



VIRGINIA TECH Global University

A University-Wide Newsletter from the Office of International Research, Education, and Development

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In This Issue

- » *Expanding Teacher Education Abroad*
- » *CAUS Paves Path to China*
- » *VCE Faculty Offer Training Program in Brazil*

Perspectives

**From the desk of
Dr. S. K. De Datta,
Associate Provost
for International
Affairs and
Director of OIRED**



It has been a little over two years since the international strategic plan was approved by the Board of Visitors in January of 2005. In this editorial, I take stock of the progress made since this plan was approved.

One of the highest priorities was to increase the number of students who participate in Education Abroad programs. Many of the processes involved in handling students who go abroad had been coordinated by individual departments or colleges. These processes varied greatly among programs, and decisions were made on a case-by-case basis. There were few university-wide policies and procedures in place.

Steve Duke, who heads the Education Abroad program, has made significant progress in developing new policies and procedures, all of which have been submitted to the University Council of International Affairs (UCIA) for review. Once approved, they are then presented to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors for adoption.

see *Perspectives*, page 7

Steger's Vision for Virginia Tech-India Center Taking Shape

Miriam Rich

When Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger first visited India in April 2006, he was struck by how fast the country is racing into the future. "Many people, not just city dwellers, use cell phones; high speed internet is becoming more and more available; and everywhere, young Indians are starting high-tech companies," he says. "How can Virginia Tech partner with this dynamic country?" he wondered. "We already attract many Indian students to our campus to study construction engineering, information science, biotechnology, and industrial engineering. Could we be doing more?"

Inspired by his trip, Steger developed the idea for a Virginia Tech-India center: a venture in India that would be a partnership between Virginia Tech and Indian institutions of higher learning. Besides offering dual degree programs between Virginia Tech and Indian institutions, the center would foster

academia-industry partnerships in the United States and India. The emphasis would be on applied research, so that products and processes developed at the center would benefit industry and stimulate further opportunities. Areas of primary focus would be: nanoscale science and engineering, nanobiotechnology, biotechnology-bioinformatics, information technology, and automotive engineering.

To lay the groundwork, Steger sent a group of five Tech administrators and faculty to India last fall to visit universities and businesses in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai (formerly Madras), and Bangalore. The team was composed of: John Dooley, vice provost for Outreach and International Affairs; Roop Mahajan, director of the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science at Virginia Tech; Ishwar Puri, head of the Department of Engineering Science and

see *India*, page 6

Dean Benson Leads Internationalization Efforts in College of Engineering

Miriam Rich

Dean Richard Benson is going global with the College of Engineering, not because doing so is fashionable, but because "this is a life and death issue. Corporations really want this." Besides, he says, "This is something I *love* to do."

Although Benson has been dean of the College of Engineering for little more than a year, he has already made internationalization a priority. He wants to increase the number of engineering students who study



Richard Benson:
Dean, College of
Engineering

abroad. He has formed an international program advisory committee composed of engineering faculty. He has given his top aides international responsibilities as an integral part of their jobs. Finally, he is fostering collaboration with industries that do business overseas.

Engineering faculty already take students abroad to study

see *Benson*, page 12

CAUS Paves Path to China

Heather Chadwick

The meeting took place on U.S. soil, but it was an international purpose that brought representatives from Virginia Tech and China's Tongji University to Washington D.C. on October 1 and 2, 2006. College of Architecture and Urban Studies Interim Dean Jack Davis, with Bob Schubert, associate dean for

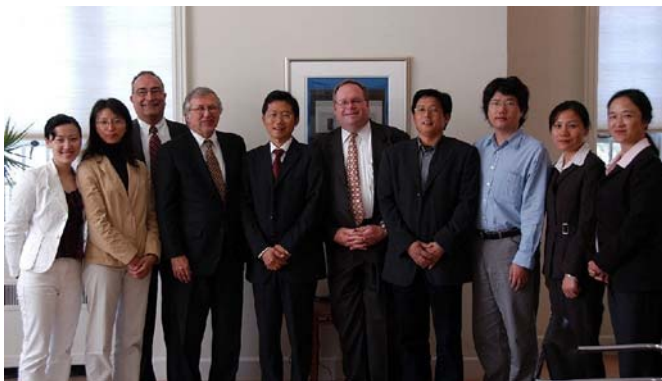
research, and Patrick Miller, associate dean for graduate studies and outreach, hosted seven landscape architecture faculty from Tongji University in Shanghai, China, including Binyi Liu, Ph.D.; Wenmin Li; Chengzhao Wu, Ph.D.; Feng Han; Xiangpin Zhou, Ph.D.; Song Liu, Ph.D.; and Jieqiong Wang.

The meetings were opened by Davis and Department of Landscape Architecture Head Dean Bork who welcomed the visitors and described the landscape architecture curriculum and degree programs offered at Virginia Tech. Then, Binyi Lui, chair of Tongji University's Department of Landscape Studies, described the curriculum and degree programs of his

department. He also presented a lecture, "Chinese Landscape Studies for Future Development in China: Education in Landscape Studies at Tongji University, Shanghai, China." Lui, who did his post-doctoral research at Virginia Tech, was the first person in China to receive a Ph.D. in landscape architecture. He is the vice president of the Landscape Society of Shanghai and has been an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects since 1994.

Faculty from both universities shared summaries about their various research projects and discussed possible collaborations between the two university architecture programs. These collaborations included faculty and doctorate student exchanges and visits, joint studio courses, a Pacific Rim traveling course taught by Tongji faculty, a United States traveling course taught by Virginia Tech faculty,

see *China*, page 5



Virginia Tech and Tongji University faculty in Washington, D.C., left to right, Jieqiong Wang, Feng Han, Patrick Miller, Charles Steger, Binyi Liu, John Dooley, Ziangpin Zhou, Chengzhao Wu, Song Liu, and Wenmin Li.

