Virginians."

VPSW is an opportunity to reward and recognize employees for their hard work and dedication to the state and raise public awareness of the contributions state employees make every day. In addition to supporting VPSW, Virginia Tech provides many university employee award and recognition programs in the spring and fall, including Staff Appreciation Day, scheduled for the week following Virginia Public Service Week.

The state-wide program will recognize employees through Governor's Awards. The

Virginia Public Service Steering Committee, a state-level committee, will review all entries and the selected employees will be honored at a ceremony during that week. Because of the short time frame for VPSW, the university will submit the names of the fall 2001 winners of the President's Award for Excellence for several Governor's Awards. The five university nominees are Penny Cook, Jessie Eaves, Tom Head, Christopher Peters, and Sally Stafford.

Thirty-five employees from state agencies will be randomly selected by the state's Department of Human Resource Management to participate in the Governor's Award ceremony as employee ambassadors to thank award recipients on behalf of other employees.

SERVICE AWARDS

Continued from 1

role nationally in the chemical industry, he has also given Virginia Tech the benefit of his renowned executive talents," said Malcolm McPherson, interim dean of the College of Engineering. "His leadership on the Board of Visitors during a time of growth and change was a major force in bolstering the university's substance and status."

Grado entered Virginia Tech at the age of 16 and a year later he interrupted his studies to enlist in the U.S. Navy for two-year stint during World War II. He then returned to the university and received his degree in industrial engineering in 1951.

His early work led to a career in the paper and printing business. In 1956 George Wallace, then president of Fitchburg (Massachusetts)

Paper Co., offered Grado a job as chief industrial engineer. Grado soon became president of Fitchburg's Decotone Division and eventually executive vice-president of the parent company.

When Litton Industries bought Fitchburg Paper in 1967, Grado—then only 35 years old—was made the corporate vice-president of Litton. In 1983 he bought the company from Litton, renamed it Technographics and moved the world headquarters to Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Grado's entrepreneurial talents made Technographics a resounding success. In 1999 he sold the company and retired from corporate life.

His generosity to Virginia Tech includes endowment of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE), which became the Grado Department in 2000. He also has endowed the John Grado Professorship and a scholarship fund that supports 19 students annually.

Grado is a member of the College of Engineering's Committee of 100 and is an inductee of Virginia Tech's *Ut Prosim* Society. He has served on ISE's Advisory Board and is a member of its Academy of Distinguished Alumni. He also has served on the Virginia Tech Foundation Board and the board of the Corporate Research Center. He has been honored with the University Distinguished Alumni Award and election to the College of Engineering's Academy of Engineering Excellence, and he has received ISE's Agee Distinguished Alumni Award.

"He started as a student who didn't have anything and now he has given so much back to Virginia Tech students," said ISE student Heather Rae Danforth, a recipient of a Grado Scholarship.

KRAFT

Continued from 1

system, a new concept in space transportation. Kraft was the director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, from January 1972 to August 1982.

Kraft was born in 1924, two years before American physicist Robert Goddard launched the first liquid-fueled rocket. Graduating in 1944 with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, he immediately joined the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the precursor of NASA.

In 1958, Kraft was selected as one of the original members of the Space Task Group, the organization established to manage the Project Mercury. The group developed the basic concepts of the Mercury Project that launched the human space flight program for the United States. He personally served as the flight director for all of the Mercury missions and many of the Gemini missions.

Kraft retired from NASA in 1982. In a tribute to his career at the time, the Roanoke Times editorialized that he "epitomized the space age...he probably instilled more confidence in our space program than any slick campaign could have done, because of his knowledge and ability to impart it."

Since his retirement, Kraft has consulted

for Rockwell International, IBM, and a number of other companies. A brief listing of his many honors include membership in the prestigious National Academy of Engineering, the International Academy of Astronautics of the International Astronautical Association, and the Aerospace Medical Association.

Among his awards, he received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal from the president of the United States in 1963, the Spirit of St. Louis Medal from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) in 1965, the Virginian of the Year Award from the Virginia Press Association in 1967, the ASME Medal in 1973, and the Goddard Memorial Trophy from the National Space Club in 1979. He also received the NASA Distinguished Service Medal, the highest NASA award, four times.