Global University

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The Office of International Research, Education, and Development would like to thank all those individuals who submitted information to *Global University*. Regrettably, some submissions could not be included due to space constraints.

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Kathmandu University Center Launched

Chad Miller and Tom Hammett

In November, the Kathmandu University School of Management formally launched its Enterprise Management Development Center (EMDC) in partnership with Virginia Tech. The center will provide professional management services to business and government enterprises, as well as non-profit organizations in Nepal. EMDC was modeled on the Pamplin College of Business' Business Technology Center under a U.S. Department of State grant.

The EMDC was launched to coincide with a peace accord signed by the Nepali government and Maoist rebels that declared an end to a decade of civil war, kidnappings, and murders seven months after mass street

protests overturned royal rule. The deal clears the way for Maoists to put down their arms, take seats alongside elected politicians in parliament, and join an interim government to oversee elections for an assembly that will draft a new constitution and decide the fate of the monarchy.

Kathmandu University has been working on this project with the Office of

Economic Development and the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products since 2004. This spring, a delegation of Nepalese plan to visit Virginia Tech to explore other ways that Virginia Tech and Kathmandu University can increase collaboration.



Chad Miller speaks at the launch of the EMDC center.

Africa Site Serves as Model for Teacher Education Program

Rachel Judy

To educate children, you must first educate their teachers. While this concept is taken for granted in the United States, developing countries like Malawi are struggling to generate consistent, effective teacher education programs. Famine, new government, and HIV/AIDS create significant barriers to education and teacher training, especially for primary school teachers.

Based in the School of Education, professors Josiah Tlou and Patricia Kelly are heading up the Center for Research and Development in International Education to provide direction and guidance in international education research. While the center oversees projects in China, Mexico, Kenya, South Africa, and Malawi, the center's greatest success to date has come in the placement of trained primary education faculty at Malawi's Domasi College of Education.

With funding from USAID, the Malawi project officially opened in May 2001. Six doctoral candidates came to Virginia Tech to spend two years studying primary education before going back to Malawi to conduct research in support of the Malawian educational system.

“Once the U.S. funding runs out, everyone else usually pulls out. . . but we're still there and they appreciate it . . .”

Simultaneously, Virginia Tech faculty members traveled to Malawi to teach an “in-country” master's degree program for 24 students. “The in-country master's program was a totally new concept for Malawi,” explains Kelly. “Their approach had been to send two or three people to the U.S. or Great Britain or Australia at any given time. To do 24 in one fell swoop and deliver it in such a way that they were not taken off the job—we actually had a hard time convincing them this was the best and most cost-effective approach.”

Upon graduation, the students were placed in faculty positions at Domasi College of Education, forming a core of primary education instructors. Until this program was available, a majority of primary teacher educators in the teacher training colleges did not even have a college degree before they were put in a classroom. To complicate matters, the educators responsible for training primary school teachers had been secondary school teachers so they did not have personal experiences to draw on in

their instruction. The installation of a locally-trained faculty ensures good training for primary school teachers in Malawi. Now, the college annually admits 30 students to its bachelor of education degree program.

The center's efforts towards teacher training and classroom improvement have prompted other groups to offer their services as well. Virginia Tech's Education Abroad program offers students a service-learning program that sends them to Malawi to work with classroom teachers while they study teaching and learning in a different cultural context. Students also repair classrooms, paint blackboards, work with kids, and help teachers. Community volunteers have laid cement floors and established a children's library.

In 2004, 10 Virginia schoolteachers were selected to participate in a Fulbright classroom exchange that took them to Malawi for a month. “They went to Malawi with us and they then joined hands and efforts with Malawi teachers, planned together, and taught classes together in Malawi for similar-age children. That was fulfilling for the teachers,” shares Tlou. Other School of Education faculty involved in the Malawi project include: Dean Jerry Niles, Mary Alice Barksdale, George Glasson, and Peter Doolittle.

Above all else, Tlou and Kelly are making sure that Virginia Tech's presence in Africa is not a short-term solution to a long-term problem. They are planning a citizen exchange between the United States and Kenya, scheduled to take place between October 2006 and February 2009. The exchange will emphasize citizen responsibility by addressing issues of transparency, accountability, and citizen responsibility in a democracy. They are also exploring the possibilities of a project in South Africa that will involve working with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) e-Schools initiative that aims to wire 600,000 schools with appropriate technology and establish a center in Pretoria to coordinate this and similar efforts.

“Once the U.S. funding runs out, everyone else usually pulls out,” says Kelly, “but we're still there and they appreciate it and really support every program we have tried to work with—you can tell they want it.” Maintaining a presence in Malawi and other parts of Africa will ensure that international development in education can continue to expand its horizons and place qualified teachers in the classroom.



To make classes smaller, Malawian teachers divide their classes and hold lessons outside.

Education

Swiss Architects Participate in October Symposium

Heather Chadwick

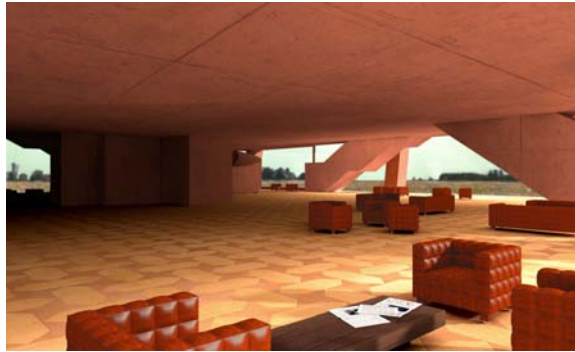
Switzerland's international reputation for the production of extraordinary architecture and design was the basis for the *Swiss Architecture: Designing-Constructing-Building Symposium*, hosted by the School of Architecture & Design in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies on October 11 and 12, 2006. Internationally known architects Valerio Olgiati, Meinrad Morger, Fortunat Dettli, and Beat Consoni, as well as architectural editor and publicist Heinz Wirz presented to students and faculty of the Virginia Tech community.

The speakers discussed the newest achievements of contemporary architecture from Switzerland and the revalorization of "constructing" and "building," as in the Swiss practice model, in which "constructing" is seen as an intellectual act of the architect. The elevated position of "constructing" in the design process given by Swiss architects and universities is a major reason for the continued success of Swiss architecture in its own country and around the world.

Wirz's lecture focused on a historical overview of architectural currents in Switzerland in the last forty years that led to the current international recognition of many Swiss architects. Architects

Olgiati, Consoni, Morger, and Dettli presented their architectural intentions by means of their buildings. Consoni presented a series of solitary buildings, such as the House Binswanger in Landschlacht and the School in Au. Consoni demonstrated how these buildings, positioned strategically on the periphery of towns and cities, can reconstruct the integrity of the urban fabric that often is destroyed by suburban sprawl. The Basel-based architects Morger and Dettli presented a series of buildings on various scales, such as the House Müller in Staufen, the

Art Museum in Vaduz, and the Messe-Tower in Basel. Their buildings demonstrate mastery of the basic architectural qualities of form, space, and materiality.



Learning Center, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland. Competition project, Architect: Valerio Olgiati, 2004.

VCE Faculty Offer Training Program in Brazil

Glenda Snyder

In March 2006, Virginia Tech faculty from Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) traveled to Brazil to conduct training, engage universities in dialogue about possible partnerships, and explore a judges exchange. The group conducted a two-day CHARACTER COUNTS!SM training session for 200 principals and teachers from each of 65 state schools. CHARACTER COUNTS!SM is a character education framework designed to assist young people in positive character development and ethical decision-making.

VCE team members included Glenda Snyder, Extension agent 4-H Youth, Botetourt County; Bob Meadows, associate director for the Virginia 4-H program; and Extension agents 4-H Youth John Blankenship (Tazewell County), Tonya Taylor (Rockingham County), and Jennifer Unroe (Alleghany County).

During this trip, they visited four schools to learn about their academic programs. The group met with the Joinville Municipal School Administration and Joinville's Judge Ricardo Roesler also hosted the team for a special meeting with local dignitaries.

The team gave a presentation to representatives from the seven Rotary clubs in Joinville, challenging them to volunteer to assist with the program's efforts in the schools. They discussed the potential opportunity for funding to support program efforts through Rotary International and challenged each club to raise \$1,000 to support efforts in the Joinville schools.

This trip built a strong foundation for future opportunities for Virginia Tech faculty. While in Joinville, the team met with university faculty members from the universities of Santa Catarina and Univille to explore the potential for partnerships in education, research, and extension opportunities. The team also visited the Rio de Janeiro judges' school to learn about their program, exploring the potential for a

judges' exchange and sharing information about CHARACTER COUNTS!SM This resulted in plans for a Brazil-to-Virginia judges exchange in 2007. This exchange will allow visitors from Brazil to learn more about the 4-H youth development program.



Workshop attendees take part in the "lapsit" exercise during a training session.

China, continued from page 1

common research interests, important research problems in both countries, possible sources of research funding, joint projects, and potential venues for publishing. Building relations with colleagues in China has long been a priority in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. The strong ties enjoyed today can be traced back to the forward-thinking in the mid-1980s of the college's then-Dean Charles Steger.

While in D.C., the group received a guided tour of capital landscapes by faculty in Alexandria. Michael Van Valkenburgh, principal of Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc. of New York and Cambridge, Mass., and the Washington-Alexandria

Architecture Center also provided a tour of the American Society of Landscape Architects building. Virginia Tech President Charles Steger and Associate Provost for International Affairs and Director of the Office of International Research, Education, and Development S. K. De Datta also met with the Chinese visitors during their stay.

In March 2007, a faculty group including Davis, Schubert, Miller, and Bork will travel to China to visit Tongji University to strengthen the ties already established by their colleagues' October visit.

Education Abroad Fair Held on Campus



OIRED's Education Abroad office hosted an overwhelmingly successful Education Abroad Fair on September 26, 2006. Approximately 4,000 Virginia Tech students visited the fair, held on the Drillfield. Students learned about the multitude of education abroad opportunities available to them through Virginia Tech faculty-led programs, overseas university exchange partners, and the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), as well as non-Tech education abroad affiliates. Interested students were able to speak directly with the faculty leading study abroad programs and students who participated in past programs were on hand to answer questions.

Photo Captions

[Top left] Steve Duke, assistant director of Education Abroad. [Top right] Margarita Smith, a student in the College of Engineering and Jennifer Mullin, Lead GTA in the Department of Engineering Education. [Middle left] Tim Richards, a 2006 education abroad participant. [Middle right] Professor Yvan Belliveau of the Department of Building Construction. [Bottom left] Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies Trudy Becker. [Bottom right] Three exchange students from universities in Darmstadt and Stuttgart.

India, continued from page 1.....