Staff Appreciation Day
 is
May 15,
from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
in Rector Field house.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Editor

John Ashby, 1-6961

News Bureau Manager

Sherri Box, 1-8508

Production Manager

Melinda Shaver, 1-8524

Business Manager

1-8819

Web/Editorial Assistant

Sherri Songer, 1-2522

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

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HTM educators among most influential

By Jean Elliott

Three Virginia Tech faculty members were ranked among the top five educators in a citation analysis, according to the most recent issue of the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education*.

Michael Olsen, Pam Weaver and Ken McCleary ranked third, fourth, and fifth, respectively in an "Update of Hospitality Management Education's Most Influential Scholars: A Citation Analysis 1989-1999."

A citation analysis is the time-consuming process of counting the number of times any publication or researcher has been cited in "main articles" in peer-reviewed journals. In this case, the five major hospitality-management education journals were used: the *Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly*, the *FIU Hospitality Review*, the *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education*, and the *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research*. Main articles are the major pieces of a journal and do not include book reviews or reports on working papers. Each reference appearing in a main article is logged in a database.

No self-citations are counted and authors are counted only once per main article, regardless of the number of times cited within that article.

The field was led by a retired scholar, Robert Lewis, with 142 citations, followed by

a UNLV professor with 141 citations. The only other scholars with a minimum of 100 citations are all Virginia Tech faculty members: Olsen (122), Weaver (106), and McCleary (101). Besides having an impact on their field over time, the trio also ranked third, fourth and fifth in most recent citation activity (1997-99): Olsen (54), McCleary (52), and Weaver (47). Virginia Tech's Muzaffer Uysal ranked 27th with 16 citations—despite his focus on tourism being featured more widely in other journals.

Virginia Tech's overall impact on the hospitality industry is also evidenced by the fact that eight VT HTM doctoral graduates ranked among the top-60 in the 1989-99 citation analysis.

"Overall, Virginia Tech ranked second among institutions for cumulative citations," said Brian Mihalik, head of the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM). "I am very impressed with our faculty dedication and am confident that if the research was expanded to the entire tourism field, Dr. Uysal also would have joined Dr. Olsen, Dr. McCleary and Dr. Weaver in the top-ranked faculty. This example of HTM faculty dedication to research further reinforces our departmental commitment to excellence in scholarly activities."

Virginia Tech, which posted 360 citations by six authors, trailed only Cornell in total citations, which posted 455 but had 14 authors.

quire—tables and chairs instead of desks, for improvement in lighting and sound control, and for classroom comfort," Associate Provost Dixon Hanna said. The availability of more electrical receptacles in the classroom will support the use of laptops. About 30 classrooms have been improved so far and the bond funding would provide for the university to update an additional 50 classrooms.

Virginia Tech was the first public university to require its entering engineering students to bring a desktop computer to school. The college has been offering laptops as an option to the computer requirement since 1998.

The cost of a laptop compared to the previously required desktop is approximately \$400 to \$600 higher. Financial-aid guidelines for freshmen engineering students will be adjusted to factor in this cost.

For more information, contact Tom Walker at twalker@vt.edu or visit www.eng.vt.edu/compreq/compreq.html.

economy, geography, customs, and traditions of the Chinese people.

Alexander has extensive international experience, making his first trip to China in 1993 by invitation of the People's Education Press, the largest education press in China responsible for curriculum development and textbook compilation for all elementary and secondary-school children in China. He also led a delegation of 15 educators to China in a similar Fulbright-Hays sponsored grant in 1997.

Wakefield appointed VCHR associate director

By Sarah Newbill

Building Construction Professor Ron Wakefield has been appointed to the new position of associate director for the Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research housed in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. He will continue his duties in the building-construction department while assuming this new role, as well as additional responsibilities in the college.

Wakefield's leadership role in housing technology research is shown most recently through a series of publications he has co-written. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the publications focus on the residential construction site and ways to make the building process and information flow more efficient. These can be found on the HUD web site at <http://www.huduser.org/publications/manufhsg/ircs2.html>.

Center Director Ted Koebel said Wakefield is recognized as both a principal investigator and as a program builder, and looks forward to even greater success with him serving in this

new capacity. "The center has been very successful in accomplishing its mission to improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of housing through research. That success relies entirely on the involvement and leadership of faculty members like Ron Wakefield. Faculty members from the departments of Building Construction and Architecture have developed an impressive agenda of nationally and internationally recognized research on residential construction technology," Koebel said.

Wakefield will assume his new duties at the center in July, along with another appointment as director of the environmental design and planning doctoral program. He holds the William E. Jamerson Professorship of Building Construction and earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia. He has been at Virginia Tech since 1998.