Mechanics in the College of Engineering; Tarun Sen, professor of accounting and information systems; and Jan Helge Bøhn, associate professor of mechanical engineering. S.K. De Datta, associate provost for international affairs and director of OIRED, organized the visit and is serving as point person for the project.

According to team members, the Tech-India group was greeted with great enthusiasm by Indian representatives of academia and industry. “The excitement was palpable,” Mahajan says. “They could see we were serious and that we were sincere in our sense of partnership. There is a hunger for high-quality scientists and engineers.”

In fact, the Tech delegates generated such buzz during their travels that a university not on the original schedule got wind of the visit and arranged to meet with them.

That enthusiasm among Indian businesspeople and academics springs from their understanding they have a training gap. “India is desperate for doctoral degrees,” Helge Bøhn says. Because Ph.D. programs are so costly, the degrees are far less common in India than in the United States and are not required for university professors, Helge Bøhn says. “The United States graduates 15,000 Ph.D.s in science and technology every year. In India, this number is around 500.”

With IT employment in India growing at annual rate of 50 percent, newly graduated scientists and engineers are much in demand but may not be well-prepared. “Education in India requires an increasing emphasis on critical and analytical thinking skills, an emphasis which is sometimes absent,” Puri says. To meet this training gap, the large Indian IT company Infosys has a \$100 million in-house training program, “essentially a university,” which has been set up to fix the problem.

Virginia Tech would bring a new outlook. “Education is not just delivery, but also importing a way of thinking,” Puri says.

In fact, Mahajan notes, “The most powerful democracy and the largest democracy will have to come together. This happens through education.”

Partnering with India has become a crucial part of international growth and outreach at western European and U.S. institutions of higher learning. The Virginia Tech team ran into other “India scoping” representatives, some from Ivy League universities, including Harvard, and other internationally known schools like Carnegie-Mellon. The Tech mission stood out because it was much more than just an exploratory trip. “The idea that we wanted to have a physical presence—they were very receptive to this,” Mahajan says of Indian officials.

Helge Bøhn concurs. “Everyone else was visiting; no one else is doing.” The other universities, he says, “are still just exploring. With

the dedication Virginia Tech has in moving ahead and delivering degrees on the ground in India, we’re going to be Number One.”

A location for the center has yet to be chosen. The Tech team is researching where its presence would most benefit strategic Indian and university interests. Group members are committed to maintaining the momentum they developed in India and expect the project to unfold quickly, Helge Bøhn says. “We have great alumni support. We have a president who says, ‘Go do it!’ I’m bullish.”

In underscoring the necessity for a center of this kind, Helge

Bøhn quotes the former president of M.I.T., Charles Vest: “If you’re going to be a top-flight university, you need a global presence.”

Dooley notes that Virginia Tech was the first U.S. institution to offer a degree program in India. This was the master’s in information technology, established in 1999 by the Pamplin College of Business, the College of Engineering and the then-College of Arts and Sciences. This program has given Tech a competitive advantage in India.

Keeping that edge makes the timing of the Tech-India project

critical. “If we aren’t Number One, we’re way down on the list,” Helge Bøhn says. “This is our golden opportunity to step forward.”

Another Tech advantage is its image abroad. “There is a tremendous respect and appreciation for what we can bring,” Dooley says. “Virginia Tech has a very positive brand presence in India.”

Puri sees that as “a tremendous untapped asset. We are recognized for our high caliber research programs.”

Tech graduates and others with Tech ties already hold high-level positions in industry and government in India—another plus. One alum is on the scientific advisory council to the government of India. The father of another alum is the founder and CEO of one of the largest solar companies in the world, Tata BP Solar. The managing director of Microsoft-India is a Tech alum. And the senior vice president for R&D at Ashok Leyland, a world leader in the production of commercial vehicles, is an alum. “These people wish to collaborate with us and want us to succeed,” Puri says.

Setting up a center that is self-sustaining and can be a prototype for other programs in India will be a challenge, the group agrees, but its members are optimistic. Says Sen: “There is something extraordinary about American education. It’s focused on innovation. It’s research-driven. . . . The rest of the world doesn’t function quite like this. It’s a state of mind.”

Steger himself is excited about the endeavor. “It is my hope that the Virginia Tech-India Center will challenge us to be more creative, to reach higher, to change ourselves in ways we did not know were possible.”



Vice Provost for Outreach and International Affairs—John Dooley—signs a Memorandum of Understanding with officials of Jadavpur University in Kolkata.

Perspectives, continued from page 1

One big change has been the purchase of Studio Abroad Software, a comprehensive, state-of-the-art software package that allows organizations to better manage student participation.

We have also diversified the destinations students go to so that now, developing countries in all regions of the world are represented. In this manner, we are preparing our students to compete for high-paying jobs in the international marketplace.

In the university strategic plan update, there is a mandate to establish five regional centers by 2011. The Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) has, of course, already been in full operation for over 12 years, including dual degree options. However, in recent years, the focus of this center has been broadened to cover the entire European continent. As a result, dual degree programs are now in place with Italy, France, and Germany.”

The second center that has been rapidly maturing is the Caribbean Center for Education and Research (CCER) in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. This center hosted a semester-long course in the spring of 2006. Six faculty from the colleges of science, natural resources, and liberal arts and human sciences participated. In addition, the Department of Hospitality and

Tourism Management in the Pamplin College of Business offered a two-week-long course in December of 2005 and repeated the course in December of 2006. CCER also hosted a symposium on Biodiversity in Agriculture in June of 2006 sponsored by two OIRED-run USAID-funded projects. Close to 80 internationally renowned scientists in this field participated.

While these two centers are fully operational, we are also working on establishing centers in Mexico for the Latin American region, in India for the Asian region (see feature article this issue), and in South Africa for the African region. With these regional centers, our intention is to cover all three missions of the university: learning (education), discovery (research), and engagement (outreach and international affairs).

In summary, Virginia Tech has made progress on the priority issues identified in the international strategic plan. However, there are gaps in our progress, particularly in the area of language courses taught at Virginia Tech and the offering of area studies programs for different countries and regions. Nonetheless, we believe Virginia Tech is in a unique position to advance international programs in both size and quality, and to become a truly engaged global university.

Shryock Curates Museum Exhibition in Paris

Rachel Judy

Richard Shryock, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Virginia Tech, was the co-curator of an exhibit and co-organizer of a colloquium at the prestigious Museum of the Art and History of Judaism in Paris, France. The exhibition is entitled “Gustave Kahn (1859-1936): Symbolist Writer and Art Critic” and displays approximately 160 documents and works of art from Kahn’s private collection.

“The paintings, documents, photographs, and personal items have never been seen before,” says Shryock describing the contents of the exhibition, which includes works by Matisse, Pissarro, Seurat, Signac, and Luce. This exhibition caps six years of intensive preparation and includes a voice-recording of Kahn found in the French National Library. The voice recording was so lost that it had never been shared with Kahn’s descendants. “I was of course delighted to hear it and shared a copy with Kahn’s grandson (now in his 70’s) and great-grandson (in his 30’s),” Shryock explains. “The grandson had never met his grandfather, so this was extremely special for him.”

Organized with art historian Françoise Lucbert of the Université du Maine (Le Mans, France), the exhibit opened on October 23, 2006. Over 400 people attended the opening,



Richard Shryock with co-organizer, Françoise Lucbert.

including Anne Pingeot, curator of the Orsay Museum, and Pierre Rosenberg, former director of the Louvre. The exhibition also attracted people from outside the art world. “Much to my delight, the exhibition pleased not only the former director of the Louvre, but also the taxi driver who lives across the hall from me. It’s not often in my research when I can reach such a broad audience,” Shryock admits.

As part of the exhibition, Shryock also organized a colloquium featuring 20 speakers to address all aspects of Kahn’s life. The colloquium was held on

November 22-23 at the same museum and was designed to attract interest from members of the art world, as well as the general public.

A Symbolist poet and a prolific art critic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Kahn was also an important figure in the Jewish cultural renaissance in France. While he was best known for his poetry, in particular *Les Palais nomads*, published in 1887, Kahn also wrote novels, short stories, plays, a history of the Symbolist movement, and numerous critical articles.

The exhibition closed on January 28, 2007.

College of Engineering Offers Education Abroad Opportunity

Electrical and Computer Engineering professor Sedki Riad is program director of the Virginia Tech-Middle East and North Africa (VT-MENA) program, an engineering summer study abroad program in robotics. Hosted by the Arab Academy for Science and Technology in Alexandria, the program exposes students to a unique blend of engineering and culture through classes in robotics and Egyptian Studies. Outside of the classroom, students take trips to Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan Isna. In May and June of 2006, six engineering students from four different departments participated in MENA. More information on the program can be found on the VT-MENA website at <http://www.mena.eng.vt.edu/Egypt2007>.



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Agblevor Collaborates in Science and Technology Program

Associate Professor of Biological Systems Engineering Foster Agblevor visited the National Research Center, Egypt from June 1-30, 2006 to collaborate with researchers in Cairo. The group is working to develop environmentally friendly technologies that will produce high-value products from agricultural residues while simultaneously disposing of these residues in the Nile Delta.

Ervin at Agricultural University of Hebei

Erik Ervin, associate professor of turfgrass science in the crop and soil environmental sciences department was a visiting professor at China's Agricultural University of Hebei from October 7-21, 2006. While at the university, he presented eight lectures to undergraduate and graduate classes on turfgrass science and management, inspected progress on a collaborative field research project evaluating the adaptation of Bermuda grass and zoysia cultivars for sports field use, and consulted on turfgrass agronomics at five Beijing-area golf courses.

Norton Makes Presentations in Australia

George Norton, professor of agricultural and applied economics, made three presentations at the 26th Triennial Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in Gold Coast, Australia, August 12-18, 2006. The

presentations were: Assessing the Impact of Agricultural Research: Scope, Current Practice, Gaps, and Options; Applying a Matrix Framework to Evaluate Income, Poverty, and Environmental Impacts of Agricultural R&D; and Cost Effectiveness of Alternative IPM Extension Methods: An Example from Bangladesh.

College of Architecture and Urban Studies

Nickel in Moscow

Patricia Mooney Nickel, visiting assistant professor of government and international affairs, met with grassroots NGO leaders at the U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Conference Program on "Dialog and Cooperation" in Moscow, Russia, on October 23, 2006. Nickel discussed the role of NGOs in engaging the public in an era of global governance, and presented lectures at Nizhny Novgorod Linguistics University and Nizhny Novgorod State University.

Knoblauch and Papillon Attend Conference in Italy

Ann-Marie Knoblauch, associate professor of art and art history and Terry Papillon of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures participated in the week-long conference "The Mythology and Iconography of Colonization" held October 2-6, 2006 in Italy. Conference attendees spent the week in residence at the Villa Vergiliana and focused on the role of colonizers and the colonized in

creating a hybrid community and the various ways, visual and narrative, that foster the new image.