More information about the Center for Housing Research can be found at www.caus.vt.edu/CAUS/RESEARCH/vchr/VCHR.html.

Earth Day Commuter Challenge results in

By Suzanne Ducker,

alternative transportation manager

The first Earth Day Commuter Challenge, sponsored by the Office of Transportation and Blacksburg Transit was held Monday.

The three 'commuters' participating in the challenge at Tall Oaks Circle in Hethwood and Patrick Henry Drive began their trip to Torgersen Hall at 10:45 a.m. The bicyclists were the first to reach Torgersen Hall from both routes. The bus riders were the next and the car drivers were the last to arrive. The bikers rode directly up to Torgersen, locked their bikes at the rack and

checked in; the bus riders rode to the nearest bus stop and walked to Torgersen; and the car drivers drove in, found a parking space and then walked to Torgersen Hall. The following results were obtained on the Patrick Henry Drive to Torgersen Hall, Tom's Creek bus route: bicycle—five minutes, 15 seconds; bus—nine minutes, 15 seconds; car—12 minutes, 53 seconds.

Tall Oaks Circle to Torgersen Hall, Hethwood bus route: bicycle—nine minutes, 2 seconds; bus—15 minutes, 15 seconds; car—16 minutes, 41 seconds.

RESTRUCTURING

Continued from 1

A new College of Biological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences would be created and would join the College of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine under an umbrella "colleges of natural science," which might also include the departments of psychology; economics; and human nutrition, foods, and exercise.

The College of Engineering would be

maintained as a separate college from the natural sciences because of its distinctive teaching and research programs, but a School of Computer Sciences and Information Technology would be created to reflect the growing importance of computer science, computer engineering, and other forms of information technology. Discussions continue about the administrative home for the school.

Several college models have been proposed to address the arts, humanities, social sciences, education, and human-resources programs. A consortium of two colleges—one an outgrowth of the College of Arts and Sciences and one emerging from the College of Human Resources and Education—would be formed to attain nationally prominent educational and research objectives. A Graduate School of Education would be organized within the latter college to highlight the commitment to science and mathematics education.

The core curriculum could fall under the umbrella of a "university college." Specific proposals are under development.

The report also describes several concepts underlying the restructuring plan "that should aid us in advancing all missions of the university without setting up hard, inflexible, competing administrative structures." In addition to taking advantage of shared approaches, the consortia of colleges concept would share certain administrators, such as the associate dean for undergraduate studies, associate dean for research, and associate dean for outreach.

Another concept "involves an on-going effort to continue discussions among department heads across college lines based on shared interests."

Two town hall meetings were held on Wednesday to provide a forum for discussion of the proposals.

A comprehensive set of recommendations for evaluation by the Board of Visitors will be presented to the university community by May 1.

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panded wireless coverage will be desired," said John Pollard, director of engineering operations for Communications Network Services.

Having a laptop will give the students the ability to take their computers—holding notes, data, applications software and other information—to class, group meetings, and study sessions. "We see this as a significant improvement in the academic environment for our students," said Nat Davis, assistant department head in electrical and computer engineering. Instructors will be able to set up ad-hoc "computer labs" for their classes simply by having students bring their laptops with them.

As part of a bond issue to be voted on this fall, the university is seeking funds to renovate its inventory of outdated classrooms. "Obviously, technology plays a big part, but our initiative is also fueled by the need for flexibility in seating styles that new learning pedagogies re-

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visits, and curriculum-development workshops, the program will be conducted by Jinhuan Shi, professor of education at Beijing Normal University; Jianliang Wang, associate professor at Western Kentucky University; and Alexander. The participants will form three study/writing teams, each having representatives from the universities and public-school systems. They will visit Beijing, Xian in Shaanxi Province, and Chengdu in Sichuan Province.

Resource materials will be developed collaboratively, implemented in participating school systems, and disseminated at the state and national levels through the network of educators and by establishing a web site at Virginia Tech. The focus will be on the modernization process occurring in China and its national and international impact on social, economic, and educational systems.

Educators from Giles County Public Schools, Menchville High School (Newport News) and two high schools in Fairfax County (Westfields and Langley) will participate. Giles County schools have established a school-business partnership with Hoechst Celanese, which has business interests in China. The Giles County educators will focus on developing a curriculum to gain a better understanding of the

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