College of Engineering

Asryan Presents at Workshop

Levon Asryan, associate professor of materials science and engineering, presented an invited talk on the "Light-Current Characteristic of a Quantum Dot Laser" at the International Workshop on Semiconductor Quantum Dot Based Devices and Applications. Sponsored by the Institut Curie in Paris, France on March 16-17, 2006, the workshop was organized in the framework of the European networks of excellence SANDIE ("Self-Assembled semiconductor Nanostructures for new Devices in photonics and Electronics") and EPIXnet ("European Network of Excellence on Photonic Integrated Components and Circuits").

Librescu and Qin Attend Conference in Taipei

Professor Liviu Librescu of the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics, researcher Zhanming Qin, and collaborators from South Korea attended the 17th International Conference on Adaptive Structures and Technologies (ICAST 2006) on October 17-19, 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan. The group presented a paper titled "Robust Aeroelastic Control of Composite Aircraft Wings in a Compressible Flow."

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Arnold Creates Electronic Catalogues in Mexico

History professor Linda Arnold was invited to create electronic catalogues at two Mexican archives. The result was PDF-searchable catalogues for the Archbishops' Historical Archive and for the Federal District Historical Archive. She also created a PDF-searchable catalogue for all the catalogued record sets at the national archive in Mexico City and a PDF catalogue for the manuscript section in the Mexican National Library.

Eller Educates School Leaders in Germany

The School of Education's John Eller presented two workshop sessions at the Challenges in School Leadership: Conference for School Effectiveness, School Improvement, and School Management Symposium held at the University of Erfurt in Erfurt, Germany September 27-30, 2006. "Facilitating and Coaching Difficult Groups of People through the Change Process" and "Energizing Your Staff Meetings" were designed to provide school leaders with information and tools to develop more collaborative, self-managed schools.

Folkart Speaks with Renowned Spanish Writer

Jessica Folkart of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures was invited to speak on the literature of one of Spain's most renowned writers, Cristina Fernández Cubas. Folkart spoke at a special conference titled *Palabras sobre Palabras* (Words about Words) held at the University of Barcelona's Center for Women and Literature on November 29-30, 2006. Folkart's presentation highlighted the author's literature, followed by a speech by the author herself and a live interview of Cubas.

Hohenshil to Edit Journal

Thomas H. Hohenshil, professor emeritus of counselor education, has been named guest editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Counseling & Development*. This international issue deals with the development of counseling in other countries, including Botswana, China, Guatemala, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Romania, Saipan, and Sri Lanka.

Luciak Serves with UN Development Program

Ilja Luciak, chair of the Department of Political Science, served as a consultant for the United Nations Development Program during July 2005-April 2006 on the project "Parliaments Crisis Prevention and Recovery." He presented his report, "Conflict and a Gendered Parliamentary Response" at an international donor meeting hosted by the United Nations Development Program and the government and Chamber of Representatives of Belgium held in Brussels, April 19-21, 2006.

Stephens Participates in International Faculty Development Program

The history department's Robert Stephens took part in the International Faculty Develop-

ment Program during summer 2006. The group traveled to the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Riva San Vitale and met with colleagues at the University of Italian Switzerland and Milan Polytechnic to discuss the progress of internationalization at European universities. While in Europe, Stephens also traveled to the University of Bielefeld in Germany, where he met with a colleague and planned a collaborative edited volume of transnational histories of drugs.

Wemhoener Convenes International Education Week

English instructor and international programs coordinator Jane Wemhoener convened the Fourth Annual Governor's International Education Day (GIED), the opening event of the state's International Education Week, November 13-17, 2006. This year's GIED was held on George Mason University's campus and its theme was "International Education: A Tool for Conflict Resolution." The event is sponsored by the Virginia Council for International Education (VaCIE), for which Wemhoener is executive director.

Ulloa Delivers Paper in Madrid

Spanish Professor Justo C. Ulloa delivered a paper on Cuban author Enrique Labrador Ruiz at the Asociación Hispánica de Humanidades IV Congreso Internacional. The paper was titled "Enrique Labrador Ruiz: el detalle trasgresor." The event was held in Madrid, Spain from June 24-27, 2006.

College of Natural Resources

Stauffer Speaks on Monitoring Wildlife in Parks

Fisheries and wildlife sciences professor Dean Stauffer taught a workshop on wildlife population analysis from October 16-20, 2006 at the University of Chihuahua, Mexico. This was a specially organized class to be taught to members of Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONAP), which is the equivalent of the U.S. National Park Service. The focus of the workshop was on how to design and implement monitoring approaches for wildlife species of special concern.

Pamplin College of Business

Huang Teaches in Portugal

Philip Y. Huang, Thornhill Professor of Management Science and Information Technology, was appointed as an adjunct professor and taught a graduate level operations management course in 2006 at the University of Coimbra, the oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in Portugal. The course was a continuation of research and teaching conducted at the same university three years ago.

Khan Speaks in Malaysia

Mahmood Khan was invited as an external program assessor and examiner by the Kolej Universiti Teknologi & Pengurusan Malaysia (KUTPM) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from September 30-October 8, 2006. He was a keynote speaker at a symposium where he presented a lecture on "The Status of the Hospitality Industry and Education in a Global Era." Khan also served as an evaluator for graduate theses, faculty, and curricula at the university.

Mihalik Investigates Impacts of 2004 Summer Olympics

Brian J. Mihalik, associate dean of the Graduate School and hospitality and tourism management professor, made two refereed presentations at the October 25-28, 2006 Euro-CHRIE Congress in Thessaloniki, Greece. The first paper presented was "An Evaluation of International Airport Operations: A Case Study" with co-authors Joanna Helms, Crystal B. Leiderman, Heather Loshelder, David Robinson, and Muzaffer Uysal. The second paper, presented with lead author and Virginia Tech Ph.D. student Phillip Blosser, was titled "Social Impacts of the Olympic Games." Blosser and Mihalik also met with senior Ministry of Sport officials and visited the 2004 Athens Olympic Games legacy stadiums and explored future research on resident opinions regarding the 2004 Olympics.

Poppo Named Visiting Scholar in China

Laura Poppo, associate professor of organization and strategy, was a visiting scholar at the City University of Hong Kong's Department of Marketing from

December 2-9, 2006. The purpose of her visit was to engage faculty, establish research projects, and mentor faculty and doctoral students on publishing in top tier journals and on conducting business research for publications.

College of Science

Long Collaborates in Tokyo

Chemistry professor Timothy Long has created a student exchange program with Waseda University in Tokyo to catalyze joint research efforts dealing with nanostructured polymeric materials for advanced battery applications. As part of this collaboration, Takeo Suga from Waseda University visited Virginia Tech during summer 2006 and worked together with Brian Mather in Long's research group to prepare a novel nitroxide containing block copolymers.

Minic Presents Theory in Amsterdam

Associate Professor of Physics Djordje Minic was invited to the prestigious Amsterdam Workshop in String Theory from July 3-13, 2006 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. One of 12 keynote speakers from various leading world universities, he presented a review of his recent work on a new analytic approach to the solution of one of the unsolved fundamental theories of physics: the theory of strong interactions, the so-called quantum-chromodynamics (QCD).

Panneton to Present Paper in New Zealand

Associate Professor of Psychology Robin Panneton, along with coauthor Christine Kitamura from MARCS Auditory Laboratories at the University of Western Sydney, Australia, presented a paper titled "Attuning to the native dialect: When more means less" at the Eleventh Australasian International Speech Science and Technology Conference in Auckland, New Zealand from December 6-8, 2006.

Bell, Panneton, and Smith Give Presentations in Japan

Robin Panneton and Martha Ann Bell, Associate Professors of psychology; Cynthia L. Smith, Assistant Professor of

Toal Follows Up on Research in Dagestan

Government and International Affairs professor Gerard Toal (pictured in the middle) traveled to Dagestan in October to follow up on his survey that measures ethnic relations in the North Caucasus region. As part of a National Science Foundation-funded study on "Dynamics of Civil War Outcomes," Toal also gave presentations on attitudes towards ethnic separatism at Stavropol State University and Dagestan State University in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan.



human development; and a group of students gave nine research presentations at the International Conference on Infant Studies in Kyoto, Japan, June 20-23, 2006. Smith and her students presented findings on infant and toddler socio-emotional development, Panneton and her students presented work on infant speech perception, and Bell and her students presented findings on infant cognitive development. Panneton also co-chaired a symposium on visual speech processing.

Piilonen, Yusa, and Dash Study in Japan

Physics Professor Leo Piilonen, research associate Yousuke Yusa, and graduate student Manmohan Dash are studying elementary particle physics at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) in Tsukuba, Japan. They are members of the 300-strong Belle collaboration that is investigating the properties of the very short-lived subatomic particle known as the B (or "beauty") meson.

Schmittmann Attends Workshop in Turkey

Beate Schmittmann, chair and professor in the Department of Physics, was an invited speaker and session chair at the "Workshop on New Directions for Growth in Complex Systems." Held in Büyükdada, Istanbul, Turkey from September 3-9, 2006, the workshop focused on how to construct and characterize network models and how to apply the resulting findings to various real-world problems.

Tauber Lectures in Germany

Physics professor Uwe C. Tauber gave an invited lecture on "Fluctuations and Correlations in Multispecies Pair Annihilation Processes" at the international ASC Workshop on "Nonequilibrium Phenomena in Classical and Quantum Systems." The workshop was held at the Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany. Oct. 9-11, 2006.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Freeman, Caceci, and Gutierrez Attend Congress of Veterinary Anatomists

Associate professors Larry Freeman and Tom Caceci and Ph.D. student Claudio Gutierrez, recently attended the 26th Congress of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists in Messina, Italy. At the congress, Freeman cochaired the scientific session of oral papers on neuroanatomy and was also a presenter. Freeman also presided over a meeting of the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists held in conjunction with the European Association meeting. Caceci cochaired a poster session and presented two papers. Gutierrez also presented a paper coauthored with several faculty members in the college.

Centers, Institutes, Labs and Other Units

Allen Spends Semester in Italy

Barbara Allen, director of the graduate program in Science and Technology Studies in Alexandria, Virginia, spent the fall 2006 semester as a visiting professor in the science communication program at the University of Trento in Italy. Allen was involved in researching environmental controversy and the public use of science in communities adjacent to the many chemical facilities near Venice.

DaSilva and MacKenzie Co-chair Workshop in Italy

Associate Professor Luiz DaSilva along with assistant professor Allen MacKenzie recently co-chaired a “Workshop on Game Theory for Networks” with Jacqueline Morgan of Universita di Napoli. Held on October 14, 2006 and entitled “Federico II,” it was the first workshop on game theory for networks in Pisa, Italy.

Dillaha Participates in Educational Exchange

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program Director Theo Dillaha went to Guatemala from December 9-13, 2006 to assist Sweet Briar College Engineering Program Director James Durand in developing an international service-learning component for Sweet Briar’s new undergraduate engineering program. In Guatemala, they visited Xix, where they identified a series of projects that might inspire engineering solutions for Sweet Briar students during the spring and they would then return in the summer for construction.

Gardners Complete Internship in France

Ph.D. students R. Matthew and Molly Gardner secured four-month electrical engineering internships at the Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, in Grenoble, France. During the fall 2006 semester, they worked closely with advisors and other students in their program doing research and learning the French language.

VCE Agents Take 4-H to the Dominican Republic

Joe Hunnings, Extension specialist, 4-H Youth Development and Carol Nansel, 4-H

Extension agent, Shenandoah County, developed a partnership between local 4-H teens and teens from the Dominican Republic through the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation. From July 18-25, 2006, Hunnings and Nansel took seven 4-H teens, one 4-H agent, and one 4-H specialist to conduct an environmental day camp in partnership with four Dominican teens. The day camp reached 17 Dominican children and provided opportunities for two service projects: delivering school supplies and purchasing paint for a poor elementary school, and working with Dominican citizens to landscape the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Free Clinic.

Mili, Centeno, and Phadke Organize International Conference in Alexandria

Professors Lamine Mili, Virgilio Centeno, and Arun Phadke helped organize the Third International Conference on Critical Infrastructures in Alexandria, Va. held September 24-27, 2006. The conference brought together a variety of groups and individuals involved in security and emergency management at local, national, and international levels. Conference participants exchanged views on the lessons learned from previous catastrophic events and the technological innovations in these critical disciplines.

Moore and Christie Tour Africa Projects

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program Associate Program Director Keith Moore and Gender Equity Coordinator Maria Elisa Christie visited sites in Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia from September 20-October 18, 2006. The purpose of their trip was to assess

the initiation of two SANREM projects, meet the project teams and their partners, learn about the implementation contexts, promote gender equity, and develop linkages with USAID missions.

Rahman Presents Keynote Speech

Saifur Rahman, director and professor at the Advanced Research Institute in Alexandria, Virginia, gave the keynote speech at the 4th EAPC/PfP Workshop on Critical Infrastructure Protection & Civil Emergency Planning held in Zurich, Switzerland on August 22-24, 2006. His speech was titled “ICT-Integrated Energy Infrastructure.” At the same conference, Rahman gave a presentation on “Energy Networks for Sustainable Communication Systems and Mitigation of Civil Disasters.” During the fall of 2006, Rahman also gave a lecture in China at the IT Forum at the University of Electronic Science & Technology of China in Chengdu. The title of the lecture was “Critical Information Infrastructure Assurance: Its Challenges and Opportunities.”

Shokes Hosts Delegation from Senegal

Fred Shokes, director of the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Suffolk, joined with Entomologist/IPM specialist D. Ames Herbert, Plant Pathologist Pat Phipps, and Agronomist Joel Faircloth to host a delegation of eight individuals representing the Ministry of Agriculture of Senegal. The delegation visited the center on September 29, 2006 when they met with faculty for a discussion of Virginia peanut production and took field tours of research studies.

Hampton Roads Center Hosts Conference on Education



Travis Twiford, Director of the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center and Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, hosted nine educators and school leaders for the 2006 Conference on European Education, held June 25 – July 2 at the Center for European Studies and Architecture (CESA) in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. The group heard presentations on the German-influenced education system in Switzerland while visiting the Zurich University of Teacher Education. They also learned about French and Italian-influenced education systems and toured the Alta Scuola Pedagogica, which specializes in teacher education in Locarno, Switzerland.

robotics in Egypt, build primary schools in Vietnamese villages, and design aircraft in partnership with British students. In addition to encouraging these efforts, Benson supported the formation of a Student Engineers Abroad Council (SEAC) in the fall of 2006. This organization is working to increase the visibility of study abroad programs in engineering. In November, for example, it held an Engineering Education Abroad Fair on campus that drew 175 people. SEAC members, who now total 200, are also creating a mentor/buddy program for engineering students from overseas who come to study at Virginia Tech.

Benson hopes that these endeavors will translate into more engineering students taking a year to study abroad. "Last fall in our strategic plan, we called for 15 percent of undergraduate engineering students to have some study abroad experience. Nationally, only 2 percent of engineering students go abroad," Benson says. And, he notes, "It's easier than most students think."

Students are not the only ones Benson is encouraging to act globally. In the fall of 2006, he appointed seven engineering faculty members to an international

advisory committee. "I felt we needed our international efforts to be a bigger operation," Benson says. "Every person on that committee is there for a reason. Every person is a heavy hitter." Benson set only two rules for membership: You must choose to be on the committee and you must make it work. After just a few months, the panel is so popular that people are volunteering to serve.

As part of his emphasis on international activities, Benson has ensured that three positions within the College of Engineering now have a global dimension: the associate dean of the college and director of Distance Learning and Computing, Glenda R. Scales, oversees international efforts of the college; and CoE now has a Study Abroad Advisor, Becky Gunter, as well as an assistant director of International and Distance Learning Programs, Cheryl Peed. All of these assignments serve to highlight the international activities of the college.

As exhilarating as his international work has been, Benson says, he wants to proceed with caution. "We want to have quality, sustainable programs with really good partner schools where we know each other well." Engaging for the long haul will

be critical, he believes, as industries increasingly demand that their employees function effectively in a variety of settings.

"We all see globalization increasing, and it's hitting hard in engineering with the off-shoring of engineering jobs. This is a trend that won't end," says Benson. "We *have* to graduate students who will be able to partner with people from around the world."

Richard Benson *has been dean of the College of Engineering since August, 2005. Prior to that, he was head of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, and before that, served as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and associate dean for graduate studies in the university's College of Engineering and Applied Science. Benson's own research has been focused on the mechanics of highly flexible structures. His teaching interests are in structural mechanics, design, and applied mathematics. Before teaching, Benson spent three years with Xerox Corporation as a technical specialist and project manager.*

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